

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION  
ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE DON ADAMS, KENNY HALE AND BRYAN COLLIER. DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; DAN BASTIN, COUNTY AUDITOR; AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE – Kenny Hale in honor of his father-in-law, Kenny Hunt.

MOMENT OF SILENCE – in honor of Brenda Adams, former Morgan County Auditor.

PRAYER – Daniel Elliott

**COMMODITY FLOW STUDY**

Mark Tumey, EMA Director, stated that they obtained a grant for a commodity flow study. With I-69 coming through the county, there will be a lot more hazardous materials flowing through the county. The study identified how many trucks are coming through the county, which roadways they use and what they were carrying. This information was sent to all fire departments and will be updated.

**HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN/GRANT**

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is due for an update. The state has provided \$19,457 for this and out of that, \$6,486 must be matched through an in kind match. Mr. Tumey asked that the Board approve the contract with IU. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the grant. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the agreement with the Polis Center to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0

**REZONE REQUEST** – *Lenvoil Road*

Randy Manion was present to request that 33.244 acres on Lenvoil Road be rezoned from Ag to R1. They plan to put six lots on the acreage. The request received a favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**REZONE REQUEST** – *Townsend Road*

Laura Parker, Morgan County Plan Commission Director, was present to answer any questions regarding a rezone request for 10.131 on Townsend Road. The request is to rezone the property from Ag to R1 for a two-lot minor plat. The Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation to the request. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**GRANT APPLICATION**

Jeanne LaFary, Morgan County Health Department, requested approval of the BASE \$25,000 and CRI \$19,335 grants. The majority of the funds pay the Health Preparedness Coordinator salary and some is used for supplies. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the application. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**BRIDGE #41 TITLE SHEET**

Josh Messmer stated that the bridge bid for Bridge #41 will be up for approval at the next Commissioner meeting. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve signing the title sheet for Bridge #41 on Liberty Church Road. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

Josh Messmer stated that this engagement letter with Thrasher Buschmann & Voelkel, PC is related to the possible merger of the Harrison Township Fire District with the Bargersville Fire Protection District. There was a joint session with the Council and Commissioners in August and this was discussed. It was decided at that meeting that the Board of Commissioners would take the lead in getting an attorney to help with this process. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the agreement as outlined. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

Josh Messmer stated that the Commissioners have been working through the BOT process (Build Operate Transfer). This would engage Taft to work with the Board on the legalities of this process. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the engagement letter with Taft as outlined. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE**

Bryan Collier stated that as they move through the process of acquiring real estate in Harrison Township, the next step is to approve the average of two appraisals; which is \$12,600 as the fair market value for the HTFD property. Mr. Collier made a motion to accept the appraisals and authorize the county's attorneys handling the acquisition to do a current title search of the property as needed in order to facilitate the acquisition. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

### **PAVING UPDATE**

Grant Collinsworth, Morgan County Highway Superintendent, stated that they will have more detailed information soon regarding work on county roads. They have completed the chip and seal process and will be doing fog sealing.

### **RIGHT OF ENTRY AGREEMENT**

Grant Collinsworth stated that there are several times that the public asks that dirt from the side ditches be placed on their property. There are two Right of Entry agreements and they plan on merging the two into one document. The agreement would exempt the county from liability and should be ready for the next meeting.

### **EMPLOYEE STIPEND RESOLUTION**

Don Adams stated that the proposed resolution provides a one-time stipend to county employees for their dedication during the pandemic. The resolution states that the stipend will be paid from the funds available as part of the federal government's response to the pandemic, subject to certain restrictions, is justified in order to recognize and thank county employees for their work during these difficult times. This resolution will be forwarded to the Council, who will make the final decision for the request of this \$3,000 stipend. Josh Messmer stated that the resolution outlines the dates of employment and includes employees that are still employed as of October 4<sup>th</sup>. Some departments are not eligible for this and some full time elected officials will not receive the stipend until 2022. Mr. Adams noted that it is prorated based upon an employee's hire date. Mr. Adams stated that the county wants to show that they are grateful. Bryan Collier noted that anyone voting and signing the resolution is not eligible for the stipend. Bryan Collier made a motion to adopt the resolution to provide a one-time stipend to the employees for their dedication during the pandemic. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **RDC FIBER DISCUSSION**

Chelsey Manns, Morgan County Redevelopment Commission, was present to inform the Board regarding the availability of broadband in the county. The Redevelopment Commission is limited to the TIF district and this is more of a county project and could possibly be funded with ARPA funds. Ms. Manns requested approval from the Board to move forward in meeting with private industry and schools to form a task force to better investigate the needs for better broadband and fiber in Morgan County. Kenny Hale stated that Endeavor is in the western part of the county, but there are several gap areas in the county. Don Adams stated that he would be in support of the project.

### **DEED OF DEDICATION**

Josh Messmer stated that Tony Hinkle, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that there is one thing missing on the deeds and the attorney has not completed this item yet. Bryan Collier made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EMS TO CONTRACT WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES**

Josh Messmer stated that there have been requests over the last year for specific agreements to provide EMS services for events. It was decided that there is not a need to bring each request before the Commissioners. This resolution would give the authority to EMS as long as they feel they have staffing available at an established rate. The contract could be broken without a need for notification if there is an issue with staffing requirements. Don Adams asked that any contracts be reported to the Board of Commissioners monthly. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the resolution with the amendment that any contracts be reported to the Board of Commissioners monthly. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST**

Don Adams stated that in order to pay the stipend mentioned earlier, the Commissioners have requested an additional appropriation of \$50,000 to come from the ARPA funds in the Rainy Day account. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the letter to the Council requesting an additional appropriation of \$50,000 from the Rainy Day Fund. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **PHISHING TRAINING COMPLIANCE**

Don Adams stated that IT conducted training regarding phishing and there are some that have not completed their training. Don Adams asked if there were any ideas on gaining compliance. Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that the majority have completed the training; however there are some that have not. Don Adams stated that there is a reason why they do these things and asked that a letter or email be sent to each person that has not completed the training. Bryan Collier stated that it is

important that the training be completed because it could cost the county millions if someone gets “hooked”. Kenny Hale made a motion to turn off the email access for those that have not complied with the training. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Don Adams noted that the Old Town Waverly Festival is this weekend and encouraged residents to attend. Kenny Hale stated that it is the sixth annual festival and starts at 9:45 am Saturday with a cannon volley. They have live music, craft vendors, food and entertainment.

Don Adams stated that the cannon made him think of the time he planned to release doves at a funeral several years ago and the doves walked out; but when the 21-gun salute went off, they took off flying.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Kenny Hale made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

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Don Adams

Attest:

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Kenny Hale

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Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

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Bryan Collier