

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION  
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021 AT 9:30 A.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 – *Indiana Association of Counties County Highway Engineer of the Year, Major Tony Hinkle*

PRAAYER – *Kenny Hale*

**CLAIMS**

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the September 17 and October 1, 2021 payroll claims of \$689,046.37 and \$675,320.19; PERF \$60,552.81 and \$59,081.52; FICA \$50,031.20 and \$49,076.73; and monthly claims of \$1,413,666.79. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**JAIL RENOVATIONS**

Dave Rogers, Morgan County Jail Commander, stated that they are not asking for funds, just permission, to update the fallen officer memorial by the flagpole at the jail. Morgan County Master Gardeners originally planted the area several years ago, and they have used inmate labor to try and maintain the area. Unfortunately, most of them are not able to identify which sprouts are flowers and which are weeds. They would like to explore putting pavers or concrete with planters in order to make the area presentable and less high maintenance. The FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) contributes funding to help maintain the area.

Major Rogers stated that the Sheriff's Office has cold case detectives that are retired law enforcement officers that volunteer. They are working out of a building downtown that was donated for this use and they are paying for the electricity out of their pocket. Mr. Rogers stated that this is probably not the best way to handle this and because of the need for evidence security, they should get them into the sheriff's facility. The training facility classroom does not hold large groups for training and they go offsite. They are considering adding two offices in an area along the side and will ask the Council for a transfer next month in order to fund it. The Board was favorable toward both projects.

**EMS COMP TIME POLICY MODIFICATION**

Josh Messmer stated that at the start of the COVID pandemic, EMS asked that the board allow comp time to accrue up to 240 hours. They are finding that this is no longer needed and would like to revert back to the pre-pandemic policy. Bryan Collier made a motion to rescind Executive Order 2020-3. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**BRIDGE #41 UPDATE**

Tony Hinkle, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that they are ready to advertise for a bid opening at the first meeting in November. The construction will start in 2022.

**PAVING UPDATE**

Paving for Community Crossings 2020-2 and 2021-1 should be complete within the next three weeks. Chip and seal is complete for the year. Several road widths need to be updated and there were a few areas that it didn't make sense to leave it unpaved so there are four change orders and several overruns. The change orders total \$31,000 and they are expecting another \$44,000. In December, Mr. Hinkle would like to have the paving program advertised, bid approved and ready to go for next year. They will encumber the \$400,000 left from this year and they have budgeted \$2.9 million for 2022. The goal is to have 2022 paving complete by August.

**LETTER OF INTENT SCORING/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Mr. Hinkle will get the information for the Letter of Intent regarding bridges to the Board. There are four bridges for 2022, Bridge #107, Bridge #112, Bridge #150 and Bridge #188 that Mr. Hinkle has sent out requests for proposals. Bryan Collier asked if any of the bridges were over troubled waters. Mr. Hinkle replied that they all are.

Mr. Hinkle stated that they are putting together a proposal to contract for snow removal in 14 subdivisions.

**RIGHT OF ENTRY**

Mr. Hinkle requested approval of the Right of Entry Form. By signing the form, property owners would grant Morgan County the right, privilege and authority to access their property. Don Adams stated that this just formalizes what has been a "handshake" deal. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Right of Entry Form. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

## **AMERICAN WATER APPRAISALS**

Jim Wisco stated that the proposed resolution would make a finding that the highest and best use of the property is to sell to an abutting owner and the cost of maintaining isn't in the public interest. Once those findings are made, within 10 days a notice must be published with a minimum bid as well as requirements when bids will be received. Certified mail notices must be sent to all the adjoining owners. The appraisals averaged \$12,850. Mr. Wisco has drafted a resolution naming Don Adams as the purchasing agent. Bryan Collier made a motion to table action on this item until the resolution could be reviewed. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

## **WORK FROM HOME COVID RULES**

Josh Messmer stated that at the beginning of the pandemic, an ordinance was passed that allowed COVID leave for employees, encouraged tele-working, etc. Some employees have reached out to IT to get set up to work from home. Mr. Messmer asked if the Commissioners want to continue with this policy, or if they want to discourage this. Mr. Messmer stated that he did not think there was widespread abuse of this allowance, but thought maybe it was a discussion they might need to have. Bryan Collier asked if anyone was still working from home. Mr. Messmer stated that he was not aware of anyone still working from home, but there were a few offices that inquired about it recently. The board agreed that at this point, they did not see why everyone would not be back at their desks. Dan Bastin stated that there may be a few unconfirmed instances. Mr. Messmer stated that he would relay this to IT.

## **PHISHING UPDATE**

Daree Fry, HR Director, stated that as of this morning, anyone with a county email (excluding new hires) has completed the phishing training. Bryan Collier noted that they were not allowing employees to fish on county time. Don Adams noted that an Indiana hospital was recently a victim of a phishing attack and this training is very important.

## **DEED OF DEDICATION – Hadley's Corner**

Don Adams noted that the corrected deeds have not been received and this item remains tabled.

## **NUISANCE ORDINANCE**

Don Adams stated that through several discussions regarding issues considered detrimental to public health, safety, and general welfare, County Attorney Jim Wisco has drafted an ordinance addressing those concerns. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending Chapter 94 of the Morgan County Code of Ordinances for Properties Located Within the Jurisdiction of Morgan County, Indiana. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0. The second reading of the ordinance will be at the next meeting and the ordinance will be effective after two publications in the newspaper, one week apart.

## **MINUTES – 8/12, 8/16, 9/20/21**

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the August 12, August 16 Joint Meeting, and September 20, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

## **TORT CLAIMS**

Bryan Collier made a motion to submit the Dwayne Tuttle and Ruth and Russell Tuttle tort claims to legal and insurance. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

## **COVID SUPPLEMENTAL ORDINANCE**

Josh Messmer noted that at a previous meeting, the Commissioners had approved an Ordinance allowing a one-time COVID supplemental payment to employees. There was a technical correction to clarify some language regarding the prosecutor's office and the ordinance will now go to the Council for approval.

## **FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Don Adams stated that the bicentennial committee is moving forward and they approved a monument to recognize that the 1857 historical Courthouse. The state has a policy that historic sites will no longer be placed on county courthouses. The bicentennial committee has been working with the company that supplies those markers to have one placed at the Courthouse in February 2022.

Bryan Collier stated that many years ago, he had the privilege of being on the Council when they formed a park budget. Mr. Collier thanked Kenny Hale for the work he does in getting ready for the festival at the Old Town Waverly Park. Kenny Hale stated that it is a team effort and he appreciates the people that utilize the park. They will have the Haunting of Waverly on October 30 with hayrides, witches, vampires and treats.

Don Adams stated that there will be a big bicentennial event planned at the park next year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bryan Collier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. 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