

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION  
ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 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 – *Steve Sonnega (retired National Guard)*

PRAYER – *Don Adams*

**CLAIMS**

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the October 8, October 15 and October 29, 2021 payroll claims of \$817,750.00, \$661,438.95 and \$687,908.12; PERF \$79,632.00, \$58,929.41 and \$60,326.35; FICA \$62,557.88, \$47,986.11, and \$52,303.39; and monthly claims of \$3,603,898.17. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**BRIDGE #41 BID OPENING**

Tony Hinkle, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that the bridge was purchased by the previous engineer and it is sitting in the Highway Department yard. The construction design has been completed by United Consulting and included moving the bridge, construction and paving. Dan Bastin opened bids for Bridge #41 on Liberty Loop as follows:

CLR, Inc.	\$455,915.37
HIS Constructors	\$919,025.00
Duncan Robertson	\$574,218.94

Mr. Hinkle stated that he will review the bids and report back at the next meeting.

**GRANT APPLICATION** - *Prosecutor*

Steve Sonnega, Morgan County Prosecutor, requested approval of a \$23,761.52 Indiana Department of Justice Grant. This STOP Grant (Services \* Training \* Officers \* Prosecutors Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program). The matching portion is \$6,190.38. This grant will be used for education purposes. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**GRANT APPLICATION** – *Court Services*

Candice Carter, Morgan County CASA Coordinator, requested approval of two grants through the Indiana State GAL Office. The first is a \$33,238 matching grant that provides operational funding and a \$14,253 Capacity Building Grant to build capacity and reduce the waiting list for CASA. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve both grant applications. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**PETITION TO VACATE EASEMENT**

Dale Coffey, attorney for Boritzki and Cook, requested that property in the RR Kinton Subdivision in Patton Park be vacated. Mr. Coffey stated that the area was platted as a roadway, but was not used. The Boritzki Trust owns Lots 37, 26, 27 and 28; Shawn Cook owns Lots 44, 29, 30, 31 and 32. The area is wooded with a ravine and has never been used as a roadway. It is a 50' width. Mr. Coffey requested that the area be vacated. The HOA has no objection to the vacation. Notice of the public hearing was published in the newspaper.

Bryan Collier made a motion to recess the Board of Commissioner meeting and open the Public Hearing. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

Kenny Hale made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

Kenny Hale made a motion to grant the vacation of the roadway as presented and proceed with an ordinance. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Coffey stated that he would have the ordinance prepared for the next meeting.

**APPOINTMENT** – *Monroe Township Fire District*

Don Adams stated that Robert Berling resigned from the Monroe Township Fire District Board and

Shane Holtsclaw has been suggested to fill the vacancy. Kenny Hale made a motion to appoint Shane Holtsclaw to the Monroe Township Fire District. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AWARDS**

Tony Hinkle stated that the application period for LPA funding for these four bridges (#107, #112, #150 and #188) opened today and he will be requesting funding. The fifth bridge (#120) is part of the MPO and the results of this request are not back yet. Mr. Hinkle stated that the preliminary engineering proposals were reviewed and recommended that Bridge #107 be awarded to VS Engineering, Bridge #112 be awarded to DLZ, Bridge #150 be awarded to USI and Bridge #188 be awarded to SJCA. These bridges were the lowest rated overall in the county. Construction will begin in 2026. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the awards per the engineer's recommendation. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **ANNUAL HIGHWAY MATERIALS BID**

Mr. Hinkle presented a draft of the annual bid for materials such as pipe, asphalt, stone, etc. Mr. Hinkle stated that they have added HDPE pipe for next year and requested approval of the advertisement. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the advertisement for bids. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **BRIDGE #75**

Mr. Hinkle stated that Bridge #75 is an LPA structure on Bowman Rd. INDOT has the bridge scheduled for letting in December. INDOT needs a signature page so they can continue the letting process. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve signing the signature page for Bridge #75. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0. Construction should begin next year.

#### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT STUDY UPDATE**

Mr. Hinkle stated that when some dam work was done in conjunction with the Eagle Valley Power Plant, there was modeling done for the flood plain; however, the construction did not require the modeling so the modeling that is in effect is a 1983 FEMA model. Mr. Hinkle has been working with USI to avoid spending \$150,000 on a model upgrade. He has had conversations with DNR, but they are short staffed. He will provide updates as things progress.

#### **2022/2023 INITIAL PAVEMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Hinkle stated that he was hoping to have the list out today, but there has been a delay and the list will not be provided until tomorrow. There are 165 roads in the county that have a four or lower PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation & Rating) score. Mr. Hinkle requested feedback from the Board after he provides the list. He will present the 2022 paving advertisement for approval at the next meeting. He will then plan on advertising twice per year, once in December and again in June or July.

E & B Paving is not done for the year yet, and Milestone has a few corrections to make. Because of temperatures, striping will not be completed this year, but will be done first thing next year.

#### **PERSONNEL POLICY HANDBOOK AMENDMENT**

Josh Messmer stated that the Sheriff has asked that instead of giving an extra day off to be used at road deputies' discretion, they will be paid at eight hours straight time.

EMS employees have been paid holiday pay for those that work the observed holiday, but not the actual holiday. The handbook (as well as the holiday schedule) has been updated. Bryan Collier made a motion to adopt the amendment to the Morgan County Personnel Policy Handbook. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0. Bryan Collier made a motion to waive a second reading. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0. This will be voted on at the Council meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

#### **MONUMENT CLEANING PROPOSAL**

Kenny Hale stated that he has been working with the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) regarding restoring and cleaning three monuments on the Courthouse Square. Mr. Hale provided photos of other projects that they have completed. The DAR might be able to cover all costs, but there could be a small portion that is not covered. Don Adams noted that the pictures make the monuments look brand new. The Board consented to move forward with this project.

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

Tony Hinkle stated that there have been several revisions for these deeds and they are still not correct. Mr. Hinkle suggested that any further corrections be sent to a consultant for review and as soon as the invoice for the review is paid, Mr. Hinkle will make a recommendation. Bryan Collier made a motion to reject the Deed of Dedication and reconsider it when it is corrected and submitted again. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 2-0. (Kenny Hale was out of the room.)

**ILLEGAL DUMPING ORDINANCE** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Jim Wisco stated that Chapter 51 has been corrected to Chapter 94, 51.07 has been corrected to 51.06, reference to 51.07 has been removed and reference to the West Central Solid Waste District has been removed. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending Chapter 51 of the Morgan County Code of Ordinances Concerning Illegal Dumping and Waste. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Mr. Wisco noted that the ordinance would need to be published before it becomes effective because of the fees and fines it imposes. Any fines or fees collected would be deposited into the General Fund. Motion carried 3-0.

**ORDINANCE CONCERNING EMERGENCY HEALTH**

Jim Wisco stated that Senate Enrolled Act 5 addresses concerns related to public health as a result of the pandemic. This ordinance needs some corrections and Mr. Wisco asked that it be tabled until the next meeting. Bryan Collier made a motion to table the ordinance. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**SPEED LIMIT ORDINANCE** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Tony Hinkle stated that this ordinance involves the work that has been done in conjunction with I-69. It has changed several speed limits throughout the county on access roads. This ordinance updates the access roads and some of the new roads that will be added. The speed limits are determined used the engineering standards laid out by road curvature and vertical deviation. Mr. Hinkle stated that speed limit signs and stop signs require a study per Indiana Code. After discussion regarding Blue Bluff Road, Mr. Hinkle stated that he would review the speed limit. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending Existing Ordinance 6-1-5.1 Altering Speed Limits on Rural County Roads and to waive a second reading. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT**

Tony Hinkle requested approval of the request for proposals for the snow removal contracts so proposals could be opened at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Don Adams stated that the purpose of this is to provide better service to the county. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the notice and contract. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**PROPERTY LEASE** – Health Department

Jeanne LaFary, Morgan County Health Department was present to let the Board know that the State of Indiana has given the Health Department \$330,000 to employ three more RNs as a liaison to the school systems. They will be administering vaccinations, COVID testing and contact tracing, but they need a place to house them. They do not have room in the Health Department offices so located a building that could also be used as a COVID clinic. This amount will need to be requested next year for this two-year program. The Council will need to approve the contract after approval by the Board of Commissioners. The contract will be on the next agenda after review by legal.

**MINUTES** – 10/4, 10/18

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the October 4, October 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**REVISED 2021 AND 2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Josh Messmer stated that these revisions apply to EMS when the actual holiday falls on the weekend. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the revised 2021 and 2022 Holiday Schedules. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Kenny Hale stated that they had between 1,000 and 1,500 kids at the Haunting of Wavery. Mr. Hale stated that he appreciated everyone that attended as well as the volunteers.

Keenan Blair thanked many departments and people for their help during his transition to Director.

**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