

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY,
MARCH 1, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: KIM MERIDETH, VICKIE KIVETT, PAUL PRATHER, KELLY ALCALA, JASON MAXWELL AND CHIP KELLER. ALSO PRESENT WERE DAN BASTIN, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY. TROY SPRINKLE WAS ABSENT.

PRAYER (*Chip Keller*)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Kim Merideth asked for a roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

Minutes

Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the February 1, 2021 regular and February 1, 2021 joint meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcala. Motion carried 6-0.

Additional Appropriations:

- *Veteran's Service Officer*

Dan Bastin stated that this \$407 additional appropriation request is because of an error in the budget. There was a transposition and the \$407 really should be \$540. There will be another request for the \$133 at a later date. Paul Prather made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$407 from the General Fund (1000) into Account #1000.11400.000.0012 (Administrative Assistant). Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 6-0.

- *Court Services*

Dan Bastin stated that there were insufficient funds in the Adult Supplemental Fund and a position was moved into the General Fund (1000); however the years of service item was overlooked. Mr. Bastin requested an additional appropriation of \$17,400 from the General Fund into Account #1000.19800.000.0235 (Years of Service). Kelly Alcala made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 6-0.

- *Commissioners*

Dan Bastin stated that this additional appropriation of \$10,000 from the LIT Economic Development Fund (1112) into Acct #1112.39101.000.0068 (Interlocal Agreement) is a result of a 2019 agreement. The county agreed to provide \$10,000 per year for five years for the first five years of the bond for the Waverly sanitary sewer system. The agreement was to begin with the first year of the bond and the bond is in the second year. There will be another \$10,000 request at the next meeting. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 6-0.

- *EMS*

Dan Bastin stated that this request for an additional appropriation from the Emergency Medical Services Fund (1151) of \$2,407 into Account #1151.15611.000.0000 (Deputy Director) and \$120,000 into Acct #1151.15612.000.0000 (EMS Duty Officer) is to sync with the agreed upon added positions of the EMS Duty Officer and the change in the compensation for the deputy director salary that was approved by the County Council. Mr. Bastin stated that he lowered the amount by \$50,000 because there was already funding in the budget for this amount. Kelly Alcala made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 6-0.

Johnson County Interlocal Agreement

Scott Hamilton, Morgan County 911 Director, was present to request approval of an Interlocal Agreement with Johnson County. Mr. Hamilton stated that the agreement provides for the use of Johnson County's location server so Morgan County will not have to purchase one. This saves the county \$25,000 to \$30,000. As part of this, Morgan County will purchase a CAD to CAD server that allows the systems to talk to each other when they use Johnson County resources. Currently, they are dispatching Bargersville via radio, then they have to call Johnson County to let their dispatch know. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcala. Motion carried 6-0.

Vickie Kivett asked if they have had an increase in calls because of the I-69 construction. Mr. Hamilton stated that they are getting a lot of calls regarding semis in areas where they aren't suppose to be and an increase in accidents.

Ordinance – Real Estate Purchase

Kenny Hale, Morgan County Commissioner, stated that the FEMA PMG and HMPG Grants allow the county to purchase the rest of the homes in the floodway in the Willowbrook Addition. Mr. Hale stated that they closed on one property and the properties are listed in the ordinance. The average cost of the home is \$140,000 to \$160,000, which is 15% to 50% higher than it was a few years ago. Mr. Hale stated that local and other law enforcement agencies use the structures for S.W.A.T. training and fire departments use the structures for training as part of the local match for the grant. Paul Prather made a motion to approve the Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Certain Real Property Located in Washington Township, Morgan County, Indiana. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 5-0. Chip Keller stated that he had relatives living in the subdivision and abstained.

Morgan County Redevelopment Commission

Daniel Elliott, Chairman of the Morgan County Redevelopment Commission, stated that they have been working for several years on a sanitary sewer project in Waverly. The RDC built the plant and is close to turning it over to the Morgan County Regional Sewer District. Mr. Elliott stated that this has been a team effort with the RDC, RSD, Commissioners, and Council. At the beginning, they were not sure how they would fund it and the Council approved an appropriation so they wouldn't have to obtain bonds early in the process. They are now returning that \$1,713,843.64 appropriation back to the county. Dan Bastin stated that this will go into the LIT Economic Development Fund.

Veteran's Service Office

Rick Baum, Morgan County Veteran's Service Officer, requested support in creating a new position of Assistant Veteran's Service Officer. This would be an increase of from 35 to 40 hours per week as an exempt employee with a salary of \$44,000. Mr. Baum stated that the demands and volume of the office have increased. The current Administrative Assistant has taken the National Association of Veterans Service Officer training, has been accredited through IDVA and American Legion, and they can both process claims. The only difference is that Mr. Baum, as the department head, handles departmental responsibilities in addition to the service officer duties. Mr. Baum would not like to lose this employee to another county.

Mr. Baum stated that there is over \$25 million in benefits coming into Morgan County and has improved the quality of life for widows as well as the veteran. However, of the 5,913 veterans in the county, they are only serving 1,026. Having an assistant service officer would allow for more outreach programs in order to serve those veterans who are not being reached. Mr. Baum stated that service-connected disability claims take a lot of research and time to process.

Josh Messmer noted that this would be an exempt position and the Commissioners officially supported the position today during their meeting. Dan Bastin stated that the request should go before the job study committee before making a decision. Paul Prather stated that they need to help the veterans in any way they can and he was in support of the request. Vickie Kivett stated that that approved the Veterans Service Officer position, then a part time assistant, which then went to full time, and now the request is a 35 hour work week to 40. Mr. Baum stated that he would see replacing the administrative assistant position in the next budget year. Vickie Kivett stated that they typically create new positions at budget time as opposed to the beginning of the year. Kelly Alcala stated that the request should go to the job study committee first, then to the Commissioners, and then to the Council. Kim Merideth recommended that Mr. Baum work with the job study committee to submit a job description that could then be reviewed by WIS, then to the Commissioners and then the Council. Dan Bastin stated that this is a new process and it starts with the committee. Mr. Messmer stated that the job description has been started and asked if the Council would be open to putting this item on the next agenda if the job study committee approves it first. Ms. Merideth stated that they would consent to hear it.

Comments

Vickie Kivett thanked the Highway Department for the work they did during the recent snow storm.

Adjournment

Vickie Kivett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 6-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim Merideth

Vickie Kivett

Paul Prather

Kelly Alcala

Troy Sprinkle

Jason Maxwell

Chip Keller

ATTEST:

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor