

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY,
APRIL 5, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (Vickie Kivett)

Additional Appropriations:

• *Commissioners*

The Morgan County Board of Commissioners requested an additional appropriation of \$10,000 from the LIT Economic Development Fund (1112) into Account #1112.39101.000.0068 (Interlocal Agreement). Josh Messmer stated that the Sewer Board requested support in the amount of \$10,000 annually. The Council approved this at the previous meeting which covered 2020 and this amount covers 2021. Kelly Alcala made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

• *Morgan County Substance Abuse Council (MCSAC)*

Barb Howe, MCSAC, requested an additional appropriation of \$64,242.28 from the Drug Free Community Fund (1148). Ms. Howe stated that the 2020 countermeasure fees collected totaled \$51,686.48 with a rollover amount of \$12,555.80. Ms. Howe listed the grants and expenses as follows:

Office supplies	1148.21100.000.0000	\$100.00
Other supplies	1148.21201.000.0000	200.00
MCSAC Contract – salaries	1148.32110.000.0000	15,760.57
Haven Youth Center	1148.35320.000.0000	2,840.85
Stability First – Magdalene House	1148.35320.000.0000	5,000.00
Baptist Tabernacle – Reformers U	1148.35830.000.0000	5,000.00
Wellspring – Homeward Bound	1148.35840.000.0000	5,500.00
Martinsville Youth Development Center	1148.36105.000.0000	5,000.00
PACE Task Force	1148.36301.000.0000	16,060.57
MC Boys and Girls Club	1148.35310.000.0000	4,500.00
Youth First	1148.35850.000.0000	3,000.00
The Crossing	1148.35860.000.0000	1,280.29

Ms. Howe stated that they were able to fund almost all the grant requests. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 6-0.

• *Highway Department*

Dan Bastin stated that this request is for an additional appropriation of \$250,000 from the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund (1176) into Acct #1176.40100.000.0531 (Brine System Equipment). Mr. Bastin stated that the county received this money from INDOT as a result of negotiations for assuming the frontage roads in conjunction with the I-69 project in the section south of Martinsville. This will allow the county to start with a brine system to de-ice the roads instead of using salt and sand. This purchase might not occur this year, but the funds are earmarked for this equipment. There will still be expenses for salt, but this allows the brine solution to be put down during normal work hours and crews won't have to be out in the storm. Jason Maxwell made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Dan Bastin stated that the Community Crossings Grant is a 50/50 matching grant for up to \$1 million from INDOT for paving. The Board of Commissioners approved a bid from E & B Paving for \$1,673,468. The full amount must be appropriated and the state will reimburse the county. An additional \$1 million grant has been submitted for approval for other paving projects later in the year. Vickie Kivett asked how it is determined which roads will be paved. Mr. Bastin stated that each road has a PASER rating (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) and roads are paved according to the rating. E & B Paving had the lowest overall bid at \$1,673,468. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcala. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfer:

- *Health Department*

Jeanne LaFary, Morgan County Health Department, requested a transfer of \$7,000 from Acct #1186.21100.000.0610 (MAXIM Contract) as follows: \$3,000 into Acct #1186.21100.000.0610 (Office Supplies), \$3,000 into Acct #1186.21300.000.0610 (Clinic Supplies) and \$1,000 into Acct #1186.22200.000.0610 (Operating Supplies). Ms. LaFary stated that she did not know if this would get them through the year or not. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the transfer as requested. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Salary Ordinance Amendment

Dan Bastin stated the in January there was a Salary Ordinance amendment for the personnel at the COVID clinic. They also need to have rates of pay for the paramedics and EMTs that are at the clinic part time. The amendment was not clear as to which fund the expenses were being paid from – Rainy Day Fund or COVID-19 Vaccine Immunization Fund. This amendment clears up some of the confusion. Ms. LaFary stated that they are using the grant funds first then they will go to the Rainy Day Fund if needed. Kelly Alcala made a motion to amend the Salary Ordinance as presented. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Personnel Policy Amendment

Josh Messmer stated that this amendment arose because of a recent payout that was larger than expected. The handbook limits the amount of money an employee may be paid out to 30 days, and defines a day as a shift, but not all shifts are 8 hours or less. An employee with a 24 hour shift and a 30 accumulation of time could put a big dent in the budget. Mr. Messmer stated that this amendment defines the 30 days as a maximum of 240 hours. Mr. Messmer stated that employees may carry as many hours as they want, but when terminating employment, there is a cap. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the Personnel Policy Ordinance Amendment. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 7-0.

Johnson County Interlocal Agreement

Scott Hamilton, 911 Dispatch Director, stated that this agreement was approved last month, but when Johnson County approved it, they also made a few changes. Jim Wisco stated that the changes regarded indemnifying the county and a technical change regarding Indiana Code. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcala. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Hamilton noted that Telecommunicator's Week is the 11th through the 17th and invited the Council to stop by.

EMS Monroe Twp Fire Host Agreement

Josh Messmer stated that this agreement is the same as the agreements the county has with Jackson Township, Green Township and Paragon and includes an annual stipend of \$4,700 for utilities. Kim Merideth stated that as the county put the EMS service in place, they had to find homes for them and thankfully there were fire stations that were willing to house them. Kelly Alcala asked if they have turned in their personnel lists. Mr. Messmer stated that this has not been done but will be enforced. Paul Prather made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Madison Township EMS Discussion

Donnie Warren, Morgan County EMS Director, and Josh Messmer stated that Madison Township has shown an interest in turning their EMS service over to the county EMS. Typically the budget is reduced and transferred to the entity taking over the service; however, it is a fire/EMS service in Madison Township and there is not a separate budget and there are shared personnel and costs. DLGF (Department of Local Government Finance) has indicated that the typical formula would not apply and they would expect some reasonable amount of Madison Township's budget would be reduced. The county would anticipate additional expenses and an increase in the related property tax levy. If this is anticipated for 2022, the county must include these estimated expenditures in the budget and this will need to be advertised. Mr. Bastin advised the Council that if they have an interest in pursuing this venture, then they might want to request a levy appeal from the state. There is not an iron clad commitment from Madison Township. Kelly Alcala asked if the interest came from the township board or the fire department. Mr. Messmer stated that he talked with former Chief Lang and the new chief. Before talking to the township board, he wanted to see if there was interest from the Council. Mr. Warren stated that there are two stations in Madison Township and they would need six people per station. He has calculated a preliminary estimate of \$687,000 in salaries and there

will be equipment costs for the ambulance, monitors, etc. totaling \$314,000. Mr. Messmer stated that he would send out a worksheet if there is any interest. Kim Merideth stated that she would like to see Madison Township join the county ambulance service. Kelly Alcala stated that she is in full support of having high quality ambulance care; however, Madison Township taxpayers are very mindful of their taxes and tax rates. Ms. Alcala asked that they visit the Kitchen Road station. Vickie Kivett asked how the county pay scale compares to the township pay scale. Mr. Warren stated that the county has a competitive pay rate. After further discussion, it was stated that the Council members would be interested in proceeding.

Paul Prather asked if the I-69 construction had caused any problems in getting on the scene. Mr. Warren stated that they made plans ahead of time to work around this; however, north of Egbert Road is a bit slower transporting to Indianapolis for the BLS unit.

Minutes

Paul Prather made a motion to approve the March 1, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Comments

Paul Prather asked about the job descriptions. Josh Messmer stated that they are changing the process for this.

Adjournment

Vickie Kivett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim Merideth

Vickie Kivett

Paul Prather

Kelly Alcala

Troy Sprinkle

Jason Maxwell

Chip Keller

ATTEST:

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor