

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY,  
JUNE 7, 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*)

**Minutes**

Paul Prather made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

**Additional Appropriation:**

- *Commissioners*

Don Adams, Morgan County Commissioner, was present to request an additional appropriation of \$20,000 from the General Fund (1000), LIT Economic Development (1112) or Riverboat Fund (1191), into Account #1191.39103.000.0068 (History Center & Museum). Vickie Kivett stated that they were asking for this to be an annual stipend. They will continue to do fundraising as they have been. There are a lot of needs such as interactive exhibits, showcases, and computers. Mr. Adams stated that he would like to have audio records as part of a display. Ms. Kivett asked that the volunteer group that has been helping setup the museum stand and be recognized. Jason Maxwell stated that he went to the pre-opening and thought it was wonderful. He would be in favor of a one-time appropriation so they could get ready for the bicentennial, but was not sure that this would be the amount they need every year as a line item in the Commissioners' budget. Kim Merideth stated that other not for profit groups have requested funds and they do not want to set a precedent. Chip Keller made a motion to approve a one-time appropriation of \$20,000 from the Riverboat Fund (1191). Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 6-0-1. Vickie Kivett abstained.

Josh Messmer stated that EMA applied for a grant to obtain security cameras. However, the grant was slightly under budget and FEMA but on additional stipulations because of the Courthouse being an historic building. This has pushed the cost of the project up by \$20,160. Mr. Messmer requested an additional appropriation from the General Fund (1000), LIT Public Safety (1170), Rainy Day (1186) or Riverboat (1191) into Account #1191.43120.000.0068 (Security System & Cameras). Kelly Alcala made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 7-0.

Kenny Hale, Morgan County Commissioner, requested an additional appropriation of \$300,000 from LIT Economic Development (1112), Cumulative Capital Development (1138), Rainy Day Fund (1186) or Riverboat (1191) into Account #XXXX.39003.000.0068 (2018 FEMA Local Match). Mr. Hale stated that this amount is matching funds for a 75/25 grant totaling \$1,897,410.11. This leaves the county's local match at \$474,352.53. Mr. Hale is only asking for the \$300,000 because the state has already reimbursed the county \$967,785.55 and there will only be enough in the budget to purchase one more house. Mr. Hale stated that with previous grants, he has been able to match it in-house by using the properties for fire training purposes. He has obtained over \$24 million in grants and the county has only had to expend \$60,000. Kim Merideth stated that the county is on the hook for the match and if they don't know in advance what that portion is, they are not prepared for it. Mr. Hale stated that he is trying to match the lion's share of the grant in-kind, but he has not received approval from Homeland Security yet. Ms. Merideth stated that the Council needs to be more involved in the process on the front end so they know what they might have to commit to. Mr. Hale stated that this grant has been in process since 2017, but has been delayed several times for different reasons. Ms. Merideth asked that Mr. Hale report back at the July meeting with a firmer amount for the in-kind amount. Dan Bastin stated that the total match for both grants (PMG and HMGP) could be \$570,000. No action taken.

- *Highway Department*

Josh Messmer stated that after an inspection from IDEM, it was discovered that there were some deficiencies with the fuel tanks at the Highway Department. The Commissioners opened quotes from firms to correct these deficiencies. The high quote was \$36,036 and the low quote was

\$28,616. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve an additional appropriation of \$36,036 from the MVH Fund (1176) into Account #1176.36300.000.0531 (Repair/Maint). Motion seconded by Kelly Alcala. Motion carried 7-0.

- *EMS*

Josh Messmer stated that in December the county approved an interlocal agreement between Morgan County EMS and Madison Township to provide service during I-69 construction to insure there was service in the northern part of the county with the highway shut down. Paul Prather made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$48,000 from the Emergency Medical Service Fund (1151) into Account #1151.39101.000.0000 (Interlocal Agreement). Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

- *Health Department*

Jeanne LaFary, Morgan County Health Department, stated that for many years they paid a full time employee out of the Local Health Maintenance Fund (1168) and the group health insurance was paid from the Health Department Fund (1159). The new accounting system is set up so that any full-time employee that is paid out of a fund will automatically have health insurance, FICA and PERF taken out also. The fund did not have funds appropriated for this. Next year, this will be budgeted. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the appropriation of \$12,000 into Account #1168.16540.000.0000 (Group Health Insurance). Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

- *Highway Department*

Dan Bastin stated that the county received \$1 million in the Community Crossings Grant. The State Board of Accounts requires that the Council appropriate the money into the Community Crossings Grant Fund. Mr. Bastin requested an additional appropriation of \$2,115,922 from the Community Crossings Grant Fund (9110) into the accounts listed below. Approximately half of the money will be received from the state, the other half will be transferred from the MVH Restricted Fund (1173).

80,126	9110.30012.000.9604	Co Rd 360 N 1A
41,066	9110.30013.000.9604	Co Rd 340 N 1B
19,620	9110.30014.000.9604	Dillman Rd
457,376	9110.30015.000.9604	Mahalasville Rd
36,369	9110.30016.000.9604	New Harmony Rd
222,755	9110.30017.000.9604	Lewisville Rd
123,315	9110.30018.000.9604	Pitkin Rd
157,733	9110.30019.000.9604	Evans Rd
95,141	9110.30020.000.9604	Tutterow Rd
64,860	9110.30021.000.9604	Hurricane Rd
47,957	9110.30022.000.9604	Bray Rd
141,070	9110.30023.000.9604	Deck Rd
60,686	9110.30024.000.9604	Keller Heights Dr
80,387	9110.30025.000.9604	Shore Dr
90,180	9110.30026.000.9604	Bottom Rd
100,336	9110.30027.000.9604	Watson Rd
22,418	9110.30028.000.9604	E Wilson Dr 15A
21,041	9110.30029.000.9604	E Wilson Dr 15B
28,175	9110.30030.000.9604	Water’s Edge Dr
16,094	9110.30031.000.9604	Augusta Ln
16,742	9110.30032.000.9604	Meadow Ln
41,795	9110.30033.000.9604	Forest Dr
23,147	9110.30034.000.9604	Port Royal Dr
31,701	9110.30035.000.9604	Country Club Rd 21A
95,832	9110.30036.000.9604	Country Club Rd 21B

**Total \$2,115,922**

Chip Keller made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$2,115,922 into the accounts listed above. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

**Transfer:**

- *Auditor*

Dan Bastin requested a transfer of \$10,000 from Acct #1181.36300.000.0000 (Repair/Maint) to Acct #1181-23300.000.0000 (Supplies – Repair/Maint). Mr. Bastin stated that this fund is used to replace old, worn transfer books. They have replaced the ones that needed to be replaced and have \$10,000 remaining that they would like to use to purchase sleeves that will protect the worn

pages in the transfer books. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcala. Motion carried 7-0.

- *MCSAC*

Dan Bastin stated that several grants from the Drug-Free Community Fund were approved at a previous meeting. One amount was approved for the Task Force PACE, but \$6,700 of that grant was going to be used to purchase a police canine. This must come from a capital account and Mr. Bastin asked that \$6,700 be transferred from Acct #1148.36301.000.0000 (Task Force PACE) to Acct #1148.44501.000.0000 (Police Canine Purchase). Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Job Description Review and Adoption Consideration**

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that the Soil & Water Conservation District has a first deputy/treasurer position and the board requested that the job description be updated to add more duties in order to qualify for more grant funds. The position now requires a degree and the classification has been upgraded. They are requesting that the funding for this position be modified to correspond with the classification beginning in January of 2022. Paul Prather stated that they need to be aware that requiring a degree for a position will make the position harder to fill and will also cost more money. Kim Merideth stated that they will also need to look at the grants that will be received by having a degreed position versus not having a degree. Kelly Alcala stated that this should be discussed during the budget hearings. Vickie Kivett stated that the job study committee has reviewed the changes. Doug Peine, Soil & Water Conservation District Board President, stated that the position requires a wide skill set and they want to make sure they compensate the employee for it. Going forward, they might have to break the responsibilities and roles out. Ms. Fry stated that whenever someone leaves a position, the duties and requirements of that position should be reviewed so any changes can be made before advertising to fill the position; this last year has changed a lot of things. Ms. Fry stated that the employee is already doing the things listed in the updated description. Ms. Alcala stated that they shouldn't update the description with a new title and not pay the employee for it; it should be addressed at budget time. After further discussion, it was decided that the job descriptions would be accumulated throughout the year, but would only be discussed/updated during the budget workshop. Ms. Fry stated that there were two other requests on the agenda, Probation/Court services and Recorder's Office. The Council stated that they would hear them at budget time.

### **2022 Budget**

Kim Merideth reviewed the budget assignments and calendar. Budget hearings start at 8:30 am on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The workshop starts on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 am and goes through August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Dan Bastin stated that since they used the WIS study to base wages for 2021, the Council needs to plan how to move forward; the study plus a percentage? The Council asked that Mr. Bastin prepare information showing an increase of 2%, 3%, and 4%.

Mr. Bastin asked if the Council would like to see capital expenditures that departments include in their budgets moved out of the General Fund and added to the Cumulative Capital Development Fund or LIT Economic Development Fund budget. The Council agreed that they would prefer this.

### **Solid Waste District Property Tax Levy**

Dan Bastin stated that many years ago, the state mandated that counties form a solid waste district or form and join a joint solid waste district with other counties. Morgan County joined a joint district. Several years later, the district demanded more money and wanted to propose a property tax levy and rate. At that time the county formed their own district, which is what the county has today. The money the county contributed to the joint district was refunded and it was invested in CDs and money market accounts. The district has since been financed by a combination of those funds and an appropriation out of the county General Fund. The money in the bank accounts has diminished. This structure can continue if the Council chooses, or as discussed by Council members in the past, a levy could be assessed as part of the county levy so the taxpayers see a more transparent picture of what it costs to manage the solid waste process, or the Board of Commissioners, along with the Council, could dissolve the district. The district would no longer exist and would be a department of the county. Currently, the director of the Solid Waste District is not a county employee, the county has allowed the position to have the benefits of the county and the Auditor's Office processes the payroll. Kim Merideth stated that the third option puts on paper what they are doing already. No action is needed at this time.

**American Rescue Plan**

Josh Messmer stated that the county has received half of the funds (\$6.8 million). It can be spent on budget shortfalls, water projects, COVID related projects and other infrastructure uses are uncertain at this time. It must be spent by 2026. If it is spent incorrectly, it must be paid back.

**Appointment**

Kim Merideth announced that unfortunately, the Council’s appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Jeanie Shupe, passed away recently. Ms. Merideth asked that the members think about a democratic replacement for this position.

**LIT Distribution**

Dan Bastin announced that the county (including townships, cities and towns) received a supplemental 2021 LIT distribution of \$3,926,994. The county’s share is \$2,897,238. \$659,573 to the General Fund, \$222,404 to Public Safety Fund, \$181,702 to Economic Development Fund and \$386,924 for Levy Freeze. Mr. Bastin stated that they have an additional \$1,446,635 to use for property tax homestead credits. The county is receiving more than enough income tax each year to fully fund the levy freeze. Every additional dollar like the amount listed above is going towards the stabilization fund. Mr. Bastin stated that it would be a good idea to look into reducing the income tax rate by a very small amount; but they must be careful because once it is reduced, it can’t be increased.

**Adjournment**

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

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

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Kim Merideth

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Vickie Kivett

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Paul Prather

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Kelly Alcala

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Troy Sprinkle

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Jason Maxwell

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Chip Keller

ATTEST:

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Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor