

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: 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. KIM MERIDETH AND VICKIE KIVETT WERE ABSENT.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRAYER (*Chip Keller*)**

The meeting was called to order by Kelly Alcala.

**Additional Appropriations:**

• *Jail*

Dave Rogers, Morgan County Jail Commander, was present to request an additional appropriation of \$33,500 from the General Fund (1000) into Acct #1000.11720.000.0380 (Jail Corporal). Mr. Rogers noted that there are three corporal positions at the jail, but only two were funded at it was overlooked at budget time. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 4-0.

• *Commissioners*

Josh Messmer, Morgan County Administrator, was present to request an additional appropriation of \$35,000 from the General Fund (1000), Rainy Day Fund (1186), or Riverboat Revenue Sharing Fund (1191) for expenses related to a pipe breaking and water leak in the Superior II Office area. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the request from the Rainy Day Fund (1186) into Acct #1186.36300.000.0068(Repair & Maintenance). Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 4-0.

• *EMS*

Josh Messmer and Keenan Blair, Morgan County EMS Deputy Director, were present to request an additional appropriation from the General Fund (1000) into the following accounts: \$55,000 into Acct #1151.15641.000.0000 (PRN Paramedic) and \$55,000 into Acct #1151.15650.000.0000 (PRN EMT Basic). Mr. Messmer stated that they are underfunded in these positions. The employee handbook was amended to allow more PTO time and during COVID, the amount of comp time was increased. Mr. Blair stated that they operate at minimum staffing and anytime they are short staffed they have to call someone in on overtime or PRN. Almost every day they are trying to fill 72 hours. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 4-0.

• *Commissioners*

Josh Messmer requested an additional appropriation of \$800,000 for a COVID stipend for employees. Kim Merideth and Don Adams met as a subcommittee and decided that the Rainy Day Fund (1186) would be an appropriate use for this. An ordinance is being drafted for the next Commissioner meeting that will outline the criteria for employees. There is an additional \$50,000 that will be requested at the October meeting. Kelly Alcala stated that this is a large ask and would recommend that the full Council be present for the request. Chip Keller stated that it was his understanding that ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds could pay for this. Ms. Alcala stated that it could come from CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) funds and this was transferred into the Rainy Day Fund. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to table the request. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 4-0.

• *Commissioners*

Josh Messmer requested an additional appropriation of \$50,000 from the ARPA Fund (8950) into Acct #8950.31500.000.0068 (Professional Services) for a consultant to help manage spending this fund. Chip Keller noted that it is important that this money is spent correctly or it will need to be paid back. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 4-0.

**Transfer:**

• *VSO*

The Veterans Service Officer, Rick Baum, submitted a letter requesting a transfer of \$100 from Acct #1000.21201.000.0012 (Office Supplies) to Acct #1000.40000.000.0012 (Equipment). Jason Maxwell made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 4-0.

• *Commissioners*

Josh Messmer stated that when they remodeled the former Reporter Times building to become the prosecutor's office, they would bring updates of money spent for the project. The lease was structured at a base price of \$900,000 and anything above that would have to be paid. Costs went approximately \$21,000 over that. Because of this, the monthly amount of the lease was adjusted and this line item will be in the red by the end of the year. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the transfer of \$21,000 from Acct # 1138.44325.000.0068 (Key Fob) to Acct #1138.33901.00.0068 (Real Estate Lease). Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 4-0.

**Solid Waste District Public Hearing**

Kelly Alcala stated that the Solid Waste District budget totals \$363,170 and invited comments from the public for the public hearing portion. There were no questions or comments. Dan Bastin stated that the property tax levy is zero and the tax rate is zero.

**Harrison Township Public Hearing**

Dan Bastin stated that the fire protection contract has increased to \$150,000. The budget is funded within the allowable property tax levy of \$60,047. The budget is \$158,750. There were no comments from the public.

**Monroe Township Fire District**

Mike Waggoner, with the Monroe Township Fire District, stated that the advertised operating budget is \$324,600. The total budget is \$459,706. Kelly Alcala noted that the fire district submitted an excess levy appeal to the DLGF, which was granted.

**Tall Oaks Conservancy District**

Dan Bastin stated that the budget is \$63,654 and the levy is \$34,054. There were no public comments.

**Adjournment**

Chip Keller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 4-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

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Kim Merideth

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Vickie Kivett

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Kelly Alcala

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Troy Sprinkle

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Jason Maxwell

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Chip Keller

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Melissa Greene

ATTEST:

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Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor