

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022 AT 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE, KENNY HALE, BRYAN COLLIER AND DON ADAMS. DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; DAN BASTIN, COUNTY AUDITOR; AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE – *Kenny Hale*

PRAYER – *Don Adams*

**THANK YOU**

Kenny Hale thanked the Highway Department for their hard work during the recent snow storm.

**CLAIMS**

Don Adams made a motion to approve the January 7, 21 payroll and January 28, 2022 uniform claims of \$725,997.53, \$681,904.42 and \$68,750.00; PERF \$65,417.44 and \$61,872.58 and \$3,388.00; FICA \$52,995.75 and \$49,595.76 and \$5,259.65; and monthly claims of \$2,249,459.75. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**CENTERSTONE ANNUAL REPORT**

Amy Belcher, Adult & Family Coordinator for Centerstone, was present to review the annual report for 2021. Ms. Belcher stated that in fiscal year 2019, Centerstone served 1,417 county residents. They provide mental health and addiction services. Recovery services do not include detox. There are three facilities with inpatient rehab and transitional housing. With COVID, they have been providing virtual services. They have a trauma care group and provide intensive outpatient care for addictions. They provided mental health services for 839 adults and 386 youth. Don Adams asked if they work with the jail inmates. Ms. Belcher stated that they do not, but they are submitting a grant proposal to provide an evidence-based treatment program for residents with misdemeanors in an effort to avoid escalation to felonies. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the annual report from Centerstone. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**ROAD NAME**

Sandy Mosier, Morgan County Plan Commission, stated that she received a request from Scott Hamilton, Morgan County 911 Director, regarding the change of a portion of Henderson Ford Road to Centennial. There are no houses or buildings on this portion of the road. The Henderson Ford exit does not list Centennial Road. Ms. Mosier stated that it would be easier to change the road name back to Henderson Ford than requesting that the sign be changed by the state. Scott Hamilton stated that he was concerned that a 911 caller would report that they were at Henderson Ford Road and emergency responders would not respond to the correct exit. This change would put the break at Egbert Road rather than at the interstate. Mr. Hamilton stated that there is also a problem with two exits that both say "Exit 140" and they are a mile apart. Dan Bastin noted that Henderson Ford from I-69 to Egbert is no different than it was before I-69 was constructed; except once I-69 was constructed, they broke the continuity of Henderson Ford. Don Adams made a motion to approve the road name. Motion died for lack of a second.

Kenny Hale stated that according to Purdue grid guidelines it is standard to make the break at the interstate. Bryan Collier stated that since it is currently Centennial, they should stay with the guidelines and change the sign for north-bound traffic. Kenny Hale stated that it would be less confusing in the long run; he has a meeting with INDOT tomorrow and he will bring it up.

**911 DISPATCH AGREEMENTS**

Scott Hamilton stated that DC Group is a new company 911 Dispatch is using for UPS maintenance. They currently use Eaton and DC Group is less. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Hamilton stated that C2IT is an IT vendor that the jail and Sheriff's Department also use. Dave Rogers stated that the contract has not changed from last year. They pay a total of \$5,795 per month or \$69,540 annually. Mr. Hamilton stated that of the 50% 911 Dispatch pays, EMA pays 20%. Don Adams made a motion to approve the contract. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**MICROVOTE AGREEMENT**

Stephanie Elliott, Morgan County Clerk, was present to request approval of the annual Microvote maintenance agreement. Ms. Elliott stated that they have been using Microvote since 2004 and the only change to the agreement is an added sentence that locks them into the current pricing for

four years. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

### **SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL AGREEMENT**

Lisa MacPhee stated that this annual agreement is similar to prior agreements, but includes language regarding grants for land owners. They are also working through DNR for grants regarding log jams. The amount of the agreement remains the same at \$43,100. Don Adams made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

Josh Messmer stated that Rhonda Cook was recommended to represent Morgan County on the issue of buffer zones. Mr. Messmer requested approval of the engagement letter with Brand & Morelock, the firm where Ms. Cook is an attorney. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the engagement letter. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

### **BOT AGREEMENT**

Josh Messmer stated that there are some revisions to the agreement. Bryan Collier made a motion to table the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **ORDINANCE 2022-2, ORDINANCE 2022-3 - EMS Pay Restructuring**

Keenan Blair, EMS Director, stated that he is aware this is more of a budget time issue, but he was not in a position to implement or propose changes at budget time. They are wasting a lot of money with PTO. Issues to develop and retain good qualified paramedics are growing by the day and elected officials as well as citizens have expressed concerns regarding the growing budget. EMS is averaging a 200 to 300 run per year increase with a record 5,212 runs for 2021. This has also increased the revenue to over \$1.4 million. EMS employees received 9,666.5 PTO hours in 2021, which is equivalent to 402 24-hour shifts that required coverage through overtime or PRN. Using a low average of \$16 per hour, the cost to cover the open shifts was \$155,664. Mr. Blair began a PTO SOG in January and this has saved an average of \$6,000 per pay cycle. Mr. Blair stated that the WIS pay study is outdated and he gathered information from EMS providers in the surrounding area. It is difficult to get paramedics that live north of Morgan County to drive past higher-paying agencies to work in the county. Mr. Blair has had an opening for five months that he has not been able to fill with a qualified applicant. Mr. Blair proposed a pay structure that would put Morgan County right in the middle of surrounding counties for compensation. The advancement opportunities, protocols, and medical direction will attract the type of EMT and paramedic that Morgan County wants. In order to get to this point, Mr. Blair proposed decreasing the amount of PTO, increasing comp time to 240 hours, and implementing a new pay structure. Mr. Blair stated that if an additional appropriation is needed at the end of the year, a possible source would be ARPA Funds.

Josh Messmer stated that in order to implement these changes, the Commissioners and Council would need to approve ordinances to amend the Personnel Policy Handbook. One ordinance would change PTO for the employees, one would implement a transfer policy that matches the pay structure and one would change the comp time allowance to 240, but this ordinance is not ready yet for approval. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2022-2 and 2022-3 including the pay structure, contingent upon the Council's full approval of the ordinances and pay structure. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier made a motion to waive a second reading. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Kenny Hale stated that Bryan Collier submitted a Conflict of Interest Statement for interest in a Sycamore Services contract with the county. Don Adams made a motion to approve the Conflict of Interest. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 2-0-1. Bryan Collier abstained.

### **REQUEST TO USE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

The NRA has requested the use of the Sadler Room the evening of February 23<sup>rd</sup> for a two-hour legislative update. Jim Wisco made a few changes to the addendum to the agreement that they sent. The first line refers to another party, the last sentence in the first paragraph should be changed to work collaboratively with the indemnifications that are contained in the main body of the contract and insert "Morgan County" at the end of the clause halfway down the last paragraph. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the request with the changes in the contract as discussed. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

## **HIGHWAY ENGINEER UPDATE**

Tony Hinkle, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that he will submit the paving advertisement for review at the next meeting. This paving will be HMA overlays and will not include the Community Crossings or special projects paving. Bids will be opened the second meeting in March and will be completed by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

At the next meeting Mr. Hinkle will provide proposed changes to county road standards that are referred to in the Zoning Ordinance. This will apply to new subdivisions and they will update the rest of the ordinance over the next year.

Mr. Hinkle will have five contracts at the next meeting for the bridges that were just scored.

The appraisals for Bottom Road should be complete in time for the next meeting and the plan has been updated.

The Deeds of Dedication for Hadley Corners should also be ready for the next meeting.

## **ORDINANCE 2022-1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Kenny Hale noted that this is the second reading for this ordinance concerning the Rainy Day Fund. The added language allows the Rainy Day Fund to be used for reimbursement for expenses with the proper approval from the fiscal body (Council). Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the ordinance. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

*Morgan County Library Board* – Don Adams made a motion to appoint Chet Cromer. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

*Community Corrections Advisory Board* – Bryan Collier made a motion to appoint Suzie Lipps. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

*Fair Board* - Don Adams stated that he would like to see someone from 4-H Junior Leadership in this position. Mr. Adams will talk with Rena Sheldon about this.

Kenny Hale stated that they have not appointed anyone to the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) committee yet. The original plan was for the Commissioners to make four appointments and the Council to make three appointments.

## **MINUTES**

Don Adams made a motion to approve the January 3 and 18, 2022 minutes. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

## **TORT CLAIM**

Bryan Collier made a motion to forward the Norris tort claim to insurance. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

## **COUNCIL MEMO**

Josh Messmer stated that Morgan County Surveyor, Terry Brock, has been taking the lead and coordinating with Monrovia regarding drainage issues that are impacting Monrovia and the county as they move downstream. Mr. Brock will be making an additional appropriation request to the Council to participate in a drainage study as to how to remediate some of the affects especially with the impending development in the area. The request is less than \$26,000. Kenny Hale stated that this was also discussed at the Drainage Board meeting. Don Adams made a motion to approve the memo supporting the study. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

## **2021 SOIL & WATER TRACKING SOURCES**

Kenny Hale stated that the Soil and Water Conservation District submitted the 2021 tracking source. The report breaks down the district's activities over the past year.

## **FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Don Adams stated that the birthday kickoff for the Bicentennial is February 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. There will be a dedication of a plaque at the Courthouse, which is one of the eighth oldest in the state. There will be a short ceremony.

Kenny Hale stated that he has been working with the Daughters of the Revolution to restore the plaques at the Courthouse and one at the Highway Department that was at the intersection of Blue Bluff and Centerton Road. They will be able to fund the restoration of all plaques.

Bryan Collier thanked the Highway Department and first responders for their work during the

recent big storm. Mr. Collier stated that unless a constituent tells him, he does not know about a problem unless he receives the phone call. If people complain on Facebook, he will probably not see the complaint because he is managing emergency situations and not taking care of social media. Mr. Collier asked that people call if they have a problem during a snowstorm.

### **CORONER UPDATE**

Mike Ellis, Morgan County Coroner, stated that Coroner calls in 2021 totaled 121 cases, of these 22 were overdoses, 12 were suicides, 1 infant death, 5 auto accidents, 3 motorcycle fatalities, 3 other accidents, 75 medical related deaths. So far this year, there have been 25 cases, 4 of these have been suicides. Mr. Ellis thanked the police departments, Sheriff, fire departments and EMS for their support. Mr. Ellis stated that he was glad to be in a county where people can set aside their differences and work together as a team.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Don Adams 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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Kenny Hale

Attest:

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Bryan Collier

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Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

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Don Adams