

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022 AT 6:30 P.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

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

PRESENTATION

Congressman Jim Baird and Dianne Hubbard were present to make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners. Congressman Baird read a certificate as follows: “This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the United States Capital on September 24, 2022 at the request of the Honorable Jim Baird, Member of Congress to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the establishment of Morgan County Indiana. Though it is rich in natural resources, Morgan County is best represented by its people, who have greatly contributed for over two centuries to the story of Indiana. Happy birthday Morgan County.” Kenny Hale presented Congressman Baird with a bicentennial medallion.

MINUTES

Don Adams made a motion to approve the August 23 Joint Meeting, September 6, September 19, and October 3, 2022 minutes. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0 with Don Adams abstaining from the September 6 minutes and Kenny Hale abstaining from the October 3 minutes, both stating the they were not present for the meeting. Don Adams stated that the minutes are history and are referred to now, in 20 years, and even longer. Mr. Adams thanked Deb Verley for the quality put into the minutes.

OCRA GRANT DOCUMENTS

Kent Anderson, Kenna Consulting, was not able to make the meeting due to illness, but had submitted several documents for signature. The Board of Commissioners is applying on behalf of the Martinsville Youth Development Center for a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) through OCRA (Office of Community and Rural Development). Don Adams noted that there will be a public hearing on October 18th at the MYDC. The grant will be used for plumbing, mechanical, and electrical upgrades among other improvements. As part of the grant application process, the Board of Commissioners must sign the Four Factor Analysis, a letter to IDEM, a letter to Department of Natural Resources and an Authorization of Submission. Don Adams made a motion to approve and sign the documents. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier stated that he was concerned that the documents should be approved in a public hearing. Kenny Hale opened the public hearing for any comments regarding the grant application. Linda Catellier voiced her concerns about a rezone request that was on the agenda. There were no comments regarding the Martinsville Youth Center. Don Adams made a motion to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

REZONE REQUEST – *AG to RR*

Kenny Hale stated that this rezone request, at the corner of Kitchen and Watson Roads in Madison Township was given an unanimous unfavorable recommendation by the Planning Commission. The concern was drainage, driveways, lack of sewer, increase traffic and crime.

Carol Magnant stated that she was also concerned about schools, the traffic pattern, a gas line in the area, water pressure and light pollution. Linda Catellier stated that she was concerned about fire protection and lack of water; these things should be addressed first. Kenny Hale stated that the starting point of planning and zoning is getting the property rezoned. Once the rezone is approved, the technical committee (school, fire, law enforcement) come together; but it starts with the rezoning. Then everyone within 660 feet is notified. Ms. Catellier stated that this is like putting the cart before the horse. Mr. Hale stated that it is according to state code. Pete Magnant stated that he believes in win, win or no deal and they currently have a win, lose relationship; there needs to be more planning and progress should not be at the expense of existing property owners. Jake Watson stated that there are two areas totaling approximately 45 acres and asked if there could be another application made to rezone the remaining 35 acres. Mr. Hale stated that there could be. Mr. Watson asked if there was trust deed and the terms of the deed. Mr. Hale stated that he would need to check with the Recorder’s Office to see if it has been recorded. Mr. Watson asked if they have one year to resubmit the request. Mr. Hale stated that they have one year for the same development; however, they can make changes such as a minor plat, or different zoning (other than RR) and request the rezone earlier than one year. Don Adams made a motion to deny the request. Motion

seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

REZONE REQUEST – *AG to R1*

Kenny Hale stated that this rezone request is also in Madison Township and borders Watson Meadows. It is for a minor plat of 6 lots, each approximately 2.8 acres and was given a unanimous favorable recommendation by the Planning Commission. Don Adams made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

ENGAGEMENT LETTER – *2022 Lease Rental Revenue Bonds*

Josh Messmer stated that this agreement is with Baker Tilly for the bond issuance for the Justice Center. They have not formally engaged them for this phase and this letter is to formally engage them for the work they are doing for the county. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the engagement letter. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

OCRA GRANT

Jim Wisco stated that even though they took a vote to prior to opening the public hearing, just to be clear, they should vote to approve the grant submittal documents. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve signing the OCRA grant documents. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

INTERA – *Aquifer Study Contract*

Bryan Collier stated that he is excited about the aquifer study. The county is going to undertake a study concerning the outflow of the water underground. Mr. Collier stated that if they were sitting on a gold mine and didn't protect it so there would be gold for future generations, he would be called foolish. This is what they have done with the aquifer. If the water becomes contaminated, it becomes a huge issue; if outside sources come in because they have not qualified or quantified the water tables, and those tables become drained, there are huge issues. It behooves the county to protect one of the greatest assets they have. Mr. Collier introduced Doctor Jack Wittman, Intera Principal Water Resources Hydrologist. Dr. Wittman stated that the state has not really paid attention to how the water table fluctuates and where the water that people will pump and use is located. The county needs data to describe what they own and the status of the available water in the county. This is something that is happening all across the country; it's happening in the state. Communities that don't take care of and appreciate their assets can be ruined by accident. This study is to understand and describe the water resources in the county for protection, for use, and to collaborate with multiple users. Kenny Hale stated that other communities have come into Morgan County and drilled wells and asked how to deal with that. Dr. Willman stated that it could be touchy, but they need to know what they are arguing about. The eastern US has riparian water rights; if you can access water from your property, it's your water. In general, people don't know the extent of the aquifer. In Morgan County, the aquifer has arms that extend into the valleys, but the county does not know how thick they are and if they can be used; the study will answer these questions. Intera will put sensors in the ground and will be able to see fluctuations in the water table in real time. Mr. Collier stated that he hoped that the water companies would work with them to protect this resource. Don Adams asked if there was anything that could be done about instances where companies have previously tapped into the aquifer. Dr. Wittman stated that once they go through a few wet seasons, you can't tell that it happened. When well fields go in and development occurs on top of it, the ground water flow patterns change and won't come back as long as the development is there. This changes drainage, saturation of the subsurface and the water budget in that area. This investigation looks to the future to determine where they need to protect and where they can develop. Mr. Collier stated that this project will be funded through ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) and the ARPA committee had unanimously approved the project. Dr. Wittman stated that volunteers will be needed and it would be good for the community to get involved. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the agreement with Intera. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

GIS AGREEMENT

Josh Messmer stated that they started working with Banning for redistricting GIS. Since then, there have been other instances that these services have been needed and this agreement is for services on an hourly basis as needed. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD NAME REQUEST

Josh Messmer stated that they were approached by Ozark Fisheries to assign a road name to a long drive off of I-69 in Washington Township. Don Adams made a motion to approve Ozark Fisheries Drive as a road name. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

SNOW REMOVAL QUOTES

Tony Hinkle, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that they advertised and requested snow removal quotes. They have received two quotes for 44 areas. This is not necessarily a cost saving measure, but saves overtime for the Highway Department. The first quote is from Wallace as follows:

Project #1	\$969.25
Project #2	869.25
Project #3	1,059.00
Project #4	769.25
Project #5	769.25
Project #6, 7, 8	no bid
Project #9	769.25
Project #10-14	no bid
Project #15	1,159.00
Project #16	674.38
Project #17	579.50
Project #18	no bid
Project #19	869.25
Project #20	869.25
Project #21	no bid
Project #22	574.38
Project #23-25	no bid
Project #26	624.38
Project #27-31	no bid
Project #32	719.25
Project #33	479.50
Project #34	289.75
Project #35	574.38
Project #36	479.50
Project #37-42	no bid
Project #43	189.75
Project #44	no bid

The quote from Parks Outdoor Maintenance is as follows:

Project #1	no bid
Project #2	\$10,500.00
Project #3-11	no bid
Project #12	18,000.00
Project #13-18	no bid
Project #19	12,375.00
Project #20	12,625.00
Project #21-22	no bid
Project #23	10,750.00
Project #24-31	no bid
Project #32	6,750.00
Project #33-44	no bid

Mr. Hinkle suggested accepting both quotes and would report back at the next meeting. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept all quotes. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier asked if these areas would have brine. Mr. Hinkle stated that the accessibility with the dump trucks could be an issue in some subdivisions. They hope to get a system that will fit on a pickup truck in the future.

CHAPTER 34 UPDATE

Jim Wisco stated that this item is not ready for approval. Bryan Collier made a motion to table this item. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the 2023 Meeting Schedule. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

INCIDENT CLAIM

Bryan Collier made a motion to submit the Potter incident claim to the insurance carrier. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0

MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING

Don Adams stated that Susan Tomlinson was one of the driving forces on the Bicentennial Committee. She passed away in July and the committee would like to plant a tree in her honor in Old Town Waverly Park. Kenny Hale provided a map showing the parks and the areas that were acquired through FEMA funds, which does not allow anything to be constructed on the property, including trees and areas the

county purchased. Mr. Adams stated that he would consult with the committee to choose a place for the tree and made a motion to approve the memorial tree planting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Don Adams stated that he met with Mayor Costin today to discuss a scholarship program and essay contest that will be coming up. One scholarship will be \$1822 for 1822 when Morgan County was founded.

Kenny Hale stated that they had a great time at Old Town Waverly Park this year. Several vendors are already asking about next year. Mr. Hale stated that it was probably the best event they have had. The Haunting of Waverly will be on Saturday, the 29th of October. They will have a trunk or treat event and a haunted trail.

Bryan Collier thanked all the volunteers who have worked so diligently to pull off the recent festivals and parades. He enjoyed seeing the positive comments on social media.

ADJOURNMENT

Bryan Collier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Kenny Hale

Attest:

Bryan Collier

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

Don Adams