

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.

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

PLEDGE

PRAYER – *Don Adams*

MINUTES – 8/7/23

Don Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2023 meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE 2023-19 ACCEPTING OWNERSHIP OF TORNADO SIRENS

Mark Tumey, Morgan County EMA Director, stated that this ordinance regards tornado sirens in Jackson Township, Morgantown and Monrovia and transferring ownership of these six sirens to the county. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-19 and waive the second reading. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

GRANT APPLICATION - EMA

Mark Tumey stated that Abby Worth, Morgan County EMA, has written a grant to obtain up to \$240,000 for the purchase of a generator at the fairgrounds. The Morgan County Fairgrounds has been used several times for shelter and debris disposal after disaster events. Ms. Worth stated that they are not sure yet what the grant amount will be; the \$240,000 is 75% of the cost. Twenty-five percent of the cost will have to be covered by the county. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

S.T.O.P. GRANT APPLICATION – *Prosecutor's Office*

Ricki Eisenhut, Morgan County Deputy Prosecutor, was present to request approval of an application for a \$18,622.40 S.T.O.P. Grant. This grant is for a program to provide information, additional resources and lethality assessments to victims of domestic abuse and/or sexual assault. Ms. Eisenhut will train police officers in taking assessments and providing additional resources as needed. Don Adams made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

LAKE EDGEWOOD

Several residents in the Lake Edgewood area requested to be on the agenda but no one was present. Bryan Collier stated that he would have a hard time implementing any rules and regulations that they can't enforce. The county is short on road deputies and they don't need to get into neighbor disputes without a funding mechanism regardless of what the state passes. If Lake Edgewood residents want to form an HOA to regulate issues, Mr. Collier suggested that they do that.

WESTPOINT TIF

Bryan Collier stated that this Memorandum of Understanding positions the county in a more favorable situation than the original verbiage for the Westpoint TIF. Don Adams made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding to restructure the existing Westpoint Allocation Area #1 to contain Buildings I, II, III and VI-C and create a new allocation area to be comprised of the remainder of the park. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD NAME

Don Adams stated that the Overton family was trying to find a road name that would fit their small development that was a gift from their late father, Ruby Overton. There is already a road named Ruby, so Mr. Adams suggested RubyO. This is distinct enough that it should not be confused with the other names. Don Adams made a motion to approve the road name of RubyO for a private road in Madison Township off of Paddock Road. Bryan Collier stated that there is a road name list and he did not want to upset the Plan Commission with this special request, but the Overton family was extremely kind to him when he and his wife lived in Mooresville. Mr. Collier seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0-1. Kenny Hale abstained.

BOT III DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION

Don Adams stated that this BOT process works well, he has been pleased with the results so far and made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-8-21, A Resolution of the Board of

Commissioners of Morgan County, Indiana Making Findings of Need for Certain Capital Improvement Projects, Making a Recommendation to the County Council of Morgan County, Indiana to Proceed with Bond Financing for Such Capital Improvement Projects and Making a Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse for Project Expenditures and Related Matters. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. This resolution will be sent to the Council for discussion at their next meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

RECYCLING DISCUSSION

Erick Kivett, Morgan County Recycling Director, stated that they had opened a bid to service 30 recycling sites for \$49,000 per month. Another company said they could not go below \$47,000 per month to service the current 32 sites, but did not submit an official bid. They are currently paying \$20,000 per month, but the cost is set to more than double next month. Mr. Kivett recently visited Hendricks County to tour their facility. They have a landfill in the county and they charge \$1 per ton, which funds 95% of their budget. They have compactors and a vendor that gives them a rebate for the materials they collect. The site cost was approximately \$800,000. Mr. Kivett stated that several counties are going towards a central location rather than several collection sites. The annual budget for Hendricks County is \$300,000 and there is a separate location that collects brush that also generates funds. Bryan Collier stated that if Morgan County goes this route, they would need to be centrally located or the repercussions would be huge. Discussion followed regarding obtaining a parcel of land and setting up a manned collection center. Mr. Kivett stated that new rates are starting for the sites and they need to come up with a plan. Mr. Collier stated that they need to rethink the whole plan and with the increased costs, he is inclined to pull the sites. They will set up a time to meet, but it might not be until after September. Sheriff Rich Myers stated that the site at the jail is used so often that it blocks the road. If they pull the recycling bins, people will throw it alongside the roads. Keith Rhodes, Reporter-Times, stated that if they take the recycling bins away, it will take forever to get them back and asked if it would be possible to work with the City of Martinsville and their transfer station. Mr. Collier stated that the costs have quadrupled the problem is not the recycling.

FALLEN OFFICER FUND

Don Adams noted that there is \$50 in this fund and it costs \$15 to manage it. Mr. Adams stated that the Sheriff's Office has a memorial area and suggested that this amount be donated towards the maintenance and upkeep of the memorial area and the account at the Community Foundation be closed. Don Adams made a motion to close the account and send the proceeds to the Sheriff. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

PEFORMANCE STIPEND

Don Adams stated that it is appropriate that a one-time stipend be paid to an employee that has been a godsend to the county. The employee saved the county several thousand, and quite possibly a couple hundred thousand dollars by stepping up to remedy a situation. Don Adams made a motion to approve the stipend and send the letter to the Council for approval. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

JOB RECLASSIFICATIONS

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that the Council has approved the reclassifications contingent upon Commissioner approval. The EMA Director and Deputy Director have submitted their resignations as they will both be retiring at the end of the year. They have asked that the full time administrative assistant position be switched to part time and that the deputy director position, which is currently part time, be made a full time position so when they are out in the field, that position has authority to make decisions and take care of situations. Don Adams made a motion to approve the reclassifications. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0. Bryan Collier noted that when they hired the current deputy director, due to his job with the Martinsville fire department, he was not able to work full time. In order to keep continuity, they made it a part time position.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION LETTER

Kenny Hale made a motion to send the letter for an additional appropriation from the Opioid Restricted Fund to the Morgan County Council. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

UNPAID TIME OFF REQUEST

Daree Fry stated that she had a request for an unpaid time off request. An employee that uses quite a bit of their time for on-going doctor's appointments had a situation where a spouse had a medical emergency; if the employee would need to take time off to be with the spouse, they could be out of paid time off. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request for up to 10 days of unpaid time off. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Bryan Collier noted that because of Morgan County's tax base, they are not able to offer the highest pay in the area, but having a family

atmosphere where they are able to have an employee's back when a situation like this comes up is a cultural aspect.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Don Adams stated that he was at a CIRT meeting today and was asked if Morgan County has a county administrator. Mr. Adams replied that we do. Johnson County has no administrator and is having some issues, they also do not have HR. Mr. Adams explained that operating more like a business when they have over 400 employees makes the county more of a professional organization. Mr. Adams stated that he appreciates the work that Ms. Fry does. Ms. Fry stated that she often receives calls from Johnson County asking for advice. Bryan Collier stated that it's good to have other counties looking to Morgan County for advice because they are a professional organization. Mr. Adams stated that it was also good to hear that thanks to Ms. Fry's efforts, county HR departments are now considered an affiliate group with the Indiana Association of Counties.

Don Adams stated that he enjoyed events that have been going on at Waverly and noted that the Waverly Festival will be the 23rd and 24th of September.

Mr. Adams stated that it was thrilling to see the participation of county representatives at the Churches in Mission Gala.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Bryan Collier

Attest:

Don Adams

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Kenny Hale