

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023 AT 9:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE BRYAN COLLIER, DON ADAMS, AND KENNY HALE. LINDA PRUITT, COUNTY AUDITOR AND DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

MINUTES – 9/18/23

Don Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023 meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the September 15 and 29, 2023 payroll claims of \$745,368.40 and \$721,882.59; PERF \$66,107.76, and \$64,776.07; FICA \$54,390.79 and \$54,934.13; and monthly claims of \$3,757,744.17. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

PETITION TO VACATE EASEMENT – *RR Kinton's Subdivision & Patton Park*

Dale Coffey, attorney representing petitioners asking that easements in two different subdivisions be vacated, stated that when Patton Park and RR Kinton's Subdivision were platted, they were thinking there would be many different roads in the area. This has not come to fruition. The easements are not passable and have not been for years. Mr. Coffey stated that his clients own the property on each side of the easements. One person was not notified and he will send notice before the next public hearing in November.

POSTAGE METER LEASE – *Clerk, Treasurer*

Tammy Parker, Morgan County Clerk and Terry Clelland, Morgan County Treasurer, were present to request approval of postage meter leases. Ms. Parker stated that there is a postage meter in the Administration Building in the Treasurer's Office and one in the Courthouse in the Clerk's Office. The current postage meters are out of date and can no longer be updated to USPS standards. Josh Messmer stated that the lease is through Pitney Bowes and this is the state QPA price. This is a five-year lease. Don Adams made a motion to approve both leases. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

GRANT APPLICATION – *Clerk*

Ms. Parker stated that the Secretary of State has offered a HAVA Election Security Grant. The Election Office would apply for \$50,000 of the \$2 million grant. The 20% matching funds would come from the budget. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

VACATE / CHANGE ROAD NAMES

Sandy Mosier, Morgan County Plan Commission, stated that they came across Ivan Trail, that is on a vacant piece of property there is no need to continue using the name. Ms. Mosier asked that the road name be vacated. This will then be a private drive. Kenny Hale made a motion to remove the road name of Ivan Trail. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

Ms. Mosier stated that another road name, West County Road 1075 North, is actually a private road and is privately owned. Ms. Mosier asked to change the name off of the regular road name list, as "county road" makes it seem like the county should be maintaining it. This has been discussed with 911 Dispatch. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request remove the road name from the private road. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Josh Messmer stated that Michael Percifield appeared at a prior meeting regarding a lawsuit involving the Plan Commission. The court ruled against Mr. Percifield and he is now appealing. This legal services agreement is with Ksenak Law Firm to represent the county in the appeal. Don Adams made a motion to approve agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

GRANT APPLICATION - *JCC Discretionary Grant*

Miranda Beauchamp, Morgan County Court Services, was present to request approval of a grant application to the Indiana Department of Correction for up to \$10,000. This will be used to

purchase training materials for staff and clients. Don Adams made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

GRANT APPLICATION - CASA

Ms. Beauchamp requested approval of two grant applications for CASA. One is a \$44,841 matching grant for the CASA coordinator salary and the other one is a \$19,226 capacity building grant used to hire part time staff to help reduce the wait list of abused and neglected children in need of services. In 2017, the list was up to 95; they currently have one child on the list. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grant applications. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENT – Harrison Township Fire District

Kenny Hale made a motion to appoint Chuck Christofferson to the Harrison Township Fire District Board. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Josh Messmer stated that they have started the BOT III bond process for the renovation of the historic Courthouse once the Justice Campus is complete. This Engagement Letter is the agreement for legal bond counsel. Don Adams stated that the process has been smooth and made a motion to approve the Engagement Letter with Taft. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

REQUEST TO USE COURTHOUSE SQUARE

Bethaney Latham, Morgan County resident, was present to request the use of the Courthouse Square for the Bobby Helms Jingle Bell Rock Christmas Music Spectacular and Christmas Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 3rd from 3 to 8 pm. Don Adams made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

COURTHOUSE CANNONS

Luke Jackson, on behalf of the Morgan County History & Genealogy Association, stated that the two civil war cannons on the west side of the square are in need of some cleaning and touch-up and they would like to complete that before Veteran's Day. They use a product approved by the federal government for Arlington Cemetery. The main focus will be on the base of the cannons. The cannons themselves require a special type of paint and they do not have the paint. Don Adams thanked the group for the work that they do and made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

REQUEST FOR TIME OFF WITHOUT PAY

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, presented a request from Superior Court III and Judge Dungan for an employee that needs three hours of unpaid time for an employee due to medical reasons and another employee that has a vacation scheduled one day before time is earned. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve both requests. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMENT

Bill Mitchell, Morgan County resident, asked if the construction fence blocking the sidewalk along Main Street could be moved back so people could use the sidewalk in bad weather. Josh Messmer stated that the sidewalk is blocked off because there is a grade change at the intersection. One person ignored the "Sidewalk Closed" signs and fell, so they moved the fence out across the sidewalk so it can't be used. Once the grade has been adjusted further along in the construction process, the sidewalk will be opened again.

TRAILS

Randall Pfleuger, Knobstone Hiking Trail Association, introduced himself.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Don Adams stated that the Association of Indiana Counties held a conference in French Lick, Indiana and Morgan County's representation was extremely good. The information gained was beneficial. Bryan Collier stated that it was exciting to have other county officials ask how Morgan County was handling the growth the county has seen.

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