

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024 AT 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE DON ADAMS, BRYAN COLLIER, AND KENNY HALE. LINDA PRUITT, COUNTY AUDITOR; KERSTIN WOODARD, RECORDING SECRETARY; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; AND ANNE COWGUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

**MINUTES**

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the June 17, 2024 minutes. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**CLAIMS**

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the June 7 and 21, 2024 payroll claims of \$887,599.86 and \$854,824.94; PERF \$77,199.30 and \$74,789.08; FICA \$64,433.28 and \$61,917.71; and monthly claims of \$2,020,764.17. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**2024 PAVING BIDS**

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that they have reviewed the bids that were opened at the previous meeting and Milestone Contractors was found to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The bid amount was \$1,145,860.50. They are able to start in the next week and a half. Don Adams asked if the bids had to be awarded to one contractor. Mr. Schneck stated that they can award different roads to different contractors, but when a contractor gets a bulk project, the county gets better pricing. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Milestone Contractors for the 2024 paving. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**2024-2 COMMUNITY CROSSINGS MATCHING GRANT**

Mr. Schneck stated that this grant program through the state is 50% matching grant up to \$1 million. For 2024 INDOT has increased the match to \$1.5 million. Mr. Schneck presented 20 financial commitment letters for this grant. Eighteen of the letters are for bridge preservation projects that will involve a waterproof membrane and asphalt overlay. One project is for a bridge rehabilitation where the bridge will get a rigid overlay, new concrete approaches and new approach pavement; and the last letter is for HMA resurfacing for various roads throughout the county. INDOT requires a separate letter for each bridge project. They have requested the \$1.5 million match. Don Adams stated that these projects show how the bridge inspection plays into planning. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the grant proposal. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 2-0-1. Kenny Hale abstained.

**ROADWAY RECLASSIFICATION REVISION**

Mr. Schneck stated that the road reclassification for New Harmony Road was approved at a prior meeting, but the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) wanted it extended further to the east. The termination point was Perry Road and they have requested that it be extended to Williams Road. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the road reclassification extension. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**ALLISON ESTATES BONDS**

Justin Schneck stated that Allison Estates is subdivision that was recently taken into the county roadway inventory. There was a performance bond on file to finish the surface paving. This has been completed and inspected. Mr. Schneck requested that the performance bond be released and two two-year maintenance bonds be accepted. Kenny Hale made a motion to release the performance bond and accept the two maintenance bonds. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT AGREEMENT - YMCA**

Michelle Dyer, Morgan County Health Department nurse, requested approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Barbara B Jordan YMCA for a year-long diabetes prevention program and a four-month blood pressure program. The Health First funds will be used for this program and it is set to start August 5<sup>th</sup>. The budget is \$11,640.88. This is a free program for the public. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the MOU. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **GRANT APPLICATION - Sheriff**

Morgan County Sheriff, Rich Myers, requested approval of a \$115,000 grant application through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute for the Click it or Ticket, Driving Under the Influence Task Force and Project SAVE. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE FACILITY STUDY**

Dave Rogers, Morgan County Jail Commander, stated that the current jail facility was built in 1991. They have been having issues with collapsed water lines and sewer lines that are not accessible because they are in four feet of concrete that must be dug up whenever there is an issue. This study will look at needs up to 2050 including the costs to remodel, to house inmates at other facilities, build a new facility, or add on to the new addition. This is not a dire emergency, but it is responsible to look at possible options. Don Adams stated that he would be interested in visiting other facilities to see how they have adapted and what changes they have made. Huntington County built a facility that also addresses addiction and mental health issues. Mr. Rogers stated that they are not overcrowded, bed space is adequate; but they could look into private partnerships for housing those types of issues. Bryan Collier noted that the old part of the facility is built differently than the work release section and asked if the work release section could be remodeled for inmate use move to more of a mental health facility. Mr. Collier stated that there is also a question of how the construction of the levee will affect the property. Construction costs will continue to increase and the longer they wait, the more expensive it gets. The estimated cost increase for the Judicial Campus, had they waited three years to start, would be an additional \$5 to \$7 million. Mr. Rogers stated that obligations were very different 20 years ago; there is a lot more that goes into it than just locking someone up. There used to be a cap on how long someone could be in a county jail and there isn't anymore. In 2015, the Commissioners, Council, judges, prosecutor, public defenders, sheriff and jail worked together to restructure the system in Morgan County and it is still running well. There has been a 46% reduction in population, which has been a savings to the taxpayers over the years. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the DLZ Facility Study, not to exceed \$14,500. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

### **VOLT STRATEGIES AGREEMENT**

Josh Messmer stated that this project was approved at a prior meeting. The agreement is for advocacy at the statehouse for impending water legislation Anne Cowgur has reviewed the agreement. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Volt Strategies. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT LEASE**

Josh Messmer stated that some documents came in for this, but they have not been reviewed by legal. Bryan Collier made a motion to table this item. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **HWC AGREEMENT – White River Greenway Trail Master Plan**

Josh Messmer stated that at the previous meeting, Justin Schneck and Tricia Runningen presented the selection committee's choice for the consultant for the White River Greenway Trail Master Plan. This is partially funded with REDI funds. HWC has submitted the agreement and it has been reviewed by legal. Kenny Hale made a motion to move forward with HWC Engineering on the trail master plan. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **ROAD NAME LIST ADDITION**

Sandy Mosier, Morgan County Plan Commission, requested the addition of a road name – Misty Meadow Way - to the road name list. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the road name. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **911 ADDRESSING**

Kenny Hale made a motion to table the 911 addressing discussion. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **STEELE BENEFITS AGREEMENT**

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that Steele Benefits handles the county's open enrollment, does the self-billing, and keeps the insurance organized. They have a platform for collecting data and they are switching platforms. This change was approved by the Group Health Insurance Board a few weeks ago. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the Client Service Agreement between Morgan County and Steele Benefits. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**MOU – Health Department**

Elizabeth Young, Morgan County Health Department, stated that this Memorandum of Understanding with Information and Records Associates was presented at the previous meeting. The language has been updated to add the e-verify and non-appropriation language as requested by legal. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the MOU. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**ORDINANCE 2024-10**

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

**APEX AGREEMENT**

Daree Fry stated that this agreement for a learning management system was presented at the previous meeting and the e-verify and non-appropriation language has been added to the agreement as requested by legal. This has also been approved by the Group Health Insurance Board. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**COMMENT**

Terri White, Harrison Township resident, requested that the Commissioners make appointments to the Regional Sewer District Board. Kenny Hale made a motion to appoint Rod Perkins to the Morgan County Regional Sewer District Board. There was no second. No action taken.

**APPOINTMENTS – Art Council**

Don Adams stated that there will be two projects, one of which is a 21’ X 8’ mural at the end of Morgan Hall. Mr. Adams stated that the Commissioners make three appointments and the Council makes two. They have three suggestions and need two more.

**COMMENT**

Erick Kivett, Morgan County Recycling Director, stated that they had a successful Tox-away event. There were almost 700 cars that came through. There was a great group of volunteers.

David Mow, Morgan County Soil & Water, noted that INDOT sprayed the noxious weeds along the highways. They didn’t get all of them, but they took out some Canadian thistle and the poison hemlock is drooping.

Keith Rhoades, Morgan County Correspondent, asked about the status of recycling. Don Adams replied that they are closing on property today and will then be able to proceed with the program.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Don Adams stated that County Fair week starts Friday. They are celebrating 75 years.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

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Don Adams

Attest:

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Bryan A. Collier

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Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

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Kenny Hale