

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018 AT 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE NORMAN VOYLES, RYAN GOODWIN, AND BRIAN GOSS. DAN BASTIN, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; AND ROD BRAY, COUNTY ATTORNEY; WERE ALSO PRESENT.

NORMAN VOYLES ASKED FOR A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER.

NORMAN VOYLES CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

**PUBLIC HEARING** – *Infrastructure Development Zone*

Tom Parker, South Central Indiana REMC Fiber Division Manager, stated that they have begun construction on a fiber to home project that will cover their entire territory. Mr. Parker stated that many of the larger internet providers have passed by rural Indiana because there isn't enough return on their investment. A study by the fiber broadband association concludes that the average home sale prices in areas where fiber broadband is available increase by 3.1%, young people are more likely to stay closer to home instead of commuting, and telemedicine and technical schools would be available to rural counties. Students and businesses would benefit from having high-speed internet available. The project to reach underserved people and businesses has acquired close to 4,000 preregistrations since their announcement in early April. Their goal is to reach every home in their territory.

Norman Voyles opened the public hearing and stated that the infrastructure development zone would allow internet providers to obtain a personal property tax exemption on new fiber that is installed. Mr. Voyles asked if there were any public comments.

Mike Dellinger, Morgan County Economic Development Corporation, stated that he supported the efforts of REMC. The state statute was amended just a few years ago to allow this type of zone specifically in rural communities that are lacking broadband. Mr. Dellinger urged the City of Martinsville, MSD of Martinsville School Corporation, and the county to review their interlocal agreement regarding fiber within the city to see if there might be a way to allow REMC and other competitors to bring even more broadband opportunities into the city.

There were no other comments.

Norman Voyles closed the public hearing.

Ryan Goodwin stated that the statute allows an abatement for natural gas, broadband, and/or water service, but the ordinance under consideration specifically allows for broadband service and the ordinance is not specific to a company, it is open to any company making these types of infrastructure development improvements.

Rod Bray stated that the Board must make the following findings:

- (A) Morgan County currently lacks the availability of adequate broadband services for homes, businesses, farms, schools and publicly owned buildings;
- (B) Equal education for the citizens of Morgan County, Indiana, is limited by the lack of broadband service to the homes and businesses in the county;
- (C) The growth of student enrollment is limited by the lack of broadband service to the homes in the county;
- (D) Access to healthcare technologies is limited by the lack of broadband service to the homes and businesses in the county;
- (E) The lack of broadband service to businesses in the county is one of the largest threats to small business in Morgan County, Indiana;
- (F) Providing a property tax exemption to persons and corporations providing broadband services through the establishment of the Infrastructure Development Zone will increase the availability of broadband services to the affected zone area, and will provide economic development benefits to the zone area encompassing Morgan County.

Ryan Goodwin made a motion to designate Morgan County as an Infrastructure Development Zone as outlined in the Ordinance for the Designation of an Infrastructure Development Zone

within Morgan County, Indiana and to waive the second reading of the ordinance. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

**RFP** – *Jail Floor Resurfacing*

Dan Bastin, Morgan County Auditor, opened RFPs as follows: Extreme Coating Solutions \$88,575; Vista Building Services \$66,000; and Blakley Corporation \$93,500.

Dave Rogers, Jail Commander, stated that they budgeted for this work, but they will need to approach the Council for an additional \$36,000 if the lowest bid is chosen. Vista Building Services was the only company that came to the jail to view the scope of work and tested a sample area. The epoxy on the floor has been down for nine years and is beginning to peel. The scope of work includes removing the epoxy and polishing the floors. Brian Goss made a motion to accept the Vista bid and allow Mr. Rogers to approach the Council for an additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

**PARK BOARD** – *Wilbur School*

Greg Howard, Morgan County Park and Recreation Board President, thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support of the parks in Morgan County. Mr. Howard stated that the Park Board was approached by a group that has been supporting the property known as the Wilbur Schoolhouse. The group is growing smaller every year and they asked that the Park Board take over the property as an historical and unique property that could be turned into a park and utilized for that area of Morgan County. The Park Board has approved the request under the condition that the Board of Commissioners approve it as well. The Park Board is not asking for a decision, but wanted to present information and come before the Board of Commissioners at a later date and ask for a vote.

Joe Tutterrow, Park and Recreation Board Treasurer, was the head of the committee that gathered information regarding the schoolhouse. Mr. Tutterrow stated that the committee (Volitta Fritsche, Eryn Fletcher, Joe Tutterrow, and Michael Fellow) worked with a group from the Wilbur Schoolhouse and evaluated the pluses and minuses. The property fits the mission of the Park Board and provides service to an underserved part of the county. The Park Board voted in favor of supporting the acquisition.

Sue Collins, Wilbur Community Center Corporation (WCCC), introduced Kathy Hull, Donna Clymer, and Randy Marsh, also with WCCC. They met with the Park Board and felt that it would be a good partnership. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Collins submitted a handout showing the 2017 finances and a list of maintenance items that have been completed. The floor in the southwest corner of the building is sagging and the joists need to be repaired. They are in the process of completing this repair. The WCCC would like to donate the property to Morgan County.

Greg Howard stated that the Park Board believes that the Wilbur Schoolhouse has historical significance in Morgan County and should be preserved and made available to the public for use. Norman Voyles inquired about the funds to maintain the building. Mr. Howard stated that the Park Board budgeted for this in the 2019 budget. They believe that the building could be self-sufficient with the amount of rentals that are taking place in it already. Ryan Goodwin asked if there was a timeline for the request. Mr. Howard stated that they would like to know that funds are available, so would like to wait till the budget is approved. Ryan Goodwin expressed his support in preserving important pieces of history in the community, but stated that he also wanted to make sure that funding was in the budget. Mr. Howard stated that they would come back after the budget has been approved.

**PROPERTY LEASE** – *Jackson Twp*

Norman Voyles stated that this lease regards the Jackson Township Fire Station on State Road 252. Bill Witt, Jackson Township Trustee stated that the township is willing to lease the property to Morgan County EMS on a three-year lease. He met with the county attorney and they have agreed on the lease terms. It will be a major benefit for the EMS and it helps relieve some financial burden on Jackson Township and the Morgantown Fire Department. Rod Bray stated that it is a three-year lease for \$1 per year. Ryan Goodwin made a motion to approve the lease between Jackson Township and Morgan County effective August 1, 2018. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

**REZONE REQUEST** – *McQueen/Coburn*

Pamela McQueen and Margaret Coburn submitted a request to rezone property at 2678 N Wandering Lane from Ag to R1. Kenny Hale, Morgan County Plan Commission Director, stated that the Plan Commission voted to give this a favorable recommendation. The property is 14.119 acres and they would like to split out an acre for a daughter. Brian Goss made a motion to approve

the rezone request. Motion seconded by Norman Voyles. Motion carried 2-0. (Ryan Goodwin was out of the room.)

### **LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT**

Norman Voyles stated that Senator Rod Bray's additional duties as Senate President Pro Tem, will require him to spend more time in Indianapolis and less time with county business and he would like to terminate his contract as county attorney effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Bray stated that he has enjoyed the time he's been county attorney, but this new opportunity will not allow enough time to adequately take care of the needs of the county. Mr. Voyles thanked Mr. Bray for the service he has provided the county. Ryan Goodwin made a motion to approve the Termination of Legal Services Contract between Rodric Bray and Morgan County. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

Brian Goss made a motion to appoint Dale Coffey as the county attorney effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. Motion seconded by Norman Voyles. Motion carried 2-1. Ryan Goodwin was opposed.

Brian Goss thanked Mr. Bray for his service to the Board of Commissioners and his continued service in the Indiana State Senate.

### **MINUTES**

Ryan Goodwin made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2018 meeting. Motion seconded by Norman Voyles. Motion carried 2-0-1. Brian Goss stated that he was not present for the meeting and abstained from voting.

Brian Goss made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2018 meeting. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

### **INCIDENT CLAIM**

Ryan Goodwin made a motion to turn the Mills incident claim into the insurance company. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

### **TORT CLAIM**

Brian Goss made a motion to submit the Indiana Bell Telephone Co. tort claim to the insurance company. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

### **VSO UPDATE**

Rick Baum, Morgan County Veterans Service Officer, reported that there were 6 federal, 6 county, and 1 state claim filed in June and 60 interviews. Mr. Baum visited the American Legion Post in Mooresville, when he had appointments with eight veterans. The GDX from the Department of Veterans Affairs reported that the veteran population for 2017 was 6,008 and the American Legion reported that \$956,837.86 has been awarded in new compensation in the last 10 months. These figures do not take into consideration the DAV and VFW. Mr. Baum has requested an administrative assistant in the budget for 2019 and this should help to become an even more efficient office to serve more veterans and their dependents. Mr. Baum also noted that July is National Horseradish month.

### **EMS UPDATE**

Donnie Warren, Morgan County EMS Director, stated that EMS is progressing well. They have asked the Council for some equipment that was requested in the 2019 budget. Mr. Warren stated that if the equipment is purchased within the next few months, it will save the county approximately \$30,000.

### **DISPATCH UPDATE**

Scott Hamilton, Morgan County 911 Dispatch Director, stated that there have been 19,061 CAD calls so far this year, 12,212 911 calls, and 47,663 administrative calls.

Construction has started on a pole barn for EMA; the contractor stated that it will take a week to complete construction.

There are many radios that were purchased through a grant in 2008/2009 that are at the end of their life. Most of the radios went to fire departments and they would like to replace them. The cost to replace the radios is estimated at \$1.1 to \$2.5 million depending on the brand of radio. Mr. Hamilton recommended letting the fire departments use the radios as trade-ins on new radios instead of returning the radios to the county and applying for a grant to purchase new ones. Donnie Warren stated that there are not many grants available for the purchase of new radio equipment. Mr. Hamilton discussed this with Mark Tumey, EMA Director, and the Washington Township Fire Department and they were in agreement. Donnie Warren stated that since the

radios were purchased through a grant, they would have to notify the state or federal government who now has ownership of the assets.

**SHERIFF/JAIL UPDATE**

Robert Downey, Morgan County Sheriff, reported that there are currently 336 inmates, there were 52 new arrests in a 72-hour period over the weekend. There are no DOC inmates, 8 on work release, and 23 on the jail corrections program. There have been 6,387 law enforcement calls for service.

**HIGHWAY UPDATE**

Marvin "Sport" Whaley, Acting Morgan County Highway Superintendent, stated that the new distributor, that was to be delivered in May, will be delivered this week and they should be able to start on the chip and seal program. Crews are replacing culverts, paving crews are about 1/3 done, and crews are patching and mowing. Mr. Whaley thanked Mr. Goss for the work he's done in getting the Baseline/Shuler Road project started. Mr. Whaley also thanked the Council for working with the Highway Department.

**PARK & RECREATION UPDATE**

Michael Fellow, Morgan County Park & Recreation, stated that a hazardous tree on the White River Greenway Trail was removed, and RLH seal coated and patched Landersdale Trail. The county corrections crew is doing a great job in helping to maintain properties.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Brian Goss made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Norman Voyles

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Goss

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Goodwin