

THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2018 AT 8 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: BRYAN COLLIER, PAUL PRATHER, DAVE ZOLLER, DANIEL ELLIOTT, VICKIE KIVETT, KIM MERIDETH, AND VIRGINIA PERRY. ALSO PRESENT WERE DAN BASTIN, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; AND DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (*Virginia Perry*)

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

Budget Hearings:

Opening Remarks:

Dan Bastin handed out estimated levies for 2019 and how this compares to the levy limit. Currently, the sum of the levies compare favorably to the limit; however, some adjustments are needed. The Public Safety Local Income Tax Fund does not have enough money to fund the budget request and is \$500,000 short.

The Council reviewed budgets with office holders and elected officials as follows:

Park and Recreation Board – Bryan Collier stated that he met with the Park & Recreation Property Coordinator to review the budget. The biggest change from last year’s budget was making the Coordinator position full time.

Soil & Water Conservation District – Warren Waymire. Kim Merideth stated that she was impressed that they asked for an intern position and felt that they needed to tap into that fresh knowledge.

Surveyor – Bryan Collier noted that the Surveyor is out of the country. The main concern was obtaining a new vehicle to replace the 12-year-old truck. Vickie Kivett noted that the truck is not a take home vehicle.

Morgan County LEPC – Becky Waymire. Ms. Waymire stated that their funding comes from fees that are paid to the Indiana Emergency Response Commission for hazardous material permits. The funds are used for first responder training.

Solid Waste Management District – Leonard Huffman. Mr. Huffman stated that they partner with the Soil & Water Conservation District for education and outreach. Last year 903 tons of material was collected at the recycling bins. The balances on the Certificates of Deposit are \$57,000 each. Virginia Perry stated that she would like to see that these are not used.

Recorder – Jana Gray. Ms. Stated that she requested a 5% raise for the employees.

Purdue Extension – Jan Walter. Ms. Walter stated that they requested a 5% pay increase, a “myfi” device, and a new duplicator. Dan Bastin stated that it makes sense to put this machine on a separate stand-alone contract. Ms. Walter stated that they found a Xerox that they like. Bryan Collier stated that sometimes at the end of the year there are “leftover” funds for something like this.

Weights & Measures – Jeremy Belcher. Mr. Belcher stated that he has the same budget as last year, but would like to add funds to purchase a skimmer detection device if he does not have enough funds this year.

Treasurer – Julie Minton. Ms. Minton stated that she requested a salary increase, but everything else is the same as the 2018 budget. More people are receiving tax bills by email. Kim Merideth stated that she had obtained a list of furniture needs/wants. Ms. Minton stated that there were several offices that requested furniture that would allow employees to stand or sit at their desks.

Assessor – Julie Minton. Ms. Minton stated that a 5% salary increase was included in the 2019 budget. There has not been a rate for the last three years or so; there could be a funding issue if there isn’t a rate by the end of 2019. There are some older vehicles that the Assessor’s Office is using, including a 2006 Taurus with 108,000 miles on it and three 2010 vehicles with over 111,000 miles. All the vehicles were previous Sheriff’s Department vehicles. Ms. Minton stated that if they aren’t replaced in the next year, by 2020 they will need replacements. Daniel Elliott asked if handing down Sheriff’s Department vehicles was the best practice.

Board of Health – Jeanne LaFary. Ms. LaFary stated that in Fund 1159, they decreased the Group Health Insurance by \$13,000, doubled “Legal Notices”, and increased “Contracts”.

Clerk – Stephanie Elliott. Ms. Elliott stated that she asked for a 5% raise for employees and \$5,000 or \$6,000 for records retention. Next year is a municipal election and the county will be reimbursed for this.

Data Administration – Joel Johnson. Daniel Elliott asked about the moving the Health Department from Macs to PCs. Mr. Johnson stated that he has never been against this. Vickie Kivett asked about the increase in the education line from \$500 to \$3,500. Mr.

Johnson stated that that amount will pay for one cyber-security related class. Mr. Elliott stated that there should be ongoing training for everyone.

Plan Commission – Kenny Hale. Mr. Hale stated that he requested a 3% pay increase and the Plan Director duties will not include 911, grant writing, economic development, etc. for next year; it will be planning only. Mr. Hale stated that the 911 addressing duties or GIS coordinator will have to be taken over by someone else. Mr. Hale felt that this should be a dispatch duty. Dan Bastin stated that 39Degrees is the GIS provider and it might be possible to contract this service. Virginia Perry stated that they need to look at the salary and job description for the director position. Paul Prather stated that there is a hiring committee for this position.

911 Dispatch Center – Scott Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton stated that they are splitting utilities with EMA, and he added additional contractual services (39Degrees so they will have one map, a contract to upgrade tornado sirens, and a power inspection). Mr. Hamilton stated that he requested a 4% pay increase and an increase stipend for shift supervisors and training officers.

Prosecutor – Steve Sonnega. Mr. Sonnega stated that the Major Crimes Fund has been a great help in meeting the needs of what they have to do to do their job and meet the expectations of the public. The level 5 felony (1 to 6 year sentence) cases doubled from 40 cases to 83. They do not have meeting space in the Courthouse and he would like a place to bring victims and police in to talk. Vickie Kivett asked if the \$7,500 budgeted for computer equipment should be in the Data budget. Mr. Sonnega stated that he felt that if there was an immediate need, then the funds would be available. Paul Prather asked if the department needed to be in the Courthouse. Mr. Sonnega stated that it does. Vickie Kivett stated that the lack of space in the Courthouse is an embarrassment. Mr. Sonnega stated that parking is an issue. Ms. Kivett stated that the lack of office space in the Courthouse is embarrassing. Mr. Sonnega stated that they have divided closets, break rooms, and waiting rooms into offices.

Board of Commissioners – Norman Voyles. Virginia Perry stated that \$2,000 needed to be added into the equipment rental line. Morgan County CONNECT only goes to the county line, they will meet another CONNECT vehicle and transfer the passenger; this is concerning with passengers that are in a wheelchair or require a walker. Ms. Perry stated that there is a 33% increase for the Humane Society. Bryan Collier stated that he had done some research on this and would present it during the budget workshop. Ms. Perry stated that \$250,000 was in the equipment/furniture line to replace the carpet in the Sadler Room and replace the panels that divide the room. Ms. Perry asked that the flags (line item 4291) be moved to the Veterans Service Officer budget. Mr. Voyles stated that there was a problem with the elevator in the Courthouse and it was a few weeks before it was repaired. This caused an issue for some courts because some jurors and parties to court cases could not climb stairs. Mr. Voyles is seeking estimates to install a chairlift on one of the flights of stairs. Vickie Kivett asked about using the Commissioners budget for bulk furniture purchases. Mr. Collier stated that they will discuss this next week; the key would be finding a vendor that would offer a bulk price. Vickie Kivett asked that some quotes be presented for the amounts budgeted from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund

Courthouse Maintenance – Bart Ewing. Mr. Ewing stated that he requested a full time position for housekeeping and a floor buffing machine.

Administration Building Maintenance – Michelle Cooley. Dan Bastin stated that the maintenance expenses, except for salaries, have been in the Commissioners' budget; for next year, the maintenance items have been moved to Courthouse/Annex and Administration Building budgets. Vickie Kivett stated that there is a difference in the job description between the Courthouse/Annex and Administration Building. While the titles are similar, there is a difference in duties. Ms. Kivett stated that she would like more uniformity. Bryan Collier suggested that Ms. Kivett meet with Mr. Ewing and discuss the differences.

Highway Department - (MVH, Local Road & Street, Cumulative Bridge) – Larry Smith. Mr. Smith stated that the Wheel Tax was moved to Local Road and Street in order to meet the state's 50% requirement. Dan Bastin stated that \$941,000 will have to be cut from the Highway Department budget because it is over the revenue estimate. There is an \$875,000 surplus in Local Road and Street. Mr. Bastin suggested moving equipment purchases to Local Road and Street. Mr. Smith had requested a trackhoe replacement from the Cumulative Bridge Fund.

LIT Economic Development – Larry Smith stated that this supplements the Cumulative Bridge Fund for bridge repair and replacement. Dan Bastin stated that there is a lot of money that is not being budgeted; more bridges could be built each year.

Cumulative Capital Development – Dan Bastin stated that all the capital expenditures that were in the General Fund are also listed in the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Bryan Collier encouraged the Council to review these requests; some of the items could be needs, while others could be wants, and some are facility planning. Dan Bastin stated that moving all the items draws down the fund considerably and leaves a \$400,000 balance.

EMA – Mark Tumey. Mr. Tumey stated that he requested \$75,000 for tornado sirens. There are 10 or 11 sirens in the county. Daniel Elliott stated that there are areas in the county that are not covered. They are also paying a portion of the utilities in the Dispatch Center where

the EOC is located. Mr. Tumey asked that the director position be a full time position. This will be a \$14,000 increase plus benefits. Kim Merideth asked what items “contractual services” covers. Mr. Tumey stated that this includes VIA network and computer contract, Taylored Systems, Enspiron Logistics, WENS, Critical Power, UPS, Cummins Crosspoint, and the generator. Daniel Elliott recommended that VIA go through the Data Board.

Coroner – Annette Butcher. Ms. Butcher stated that she increased the salary by \$2,000; they discussed (at a prior meeting) increasing the salary by increments in order to get it to \$23,000. Deputy call out was increased by \$1,000 and “body release” was added.

Title IV-D – Robert Hagee. Mr. Hagee stated that except for salaries, the budget is the same as last year.

EMS – Donnie Warren and Troy Whedon.

Additional Appropriation:

- *EMS*

Donnie Warren requested an additional appropriation of \$55,000 from the Cumulative Development Fund (1138) into Account #1138-201-4445.10 (EMS Ambulance). The ambulance that was approved at the last meeting for \$110,000 would not be available for 120 days. The ambulance that is similar to the rest of the fleet is a demo and they would need an additional \$55,000 for the purchase. The ambulance that has the van chassis would be an additional \$23,000.

Mr. Warren also requested an additional appropriation of \$120,000 for AutoPulse units discussed at a previous meeting. Daniel Elliott made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$120,000 into Account #1138-201-4446 for the AutoPulse units. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 7-0.

Daniel Elliott made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$55,000 for the EMS ambulance. Motion seconded by Virginia Perry. Motion carried 7-0.

Veterans Service Officer – Rick Baum. Bryan Collier inquired about the fund raising for the transportation van. Mr. Baum stated that there are volunteer drivers, but not enough to begin the program in Morgan County. The Marine Corp League has made a donation through Home Bank for the van. Mr. Baum estimated donations at \$4,000 so far. They would need \$18,600 and the DAV would match it. Mr. Baum requested a part time administrative assistant. One million dollars in claims was filed in the last year. Mr. Baum will be able to move into a bigger space and clients will not have to wait out in the hall. Virginia Perry stated that cameras should be installed in the basement. Vickie Kivett stated she would like to see the office space closer to the elevator; there are some storage areas that could be used.

Sheriff/Jail – Sheriff Robert Downey. Sheriff Downey stated that the main items for the jail are a body scanner and a contract for a pager. The jail has requested funds to remodel the old control room and the old visitation area for attorney, Department of Child Services, and clergy visits. He has requested two additional road deputies, and additional \$50,000 above what was requested last year for patrol cars. Sheriff Downey stated that from 2016 to 2017 there was an increase of 770 calls. He has requested an increase in the uniform allowance and a 7% pay increase for deputies. Bryan Collier asked if Sheriff Downey has considered a quartermaster system. Sheriff Downey stated that he did not think this type of system would work for them. Bryan Collier stated that if non-pursuit vehicles are on a rotation and “handed down”, this would help out other departments like the Assessor’s Office. Dan Bastin stated that the Public Safety Fund cannot fund this budget request and suggested moving the \$593,000 Sheriff’s Retirement line item to the General Fund.

Court Services – Carole Kinder and Brian Foley. Mr. Foley stated that the only increase is in pay raises.

Council – The Council agreed that 3% would be a good place to start for raises, the instruction and education line item should be increased to \$3,000, and dues should be \$150.

Cumulative Capital Development: Mr. Bastin stated that there may be a point in time when the Council would want to consider changing the Cumulative Capital Development rate because it has been decreasing each year.

Auditor – Dan Bastin. Mr. Bastin stated that the big changes for his budget were salary increases for the office staff, and moving a position from second deputy to first deputy. \$100,000 has been budgeted for a human resources consultant. Mr. Bastin stated that he was more in favor of a consultant rather than hiring someone because an individual should have a knowledge base and they would have to pay benefits and pay for training. This position would require a higher salary and paying higher salaries to one individual causes friction among the employees. Hiring a consultant would be hiring a variety of individuals with knowledge and experience that would broaden the resource. Some people might be more comfortable discussing human resources items with a firm rather than an employee. Mr. Bastin suggested separating the employee handbook from the personnel policy and updating

them. Mr. Bastin budgeted for an update to the office to improve the work environment and to be more ADA compliant.

Shared Court Services and Public Defender – Judge Pete Foley. Judge Foley stated that the significant increase in the budget is in the public defender contracts. The pay for these contracts have not been increased since 2014. Each of the eight contracts is for 105 cases and the budget request is for an increase from \$383 to \$400 for each case. The mental health/probate, public defender for OWI, and public defender for juvenile contracts have also been increased by 4%. The major crimes line item has been increased to \$100,000 and the supplemental public defender fund was increased.

Superior I – Judge Foley stated that there are few incentives that can be offered to employees and he has requested an increase in salaries. He has requested a new copier that will also scan and fax.

Jury Administrator – Judge Foley requested a change from first deputy to first deputy/jury administrator with the same pay rate as a bailiff.

Superior II – Judge Foley stated that Judge Brian Williams was out of state and asked that he present his budget. Dave Zoller stated that Judge Williams requested chairs that interlock so they can't be thrown easily. Judge Foley stated that this is a security concern. Judge Foley asked that gallery chairs and chairs in the hallway receive consideration for replacement and noted that they should not be fabric covered.

Superior III – Judge Sara Dungan was not available. Judge Foley stated that the pro tem funds have been increased because Judge Dungan is expecting and will be absent at the beginning of the year. An additional \$10,000 was requested for office equipment for chairs and a copier.

Circuit Court/Magistrate Court – Judge Matt Hanson was not present and submitted a budget that included a 3% pay raise for employees.

Adjournment

Daniel Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 7-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Bryan Collier

Paul Prather

Daniel Elliott

Vickie Kivett

Dave Zoller

Kim Merideth

Virginia Perry

ATTEST:

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor