

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT WERE RYAN GOODWIN, KENNY HALE AND NORMAN VOYLES. DAN BASTIN, AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; AND DALE COFFEY, COUNTY ATTORNEY; WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE

PRAYER (*Ryan Goodwin*)

Ryan Goodwin noted that it is National Public Safety Telecommunicators' Week and thanked the telecommunication employees for all their hard work.

JUDICIAL UPDATE - *Honorable Pete Foley, Superior Court I*

Pete Foley, Superior Court I Judge, along with Brian Williams, Superior Court II, were present to update the Board on the Morgan County judicial system on behalf of the Board of Judges. Judge Foley stated that there are two principal divisions of the judiciary, those working in the Courthouse, and those in the Annex. There are four elected judges and one magistrate, who is appointed by the elected judges. The courts employ 17 full time staff positions in the Courthouse. Court Services, located in the Courthouse Annex with 31 employees, includes probation, community corrections, CASA, and jail treatment. There are 900 to 1,000 adult probation clients, 75 juvenile, and 60 home detention. A total of \$943,925 in grant funds and user fees has been projected for 2020. The success rate for adult misdemeanor probation cases is 68%, felony 41% and juvenile 68%. In 2018, Court Services administered 2,025 drug screens. There were positive results in 42% of them. Marijuana was present in 41% of the tests, meth in 27% and opiates in 6%. Compared to 2017, marijuana use is up 15%, meth 24%, and opiate use is down by 50%.

Judge Foley introduced Gus Matthias as a key member of the Court Services team. Mr. Matthias is the RSAP jail treatment coordinator and substance abuse counselor. He operated treatment facilities in Greene and Monroe Counties. Mr. Matthias stated that he has been 31 years clean and that recovery is possible. Opiate overdoses almost always include other drugs as well. The longer someone is involved in treatment, the better the outcome. The jail program also involves other programs such as MRT, AA, domestic violence, social skills, and life skills. Steve Smith, a member of the public stated that Mr. Matthias knows his stuff. Judge Foley stated that Mr. Matthias is effective in what he does.

The State Judiciary provided a grant of \$1,871 to provide pro bono legal assistance to low or modest income individuals for 10 hours per month. Other funds will be added to that amount for funding of approximately \$6,000.

The judges are in the process of implementing a mediation program. Once final approval is received, a fee of \$25 will be added to family law court cases in order to offer mediation services on a sliding scale.

As of January 1, 2020, Morgan County will be required to implement new policies and procedures for bail/bond and pretrial detention to evaluate offenders based upon the risk to reoffend and to public safety, rather than their bank account. The result will be a more informed decision.

Caseloads were up by 11% in 2017 compared to the prior year and were down by 28% in 2018.

<u>Court</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Circuit	1031	1.21
SC-I	1330	1.34
SC-II	1093	1.09
SC-III	<u>1566</u>	<u>0.97</u>
Total	5020	4.61

With use of the magistrate, Morgan County is assigned a weighted caseload of 5 (five judicial officers). Any new judges would be added through legislation.

EGOV STRATEGIES – *Trent Ward*

Trent Ward, eGov Strategies, presented an overview of websites that his firm has done for other

counties and cities. Mr. Ward stated that depending on the amount of content, the cost could be anywhere from \$12,000 to \$50,000. This amount would include training (one-on-one and online) and updates. Kenny Hale stated that he would like to review more of the information and meet with Mr. Ward.

HUMANE SOCIETY

Ryan Goodwin stated that the Morgan County Humane Society submitted a letter for an additional appropriation. The amount funded for 2019 was short by \$39,226 from the requested amount. A small committee consisting of the Auditor, Commissioner, and Councilmember met with the Humane Society after the beginning of the year to restart the conversation. The Humane Society was present at the last Council meeting to discuss the funding and answered several questions. The contract for animal control services is funded through the Commissioners budget and the next step is to request approval from the Commissioners to approach the Council for an additional appropriation. Mr. Goodwin stated that it is important to note that the county could not do the amount of work the Humane Society does on behalf of the county for the amount that they are currently paying them. Ultimately, the decision on funding rests with the Council. Kenny Hale made a motion to forward the request for the additional appropriation to the Council. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 2-1. Norman Voyles was opposed.

ROAD CONDITIONS

Sam Lassiter, on behalf of Robert Lee B&R Equipment, David Scott, Fox Den Storage Units, Stanley Towing, and Indiana Hardwood Mills, businesses on Egbert Road, was present to bring a few things to the attention of the Board. Mr. Lassiter stated that the roads are in Commissioner Voyles' district, but it is a bigger issue than one person. They are hoping that they will be able to use all the resources of the county, including grants, to prepare to deal with I-69. The overpass planned in the area will bring traffic to Egbert for the Henderson Ford/Centennial intersection. The traffic on Egbert has increased substantially in the last 10 years. The speed limit is ignored and Mr. Lassiter stated that they did not need to wait until I-69 was in place to address some of the issues. The road is narrow for today's traffic, does not have a center line, no edge markings, and flooding issues. Clear Creek floods often and will continue to be an issue until the Corp of Engineers deals with Clear Creek. The creek goes north and the water can't get under the existing State Road 37. The drainage needs to be addressed with the I-69 construction. There will be significant traffic on Centennial Road and there will need to be a round-about, signal light, or four-way stop and the business owners would like to have some input because they drive trucks. He would like to see Teeters Road upgraded from a chip and seal road. Norman Voyles asked if Mr. Lassiter would be willing to relinquish some property on Teeters Road in order to widen the road. Mr. Lassiter stated that he would probably be willing to do that.

OFFER TO PURCHASE

Ryan Goodwin stated that the state has offered to purchase approximately a third of an acre for right of way related to I-69. An INDOT representative was present at the last meeting to present an offer of \$1,855 and the Board had 30 days to make a decision. Dale Coffey stated that his law firm has been doing several condemnation cases through the state. He reviewed the offer and it is light in what they are offering the county. Fair market value would be \$4,192. If there are other concessions that the county would like to negotiate, this offer could be made to the state and might be something they are willing to consider. Kenny Hale stated that he met with four INDOT representatives last week and they seemed willing to work with the county to create four or five parking spaces at the trailhead. Norman Voyles asked what the appraisal was when the county purchased the property. Mr. Hale stated that the property was purchased in 2012 or 2013 and he would be able to get the appraisals from that time. Mr. Coffey stated if the Board would like to present a counteroffer of five parking spaces along with the \$1,855, he could put the document together. This would extend the deadline for the original offer. Mr. Hale asked if the Board would be comfortable with this offer. The Board consented to presenting the counteroffer via Dale Coffey.

BILLBOARD PROJECT

Kenny Hale stated that he has been working with Dale Coffey, City of Martinsville, and the Artesian Group on a billboard project. The Artesian Group will take care of the installation; Mr. Hale asked that the county cover the initial and monthly cost for electricity for the LED lights. The City of Martinsville would take care of the state permits and zoning. The sign will be an 8' X 16' "V" shape that will contain downtown information. Norman Voyles stated that he did not think that the county should pay the monthly expense for the electric bill. Ryan Goodwin asked that Mr. Hale obtain an estimate for the costs. Kenny Hale made a motion to work with the entities to prepare an agreement for the May 6th meeting. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTRICTIVE COVENANT

Kenny Hale stated that he has been working on the State Road 252 landfill project for quite some time. IDEM is satisfied with the document now that the landfill in back of the house and the main landfill are both included. The document states that no construction will be allowed on the landfill, including irrigation, monitoring wells, or excavation without prior permission from IDEM. The cap must be mowed and free of trees. The landfill must be marked and no tilling or horses are allowed. Dale Coffey stated that Mr. Bray began the process and he has reviewed the document. Norman Voyles stated that on the first page, it should state “former owner”. Ryan Goodwin stated that “owner” is a defined term in the first paragraph and “former owner” would also need to be defined. Mr. Hale stated that any changes would have to be approved by IDEM and he would present this at the May 6th meeting.

APPOINTMENT – *Redevelopment Commission*

Daniel Elliott, Morgan County Redevelopment Commission Chairman, stated that for a long time, the RDC has been without the non-voting school board member position. Mr. Elliott asked that the Board of Commissioners appoint Dr. Jake Allen, Assistant Superintendent of the Mooresville School District, to this position. Dr. Allen is excited to be involved. Ryan Goodwin stated that Dr. Allen is passionate about Morgan County and its future and would be a great member. Kenny Hale made a motion to appoint Dr. Jake Allen to the RDC. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Ryan Goodwin stated that the purpose of putting this item on the agenda is to begin a dialog about a couple of new positions that are needed. The county’s employee count has grown to over 400 employees and is no longer a small unit of government. Further adding to the complexity, Morgan County government operates in a decentralized nature as well as a 24/7 365 operation. In Mr. Goodwin’s estimation, they are well past the point of needing a county administrator to manage the day-to-day affairs of Morgan County; included with that, it is past time for the need of an HR director. Mr. Goodwin proposes to hire a county manager as well as an HR director. This would create a new department that would be ran by the Commissioners with the assistance of an appointed county manager. The HR director, and other Commissioner appointed department heads, would report to the county manager – providing more consistency in day-to-day operations and have issues resolved by a county manager that was on site full time. Mr. Goodwin provided an organizational chart and job descriptions for the two new positions. If this proposal received a favorable recommendation, the next step is to approach the Council. Mr. Goodwin had originally planned to propose these positions for 2020, but with the Auditor’s Office paring down on administrative duties, this accelerated the timeline.

Norman Voyles stated that he did not have an issue with the HR position, but to find a county administrator that has the skills of the appointed department heads is dreaming. Mr. Goodwin stated that the three Commissioners are doing that now; the administrator would be a day-to-day resource that would free the Commissioners for elected duties. Mr. Goodwin stated that he does not believe the public elected them to administer small day-today affairs. The biggest priority and best use is preparing for and anticipating Morgan County’s future. This position would not require those skill sets, but serve as a coordinator working for the Commissioners. Mr. Voyles asked why an \$85,000 to \$100,000 job should be created for something that he and the executive assistant have done for the last 12 years. Mr. Goodwin stated that this does not take away from responsibilities, it allows them to carry out their responsibilities and a number of more progressive responsibilities with the assistance of the new positions.

Kenny Hale stated that he has talked to Hendricks County and Johnson County and agrees that they are bogged down in phone calls and aren’t able to do what they need to do as county Commissioners. The citizens and employees both would benefit by both positions. The Commissioners are part time positions and all three of them put in a lot of hours. Mr. Goodwin stated that the day-to-day operations are not really their highest and best use. Mr. Goodwin feels strongly that the employees deserve consistent administrative and operational support from a qualified professional manager as opposed to elected officials that come and go.

Dan Bastin stated that the county needs someone managing and coordinating the various department and services that they are providing, not only to the public, but to the individual offices. They need a single go-to person that carries the authority of the Commissioners. In the past, it has been the Auditor that tried to coordinate these efforts but the Auditor does not carry any authority. The Board of Commissioners will need to convey their policy, vision, and how they want the services provided to the public and employees, to this new position so they can carry that out. If this person fails to do that, they can be replaced. Mr. Bastin stated that his office is almost as excited about this position as they are about an HR director.

Mr. Goodwin stated that elected officials are at the top of the organizational chart, they are elected to carry out the duties of their office; this concept would not change that. The Constitution calls for these officials to have complete autonomy in running their office. They would have access to the day-to-day support services that an administration department provides such as assets, facilities, compliance with personnel matters, human resources support, etc. The departments most directly affected are those that have a direct appointment by the Commissioners.

Daniel Elliott, Morgan County Councilmember, stated that as an elected official, this is a good idea and a step toward the future. They have had some great leaders such as Norman Voyles and Dan Bastin that have stepped up and done a lot of these tasks that have to be done every day, but are not really the things that the electorate expect them to be doing. They expect them to be out with them, talking to them, developing vision. Mr. Elliott stated that he thinks of the Commissioners as the CEO and the county manager as the Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Elliott stated that the thought this would be a step in the right direction.

Kenny Hale made a motion to approach the Council with the request to add the county manager and HR administrator positions. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 2-1. Norman Voyles was opposed.

MINUTES – 4/1/19

Norman Voyles made a motion to approve the April 1, 2019 minutes. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ATTORNEY LETTER

Ryan Goodwin stated that the Board received a second letter regarding a road issue. The Board took action on the first letter February 18 by instructing the highway department to work with the individual levying the complaint. Kenny Hale stated that the highway department did some additional ditching, but the elevation of the garage is lower than the road and the paving should not have raised the road enough to make a difference. Dale Coffey stated that he would contact the attorney to let them know that the county highway department went to the location and make an effort to help the situation, but are unable to direct the water anywhere else. Kenny Hale made a motion to authorize Dale Coffey to contact the attorney. Motion seconded by Norman Voyles. Motion carried 3-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Dan Bastin stated that for 2019, maintenance expenses for the Administration Building and Courthouse were moved out of the Commissioners' budget and separate budgets were created for each building in order to make the expenses of maintaining each building more transparent. The cost of security services was not included and an additional appropriation is needed in order to service the security equipment (metal detector, X-ray machine, panic buttons, etc.) at each building. Kenny Hale made a motion to forward the additional appropriation letter requesting \$4,000 for the Administration Building and \$8,000 for the Courthouse to the Council. Motion seconded by Norman Voyles. Motion carried 3-0.

EMS

Donnie Warren stated that he had no new information to provide the Board.

HIGHWAY/ENGINEER UPDATE

Larry Smith, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that crews are cutting brush, replacing culverts, widening roads, and working on ditches.

Mr. Smith stated that the water run off mentioned in the letter from the attorney was not changed substantially by the grade or elevation of the road. The owner of the property could contact a surveyor if necessary.

The Community Crossings agreement has been signed and it should take four to six weeks for the agreement to be approved by the state. There was a special meeting with state representatives for this the last time it was done. Currently, it will be June before bids will be accepted, but they will not be able to award them until approval by the state.

Dan Bastin asked Mr. Smith what he thought of the software program that was presented at the highway department. Mr. Smith stated that it should streamline several processes. The cost is \$7,000 but will help with all the reports that are required. Mr. Bastin stated that they need something in place. Mr. Smith was concerned that it is a one-person operation.

SHERIFF UPDATE

Rich Myers, Morgan County Sheriff, stated that there are currently 250 inmates at the jail, 1 DOC

inmate, 11 on work release, and 20 jail correction workers. There have been 3,197 calls for service since January 1st.

They have received several compliments for the service the jail correction workers have performed.

Sheriff Myers thanked the telecommunications employees for the work that they do each and every day.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Ryan Goodwin

Attest:

Kenny Hale

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

Norman Voyles