

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (*Kim Merideth*)

**Additional Appropriations:**

- *Coroner*

Mike Ellis, Deputy Coroner, was present to request an additional appropriation of \$30,500 from the General Fund (1000) as follows: \$30,000 into Account #1000-107-4312.30 (Autopsy); and \$500 into Acct #1000-107-4320 (Contractual Services). Mr. Ellis stated that there have been 10 cases in the last eight days and they will need an additional \$20,000 for autopsies. Bryan Collier stated that the additional \$20,000 has not been advertised and they would not be able to approve the additional amount at this time. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 7-0.

- *Commissioners*

Norman Voyles, Morgan County Commissioner, stated that the metal detector and X-ray equipment at the Courthouse was due for an annual inspection. Upon scheduling the inspection, the Commissioners' Office was informed that the equipment is no longer serviceable and needs to be replaced. The Board of Commissioners requested an additional appropriation of \$32,754 from either the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (1138) or Riverboat Revenue Fund (1191), or Rainy Day Fund (1186) into Account #XXXX-133-4441.10 (Courthouse Security Equipment). Paul Prather made a motion to approve the request from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (1138). Motion seconded by Dave Zoller. Motion carried 7-0.

**Budget Reduction:**

Danny Chenault, Monroe Township Fire District, was present to request an \$18,000 budget reduction. Mr. Chenault stated that they budgeted that they would end the year with \$264, but will end with \$21,000. They will need this for next year and are asking for a reduction of \$9,000 from Personal Services and \$9,000 from Other Services and Charges so they can use it next year. Daniel Elliott made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcalá. Motion carried 7-0.

**Transfer:**

- *EMS*

Troy Whedon, Morgan County EMS Deputy Director, was present to request a transfer of \$14,000 from Acct #1151-000-4325 (Claims/Collections) and \$6,227 from Acct #1151-000-4342 (Insurance) as follows: \$16,227 into Acct #1151-000-4271 (Uniforms) and \$4,000 into Acct #1151-000-4441 (Equipment/Furniture). Mr. Whedon stated that they ordered uniforms and the bill was higher than anticipated and they need a new radio for the new ambulance. Paul Prather made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

**2020 Budget Public Hearings**

- *Harrison Township Fire Protection District*

Mike Jackson, Harrison Township Treasurer, stated that the budget is at \$79,865. \$72,000 is contracted to the fire department each year and the rest covers legal fees, bond, and advertising. There were no other comments.

- *Monroe Township Fire District*

Danny Chenault stated that they were requesting \$30,000 in the Rainy Day Fund, \$220,431 in the General Fund, \$88,910 in the Debt Fund (the truck should be paid off at the end of the next budget year) and \$50,000 in Cumulative Fire. There were no other comments.

- *Tall Oaks Lake Conservancy District*

Otto Krohn, O. W. Krohn & Associates, and Catherine Whittier, Tall Oaks Conservancy District, were present to answer any questions regarding the budget. Mr. Krohn stated that the conservancy was formed for the purpose of providing water utility service to the residents and to do structural

repairs on the dam. They are working with IDEM to go through the State Revolving Loan Program next year. The proposed budget is \$72,000. There were no other comments.

- *Morgan County Solid Waste District*

Leonard Huffman, Morgan County Solid Waste District Director, stated that there are increased expenses for vendors next year, 10.8% over last year, mostly due to an increase in recycling. From January through May, they collected 555.49 tons of material at the recycling sites. There were no other comments.

- *Morgan County*

Norman Voyles, Morgan County Commissioner, stated that the Maintenance budget should be left like it was; if the Courthouse and Administration Building budgets are combined that's fine, but the Commissioners did not vote to reorganize the department. Bryan Collier stated that they added additional funds for a department head, but they are not adding or removing employees. Mr. Voyles asked for clarification on the department head. Mr. Collier stated that the function of this position would be to make sure that 9 or 10 buildings that the county has are properly cleaned and maintained and help with the day to day issues that arise. Paul Prather stated that the Council would like a ticketing system that shows what work is being done and by whom. Terri White, a Harrison Township resident, asked if they were adding a person or if one of the current employees would be the department head. Mr. Collier stated that that is up to the Board of Commissioners. Daniel Elliott stated that when they met with department heads, one of the concerns mentioned was that adding cleaning duties to a department head's tasks was not a good use of taxpayer dollars. The Council felt that it was better to combine the two maintenance departments and the Commissioners could run it as they see fit. Mr. Voyles stated that there is a contracted person to clean the Coroner's building. Several Council members disagreed.

Mr. Voyles stated that there is more work than a part time Weights and Measures employee can accomplish. Jeremy Belcher, Morgan County Weights and Measures, stated that he was present to give the Council a list of what a Weights and Measures Inspector should do. Vickie Kivett asked what the penalty would be for not completing the inspections. Mr. Belcher stated that the consumer might not get an accurate amount of goods. Mr. Belcher stated that he is only able to do the bare minimum as part time. Bryan Collier stated that he thought the Council was confused by what Mr. Belcher does for the state as opposed to what is done for the county. Mr. Belcher invited any Council member to shadow him for the day. The only thing that he does that is considered the state's job is propane meters and that is a day or two. Mr. Elliott asked that Mr. Belcher provide a breakdown of the things Mr. Belcher is able to complete and those that he is not able to complete, but could if he was full time. Mr. Belcher stated that he would provide that. Ms. Kivett stated that the Council is awaiting results from the job study.

Terri White asked for a copy of the budget for the Parks and Recreation Department and stated that she did not see the need for a Parks Director.

**Adjournment**

Daniel Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kim Merideth seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

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Bryan Collier

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Kim Merideth

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Paul Prather

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Dave Zoller

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Daniel Elliott

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Vickie Kivett

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Kelly Alcalá

ATTEST:

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Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor