

THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

Reorganization

Daniel Elliot made a motion to appoint Bryan Collier as President. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Vickie Kivett made a motion to close nominations. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 7-0.

Paul Prather nominated Kim Merideth as Vice President. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcala. Vickie Kivett made a motion to close nominations. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes

Dave Zoller made a motion to approve the December 2, 2019 minutes. Motion seconded by Daniel Elliott. Motion carried 7-0.

Vacation Policy Resolution

Ryan Goodwin, Morgan County Commissioner, stated that this resolution was tabled at the Commissioners' meeting and although Indiana Code authorizes that the Board of Commissioners may enact paid leave and vacation time, provided the Council appropriates the funds, it has been the practice that when something related to personnel is adjusted, the personnel policy handbook is amended and this has been done with the approval of both the Council and Commissioners. This amendment was passed on a certain intent, but is interpreted differently than how it was discussed. The resolution grants five days of vacation to an employee in their first year and 10 days when they begin their second year. If the updated resolution is adopted, it would retroactively be applied to employees in their first and second year. Mr. Goodwin stated that from his perspective, this was the intention all along. It has become difficult to recruit candidates and not having any vacation days the first year makes it even more so (it was an issue in hiring a new engineer). A paragraph has been added to the resolution that was recently passed that reads:

“To aid in transition from the current vacation schedule to the newly adopted vacation schedule, attached hereto and incorporated herein and referred to as “Exhibit A”, all eligible employees in their first year or second year of employment at the time this resolution becomes effective shall be credited with the scheduled number of vacation days corresponding to their years of service as outlined in “Exhibit A” upon passage of their probationary period. If an employee in their first or second year of employment with the county as the time this resolution becomes effective has already passed their anniversary date for the corresponding year, the vacation time shall be credited retroactively provided that the employee has completed their probation.”

Mr. Goodwin stated that the county engineer started today, so his start date was after January 1, once he passes the probationary period, he will be awarded five days of vacation. The HR director, hired in October, was hired prior to January 1 and would not qualify for vacation time until reaching the second-year anniversary and would then have 10 days. Dan Bastin stated that the way the resolution is written states “effective January 1, 2020” and doesn't mention being applied retroactively. The number of employees that are in their first or second year of employment comprise approximately 24% of the workforce. Daniel Elliott made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 6-1. Vickie Kivett was opposed.

Appropriation for Operation and Maintenance of Leased Vehicles

Josh Messmer, County Administrator, stated that as he was reviewing the budget, and having conversations, there are a handful of examples of the inability of an office to pay for gasoline expenses should they use one of the pool vehicles. Mr. Messmer asked if the Council preferred to add this line item to each department, or if it should be an expense in the Commissioner budget. Dan Bastin stated that this is an infrequent occurrence, but they are looking for guidance from the Council. Several Council members expressed their preference to have a line item in the

Commissioners' budget for this. Kim Merideth made a motion that there be a generalized budget from the Commissioners' budget for the use of fuel and repairs on pool vehicles. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

Review of 2020 DLGF Approved Budgets

Dan Bastin stated that the financial statement looks good. The DLGF (Department of Local Government Finance) approved the budgets as submitted. He will be working on a forecast for the Highway funds. There was an inaccurate estimate of the revenue from the motor carrier taxes from the state and this change has had a 10 to 13% negative impact. He will have this report ready in the next month or two. The expenses for 911 are outpacing the revenue and they will have to determine how to handle this. Mr. Bastin would like the Council to consider reestablishing the Cumulative Capital Development Fund rate. This will need to be done by April 1st.

Mr. Bastin distributed the approved budget via email; however, this report does not include encumbered amounts.

Mr. Bastin will also be working towards getting a rate for the Solid Waste District for 2021.

Other Business

David Mow, Soil & Water Conservation District, encouraged the Council to reestablish the Morgan County Park Board. Mr. Mow stated that he does a lot of work with and at the parks and has five events scheduled for 2020, educational hikes at Burkhart Creek and a service project at both parks. He has been volunteering at the parks for 10 years and has been trying to get a burn at the prairies at Burkhart Creek. They should be burned every three to five years and this has never been done. He was working with the park director to do this in February or March, but since the director was not reappointed, it will not happen this year. Mr. Mow asked that they reestablish the board and hire a full-time director.

Josh Messmer stated that the Commissioners will present an additional appropriation at the next meeting for the mold remediation. The contractor has removed most of the items from the Annex.

Bryan Collier introduced Jim Wisco, newly appointed County attorney.

Adjournment

Vickie Kivett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 7-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Bryan Collier

Kim Merideth

Paul Prather

Dave Zoller

Daniel Elliott

Vickie Kivett

Kelly Alcalá

ATTEST:

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor