

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: BRYAN COLLIER, PAUL PRATHER, DAVE ZOLLER, VICKIE KIVETT, DANIEL ELLIOTT, AND KELLY ALCALA. ALSO PRESENT WERE DAN BASTIN, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY. KIM MERIDETH WAS ABSENT.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER

**Additional Appropriations:**

• *Prosecutor / Title IV-D*

Cassie Starnes, Chief Deputy Prosecutor, was present to request an additional appropriation of \$19,742 from the General Fund (1000), Cumulative Capital Development Fund (1138), or Riverboat Revenue Sharing Fund (1191) into Acct #1XXX-108-4441 (Equip/Furn) and \$12,622 into Acct #1XXX-141-4441 (Equip/Furn) for Title IV-D. Ms. Starnes stated that the furniture that was recently donated to the county by Johnson County will not work for their needs. Ms. Starnes handed out a list showing their requests. Ms. Starnes stated that they are willing to look at websites for used furniture, but listed prices for new furniture in case they couldn't find what they needed on the websites. An unidentified employee stated that their desks are 16 years old, have been moved before and they also need more chairs. Bryan Collier stated that he would like to see uniformity so if items need moved later, it doesn't look like a patchwork quilt. Vickie Kivett asked that they submit a list to Josh Messmer, County Administrator for furniture needed in the Courthouse and made a motion to approve the additional appropriation from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (1138). Motion seconded by Daniel Elliott. Motion carried 6-0. (Kim Merideth was absent.)

**Transfers:**

• *Treasurer*

Terry Clelland, Morgan County Treasurer, was present to request a transfer of \$404 from Acct #1000-103-4211 (Supplies) to Acct #1000-103-4441 (Equipment). Ms. Clelland stated that this will be used for four standing desks. Paul Prather made a motion to approve the transfer as requested. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcalá. Motion carried 6-0.

**Salary Ordinance Amendment**

Josh Messmer stated that there are a lot of moving pieces with the reorganization of the Maintenance Department and one piece that was omitted was a position in the Salary Ordinance for a community corrections officer. This was included in the Parks Department. Daniel Elliott made a motion to add "part time corrections officer" to the Maintenance Department at an hourly rate of \$19.08. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcalá. Motion carried 6-0.

**Additional Appropriation Discussion**

Josh Messmer stated that \$50,000 was budgeted for copiers this year. He has worked with Ricoh through the state contract to obtain new copiers and the Commissioners asked that he work with the Council on how to move forward – lease or purchase. Leasing is a 6.499% finance charge and a 7% increase after rebates. An outright purchase is \$141,406 and less the rebate, the cost is \$126,106. Several Councilmembers stated that they would prefer a purchase. Bryan Collier stated that there is a time frame for the rebates. Mr. Messmer stated that they will move forward with the purchase in order to qualify for the rebates and the Board of Commissioners will present an additional appropriation letter to the Council at the next meeting.

**IT Budget Request**

Josh Messmer stated that he has been told that in the past, there has been direction from the Council on doing IT orders. Mr. Messmer, in partnership with the IT Director, Joel Johnson, would like to create a requisite form. Department heads would fill out the form and Mr. Johnson would compare the list to what he already planned to purchase as part of his asset management. Daniel Elliott stated that he had discussed this with Mr. Messmer and it is similar to how it would be done in a professional environment. There are several older computers being used because departments think it is too complicated to request new ones. Mr. Elliott stated that the new Highway Engineer has an older laptop and he could requisition a new computer rather than going to the Council. Mr. Messmer stated that the Coroner wanted several items and could

request these for next year so Mr. Johnson could get costs and the items could be added to the department's budget. The regular replacement program would still remain in effect. Dan Bastin stated that the Data Board needs to be involved. Mr. Bastin did not think that the IT Director should tell him what he needed to do his job. The IT Department should be a service, not telling departments what they need. Mr. Bastin asked if the Council wanted these types of expenditures in the General Fund or Cumulative Capital Development. Mr. Bastin stated that he has not had a new computer since he has been in the office. Mr. Messmer stated that he was not suggesting that IT oks purchases for each department; he was suggesting that IT would plan on replacing some computers, but each office could bring their needs to IT for guidance and pricing to use in budgeting. Mr. Bastin stated that the Council needs to decide if the budget should be in each department or if it should be in Cumulative Capital Development with IT. Mr. Bastin stated that several departments are frustrated that they don't have better machines and better software. Kelly Alcala asked if there was any tracking software for IT to inventory hardware and to log tickets for service. Mr. Messmer stated that they are currently looking at this. Mr. Bastin stated that they have tried this several times and he is very frustrated. Mr. Bastin stated that he has asked for two screens for the front counter in his office for two years and Mr. Johnson has flat out refused to get them for his office. Mr. Elliott stated that he would like a ticketing system just to know what types of duties the IT Department is being asked to do. There seems to be a lack of trust between the office holders and the IT Department and they need to create trust. Mr. Bastin stated that an office of two individuals is not enough for the number of departments and staff that the county has. Mr. Elliott agreed.

Mr. Messmer noted that there have been 75 tickets logged for the Maintenance Department and employees have stated that they like having a portal to log into and submit a request. They like knowing the status and that it doesn't get lost. Mr. Messmer would like that same sense of understanding for the IT Department.

Paul Prather asked if Mr. Messmer's question was answered. Mr. Messmer stated that he still needed direction. He would like to see asset management planned within the IT budget; other items from departments are additional to this and he would like them to coordinate this within that department's budget. Mr. Prather stated that it would not be up to IT to say "no", to a need, but to discuss it with the Data Board or Council. Bryan Collier stated that the Data Board is made up of several department heads and he would like guidance as to setting up this budget. Mr. Bastin would like Mr. Messmer and Mr. Johnson to gather all the hardware and software needs for the departments and present this to the Data Board for discussion. Mr. Bastin stated that the Council needs to seriously consider beefing up the manpower for the IT Department.

### **Reestablishment of Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) Fund Rate**

Dan Bastin handed out information for the Cumulative Capital Development Fund regarding reestablishing the rate. The current rate was established in 2012 at the maximum rate of .0333 per \$100 of net assessed value. Indiana Code requires that the maximum allowable rate of cumulative funds to be adjusted each year based on the change of assessed values from one year to the next. If there is an increase in assessed value, then the rate is decreased so any increase in the property tax is from real growth and not market value adjustments. Since 2013, each year the rate has been adjusted or has stayed the same. The current rate is at .0298 and the certified levy is \$998,591. If the rate is increased back to the maximum, the levy would increase to \$1,115,885. Or the rate could be established at a rate other than the maximum. Increasing the rate would require action by the Board of Commissioners. There is a deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup> to accomplish this.

### **Minutes**

Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the October 7, 2019 and February 3, 2020 minutes. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Other Business**

Sheriff Rich Myers stated that through the generosity of Bolt for the Heart, the Sheriff's Office was the recipient of 35 brand new AEDs, one to cover each patrol vehicle in Morgan County. There is no cost to the taxpayers. Bolt for the Heart receives a discounted price of \$1,500 for each AED, saving the county \$52,500. On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> the Morgan County Sheriff's Department, in conjunction with the American Legion will have a Bingo Night in order to raise funds for more AEDs and start a maintenance fund for batteries.

### **Adjournment**

Daniel Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 6-0.

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 Alcala

ATTEST:

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Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor