

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE RYAN GOODWIN, KENNY HALE AND NORMAN VOYLES. DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; DAN BASTIN, AUDITOR (VIA TELECOMMUNING); JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE.

PRAYER (*Kenny Hale*).

**EXECUTIVE ORDER** – *Status Update*

Ryan Goodwin stated that at the last meeting, they set a date of June 1<sup>st</sup> to open the County Administration Building to the public. Department heads are transitioning from part time limited office staff to full time staffing over the next few weeks so they can open the doors on June 1<sup>st</sup>. They have obtained PPE for employees as well as installing sneeze guards in the public facing counter areas to make both visitors and employees as comfortable as possible.

**GRANT APPLICATION**

Rich Myers, Morgan County Sheriff, was present to request approval of a 2021 CHIRP (Comprehensive Highway Traffic Safety) Grant from the Criminal Justice Institute in the amount of \$75,000. This grant includes Click it to Live It and DUI Taskforce grants. Norman Voyles made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**EVENT WAIVER REQUEST** – *Mass Gathering Ordinance*

Sheriff Myers stated that he spoke with the ride director of IXCR Racing concerning a motorcycle racing event scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. They are wanting to abide by the rules and regulations and provide a safe event and there could be more than 500 people present. At a prior event, there were 443 riders one day and a total of 852 participants; however, they were not all there at the same time. Sheriff Myers asked if the Board of Commissioners would grant a waiver from the requirement to obtain a permit. Kenny Hale stated that since they have been working with the state, he did not have a problem granting an event waiver, but felt that the Mass Gathering Ordinance needs to be updated; meeting the requirements of the ordinance should fall on the event organizer, not the sheriff. Norman Voyles stated that the ordinance should be updated before granting any waivers. Jim Wisco stated that the ordinance needs updated for a number of reasons. The current Indiana Code that the ordinance is based on states 5,000 people and 15 consecutive hour or more. The event coordinators for this specific event have communicated with the state and the sheriff in an effort to meet requirements and seem to meet the purpose and spirit of the ordinance. Mr. Wisco stated that the options are to enforce the ordinance as it stands, take no action, or to grant a waiver. Mr. Wisco's concern would be that the Board be consistent. Ryan Goodwin stated that the ordinance needs to be updated and enforced in a consistent manner. Mr. Goodwin would not be as sympathetic to granting a waiver if the group had not taken as many steps to be safe. Mr. Voyles noted that he has received complaints every year regarding these events. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve a waiver of the ordinance for the event planned on May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 2-1. Norman Voyles was opposed.

**INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Josh Messmer stated that the property/liability insurance rate has increased by approximately 11.5% or \$90,000. Mr. Messmer discussed this with Steve McConnell of Morgan Insurance Group and there are a few reasons for this: the coverage on buildings contents and structures has been increased by \$1.5 million, the mobile equipment has increased by \$1.1 million and vehicles have increased, but the main reason is the liability for the EMS service. The cyber coverage premium has increased by 50% and Mr. McConnell recommended switching to Chubb for this coverage and staying with Travelers for all other coverage. Ryan Goodwin stated that the Board looked at this very closely last year and there are few options in the market for counties mostly because of the liability issues with jail coverage. Mr. Messmer stated that he has been pleased with the information and diligence that Travelers has shown each time he has contacted them. Kenny Hale made a motion that Mr. Messmer continue to work with Morgan Insurance Group to finalize the insurance coverage renewal for the May 30, 2020 through May 30, 2021 policy. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

### **ANNUAL HIGHWAY REPORT**

Tony Hinkle presented the 2019 Annual Highway Report that will be submitted to the state by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Hinkle asked that the Board approve the report. Norman Voyles made a motion to approve the report. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION LETTER**

Mr. Hinkle stated that at a previous meeting, they discussed an area on Old State Road 67 that needed a repair. Mr. Hinkle obtained a quote to repair the area at a cost of \$220,000. Mr. Hinkle has also discussed this need with several Council members. Kenny Hale made a motion to allow Mr. Hinkle to take this request to the Council. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Hinkle stated that they will need to move funds in order to purchase stone. Josh Messmer stated that Dan Bastin recommended that money for stone come from the MVH Restricted Fund so they will need to appropriate funds (\$135,000) from 1176 MVH Fund to 1173 MVH Restricted Fund. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

Ryan Goodwin noted that there were also additional appropriation requests for the following: \$100,000 in partnership with EMS, EMA, and the Board of Health for a PPE stockpile fund for use in the future; \$102,000 for the installation of ultra violet light ionization kits in the air ducts in the county's public buildings; funding for an additional IT staff member for the remainder of the year; \$32,463.03 for the purchase of audio and visual streaming equipment and software for public meetings. Norman Voyles made a motion to send all four letters to the Council. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **TRANSFER LETTER**

Ryan Goodwin requested approval of a letter to the Council for the transfer of \$41,406.00 to move funds for copier maintenance to copier purchase and a transfer for the Maintenance Department of \$5,000. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve both transfer requests. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

### **FAIR BOARD LETTER**

Ryan Goodwin stated that the Fair Board sent a letter to the Board of Commissioners. Josh Messmer stated that in February or March, the Commissioners approved an assessment of space needs with DLZ. One of the members of the executive committee inquired about Purdue Extension moving out to the fairgrounds. Mr. Messmer asked that this be put into a letter as documentation of this suggestion. Once the study moves forward, and discussion begins, everyone will be aware that this is an option. It was noted that most Purdue Extension offices are at fairgrounds around the state. Mr. Goodwin stated that they all recognize that space is becoming tight and they need to start making plans. The county has a duty to provide space for the Extension office; however, it does not need to be at the Administration Building or Courthouse. Kenny Hale stated that he knew that some of the staff was not enthused about this option.

### **AT&T EASEMENT**

Ryan Goodwin stated that this easement is on two parcels at the fairgrounds. Josh Messmer stated that due to I-69, AT&T needs to install some lines. The property is leased to the fairgrounds, but the county owns the property. Jim Wisco stated that AT&T has completed a survey and made an offer of \$4,715 or 25% of the property value. Norman Voyles made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **STOP LOSS INSURANCE**

Josh Messmer stated that the Health Insurance Board gave this agreement conditional approval and authorized Dan Bastin to sign the agreement; however, the agreement is not ready for signature.

### **PAVING BIDS**

Tony Hinkle, Morgan County Highway Engineer, presented Notice to Proceed letters that will be sent to the paving contractors for Districts 2 and 3. No projects were awarded for District 1. Norman Voyles noted a correction for the E&B Paving letter and made a motion to approve the letters to E&B Paving and Wallace Construction and authorize Mr. Hinkle to sign them. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Hinkle stated that he has plans for four other projects. They are spending \$2.2 million of the \$2.6 million that was budgeted for the year. There is another line item with a balance of \$275,000 for miscellaneous paving. Combining these two funds will allow additional monies for three

projects. If they need additional money, there is \$650,000 in the LIT (Local Income Tax) Fund with funds for two bridge projects. These bridges will be designed this year, but construction will not start until next year. There have been some changes with Community Crossings; the project can not be awarded with Community Crossings money until the county receives the Community Crossings money. The next round for the Community Crossings grant is October or November – which does not allow much time for paving. Mr. Hinkle expects to combine the grant funds from October with grant funds the next year in order to have \$4 million for paving next year. Ryan Goodwin noted that this assumes that the county is awarded two back-to-back grants.

**INDOT TRANSFER AGREEMENT**

Mr. Hinkle stated that he met with INDOT regarding taking over the additional roads and bridges. They were appreciative of the maps that they were given and it brought to their attention that the original agreement is not what they wished to do. They are now having internal discussions.

**COVID EXPENSES**

Josh Messmer stated that \$112,000 has been spent so far and the Council will consider an additional appropriation of \$50,000 at their next meeting. A lot of expense was expended in mailing for the Election Office.

**TORT CLAIMS**

Norman Voyles made a motion to forward the Boswell, Driscoll, and Haney tort claims to the insurance carrier. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**REQUESTS TO USE COUNTY PROPERTY**

Ryan Goodwin stated that Justin Helmick requested the use of the Courthouse Square on July 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 pm for a Reformer’s Unanimous program through Martinsville Baptist Tabernacle. Wendell Bentley requested the use of the Administration Building on August 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 5 pm. The Barbara B. Jordan YMCA is wanting to use Waverly Park at the end of July and Burkhart Creek Park in August for a 5K. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve all three events. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0. Kenny Hale made a motion to waive the fees for the YMCA park events since they are a 501(c3). Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

**MINUTES**

Norman Voyles made a motion to approve the May 4, 2020 minutes. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** - Trailer

Tony Hinkle stated that Highway Department had funds in the equipment budget and would like to order a trailer. Ryan Goodwin stated that in general, the department head knows what they need and don’t need and he didn’t have a problem with it as long as it was a budgeted item. Kenny Hale asked if this would be a replacement or an additional trailer. Mr. Hinkle stated that it would be an additional trailer. The Board agreed that this was permissible.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Goodwin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenny Hale

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Norman Voyles