

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

**MINUTES**

Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the April 6, 2020 minutes. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 6-0. (Daniel Elliott was late.)

**Additional Appropriations:**

- *Election*

Stephanie Elliott, Morgan County Clerk, was present to request an additional appropriation of \$10,000 from the General Fund (1000) into Account #1000-124-4211 (Supplies). Ms Elliott stated that with the Election moved to June 2 and so many requests for absentee ballots, they have spent \$20,000 so far just for postage. She will need additional supplies for the election. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Daniel Elliott. Motion carried 6-0-1. (Dave Zoller had technical difficulties and was not able to vote.)

- *Prosecutor*

Steve Sonnega, Morgan County Prosecutor, present via Go To Meeting, requested an additional appropriation of \$8,000 from the Pretrial Diversion Fund (2505) into Account #2505-000-4361 (Other Services). Mr. Sonnega stated that there is an issue with the Prosecutor website and requests for Pretrial Traffic Diversions are not showing up on the website. Someone may submit one, but since switching to the Office 365 email system, his office is not receiving the requests. Telemagen has been working on this for five months but is still not fixed. Mr. Sonnega stated that they can create a new website or merge into the county website, but need funds to pay for the work that has been done. Daniel Elliott stated that the issue is a mail relay issue and the email coming from a separate domain is causing some quirks. Office 365 security is flagging it as spam. Mr. Sonnega stated that so far approximately \$1,500 has been spent. Kim Merideth asked why it hasn't been addressed by the IT Department. Mr. Elliott stated that this is not the IT skill set and the servers don't reside here. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve an additional appropriation of \$1,500. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 6-0-1.

- *Coroner*

Annette Butcher, Morgan County Coroner, requested an additional appropriation of \$52,140 from the Cumulative County Development Fund (1138) into Account #1138-107-4441 (Vehicle). Ms. Butcher stated that this is the total price for a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 4-wheel drive with a crew cab through Enterprise. The vehicle must be a 2500 because of the bed length. Ms. Butcher stated that it does not need to be a diesel and a diesel added \$9,000 to the cost. She has been using her personal vehicle and feel that this should not be the case going forward, especially with the COVID-19 deaths. They would have to share the same air space if bodies are transported in a van and that is why she chose a truck, but she does not have the pricing at this time for a gas truck. Paul Prather mentioned concerns regarding gas and maintenance costs. Ms. Butcher stated that previous coroners were county employees and were able to drive their county-owned vehicles to the scene. She has not been claiming mileage costs when she uses her vehicle and felt that the next coroner should not use a personal vehicle for coroner calls. Bryan Collier stated that he did not have a problem with the vehicle, but he would like quotes for a gas vehicle and would like to look into the possibility of reimbursement through the CARES Act for this purchase. Ms. Butcher noted that approximately \$14,975 of the cost was in aftermarket additions to make it a transport vehicle. Dan Bastin stated that this expense would not be covered by the grant. Josh Messmer stated that Enterprise quoted a diesel because that is what is available; if they can wait, they might be able to get one manufactured. Daniel Elliott made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 6-0-1.

**Transfer:**

- *Plan Commission*

Bryan Collier stated that he spoke with Laura Parker, Morgan County Plan Commission Director, regarding a request to transfer \$1,000 from Account #1000-127-4176 (Plan Commission Borad) to Account #1000-127-4441 (Equip/Furn) for the purchase of a lateral file cabinet. Paul Prather made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcala. Motion carried 6-0-1.

**Harrison Township Fire District Budget Discussion**

Sean Paris, Harrison Township Fire District Board, along with Mike Jackson, John Kennedy, and Bargasville Fire Department Chief Eric Funkhouser, was present to discuss the future of the fire district budget. Mr. Paris stated that he was appointed to the board in January and entered into a contract for fire protection with the Harrison Township Fire Department. During a public meeting, several disturbing issues came to light regarding lack of inspections, no apparatus certification, OSHA violations, no certificate of occupancy for the building, and a certified letter regarding an increased ISO rating that was ignored. Because of these issues, they discussed merging with the Madison Township Fire District and received a lot of public opposition. They then discussed contracting with Bargasville for fire protection. Bargasville is willing to provide this service beginning in July but not for the current \$72,000 per year; it would be \$100,000 per year. Mr. Paris stated that funds are available that haven't been appropriated and would like a consensus from the Council that they would be favorable for this. Mr. Paris stated that there is already an agreement in place between Morgan County EMS and Bargasville Fire Department. There will still be areas in Harrison Township that will have a 10 ISO rating because they are out of the five-mile radius, but the Board felt this would be the best way to remedy the situation. Paul Prather stated that he felt much better about the situation than he has for a long time. Daniel Elliott thanked the Board for their transparency. Chief Funkhouser stated that they have a total of 90 employees and run an average of 16 personnel every day. Kelly Alcala stated that this is a good deal for the county. The Council agreed that they did not see a problem in funding this solution. Dan Bastin stated that the Fire District Board will include the contract amount in their 2020 budget for approval by the Council.

**Executive Order Status Update**

Bryan Collier stated that Josh Messmer sent out a memo outlining the steps the County Commissioners are taking to resume business and he encouraged the Council to read the memo.

**Covid 19 Expense Summary**

Josh Messmer stated that expenses spent to date directly related to COVID-19 expenses total \$77,392. Many of these are related to EMS and election expenses.

**Special Recognition**

Bryan Collier stated that he would like to recognize something that started May 5, 1984. Mr. Rogers and his crew at the jail should be recognized this week for their dedication and hard work.

Mr. Collier stated that it was brought to his attention that they will be losing a dear friend who makes them tow the line, and has for many years. Mr. Collier stated that this is the last County Council meeting that Keith Rhoades of the Reporter Times will be covering as he will be retiring. The Council thanked Mr. Rhoades for his service to the county.

**Adjournment**

Vickie Kivett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 6-0-1.

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