

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 AT 9:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE NORMAN VOYLES, RYAN GOODWIN, AND BRIAN GOSS. DAN BASTIN, AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT; AND ROD BRAY, COUNTY ATTORNEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

NORMAN VOYLES ASKED FOR A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER.

NORMAN VOYLES CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.

SPEED LIMIT ORDINANCE – *Ballinger Road*

Norman Voyles stated that reducing the speed limit on Ballinger Road was discussed at the last meeting and Rod Bray prepared an ordinance. The ordinance specifies that the 40 MPH speed limit on Ballinger Road would be reduced to 30 MPH. Brian Goss made a motion to approve the Ordinance Modifying the Speed Limit on Ballinger Road. Ryan Goodwin stated that Indiana Code requires that a traffic study be done and since this has not been done, he felt ill-equipped to make a decision but respected the will of the majority. Mr. Voyles stated that the Code also mentions an investigation and he felt that the 18 petitioners were the investigative parties. Mr. Goss and Mr. Voyles stated that they both drove the road and 40 MPH is too fast. Motion seconded by Norman Voyles. Motion carried 2-1. Ryan Goodwin was opposed. The ordinance will have a second reading at the next meeting.

SCENIC ROUTE SIGNS

Warren Waymire, Mapleturn Utilities, was present to request that five scenic route signs be installed along Maple Turn Road, Blue Bluff Road, Lincoln Hill Road, and Old State Road 37. Mr. Waymire stated that the state issues a brochure called *Scenic Byways* and Morgan County would be included. Tosha Daugherty, the director of Visit Morgan County, has committed to supplying a small grant to help pay for the signs. Mr. Waymire stated that they would like to slow down the traffic because it is a beautiful area. The signs will be 48" X 36" aluminum and the cost will range anywhere from \$180 to \$240 per sign including the hardware and post. There will be no cost to the county. Each sign will have a spring, summer, and fall picture and will state "Morgan County Scenic Road Please Drive Slowly". Brian Goss stated that he had no objection as long as there was no cost to the county for future upkeep and the signs are placed correctly so they don't create visibility issues. Mr. Waymire stated that he would confer with the Highway Department before placing any of the signs. Mr. Goodwin agreed. Mr. Voyles asked that Mr. Waymire present a larger sample.

RIGHT OF WAY OBSTRUCTION – *N Bottom Road*

Ryan Goodwin stated that he has received three or four calls regarding a property in his district that has two large tires and orange plastic posts along the edge of the road on North Bottom Road. The individual that called was concerned that the items are in the right-of-way and could be a traffic hazard. Rod Bray stated that the pictures did not show that the obstruction would impede traffic, but it is probably on the county right-of-way and the county would have the ability to have the items removed. After discussion, Brian Goss made a motion to have the county attorney draft a letter to the property owner and that the Highway Department deliver the letter when they measure the right-of-way, and move the tires out of the right-of-way, but not remove the tires from the property. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

TRIPLE CROWN LANE

Terry Brock, Morgan County Surveyor, stated that approximately a month ago, the Board asked him to contact a property owner along Triple Crown Lane regarding issues with a dam on the property. Mr. Brock sent a letter to the property owner but has not heard anything, although the property owner did post "no trespassing" signs on the property. Mr. Brock stated that it looks like they don't really want to work with the county on the issues and without lowering the water level, they can't work on the culverts under the road. Ryan Goodwin stated that this project has been going on for some time with varying degrees of progress, including the preliminary resolution that was approved in September of last year and the public hearing in July. Since that time, they have discovered more and more complications, whether it be with the water level or with cooperation of property owners. Mr. Goodwin stated that he believed it would be in the best interests of the county to discontinue any further efforts on pursuing the Barrett Law. Ryan Goodwin made a motion to rescind the preliminary resolution that was adopted in September of 2016, ending the Barrett Law proceeding. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

Norman Voyles stated that there is a similar request for a gravel road off of Centennial Road and asked if there was any interest in considering this project. Brian Goss stated that he would not be

in favor of using taxpayer funds to consider repairs to a private road. It should be up to property owners to research what they are getting into when they purchase a property on a private road. Mr. Voyles stated that he has not inspected the road and did not know if there was a homeowners association. Ryan Goodwin stated that they have learned a lesson with Triple Crown and it is more appropriate to use the Barrett Law when the property owners are on the same page and they have developed a consensus of what they want to do and have made the investment to bring the road and any related drainage up to a standard where the county can assume the maintenance without a great expense. They need more cooperation from a property owner to do the legwork upfront compared to what they have been through with Triple Crown.

COURTHOUSE GAZEBO

Steve Sonnega, Morgan County Prosecutor, stated that the Prosecutor's Office is the closest to the gazebo and they have observed people sleeping in the gazebo over the last month or two. This affects the office because female employees have experienced comments to the point of not feeling safe. Some of the people living in the gazebo have criminal records and it has become an eyesore. With the move to revitalize downtown Martinsville, this is not the image that the downtown area wishes to portray. Mr. Sonnega suggested closing the area at night and providing legal authority to remove people from the area. Mr. Sonnega stated that there are female employees, jurors, and people for night court and the sleeping element is not healthy or safe. Ryan Goodwin asked if the problems were limited to nighttime, or if there were issues during the day. Mr. Sonnega stated that it is also during the day, but the comments and feelings of not being safe don't come during the day. Norman Voyles asked if posting a "no trespassing after 5 PM" sign would help with this issue. Rod Bray stated that a decision from the Board of Commissioners and posting a sign would provide a solution. Discussion followed regarding using a time or stating dusk or dark. Dan Bastin stated that there are permitted uses that extend beyond evening hours. Ryan Goodwin stated that they are not trying to deter people from using the property for a permissible evening event on the square or even individuals walking around enjoying downtown.

Cecelia Kreft, who lives close to the square, stated that she can see what goes on at the gazebo from her window. One of the people sleeping in the gazebo fell asleep with a lit cigarette and it fell to the floor of the gazebo. Ms. Kreft asked that smoking not be allowed in the gazebo. Mr. Voyles stated that county facilities are smoke-free.

After further discussion, it was determined that employees could use an entrance away from the gazebo in the evenings. Brian Goss made a motion to post and a sign at the gazebo stating "property closed - no trespassing from 10 PM to 6AM without prior approval from the Board of Commissioners". After discussing the possibility that people could just move to benches or steps to sleep, Mr. Goss amended his motion to include the Courthouse Square, inside the sidewalk. Motion seconded by Ryan Goodwin. Motion carried 3-0.

AMBULANCE BILLING / EMS UPDATE

Donnie Warren, EMS Director, introduced the possibility of switching ambulance billing services to MedBill. Mr. Warren stated that MedBill approached them with a quote of 5.85%. The current provider (ABS) charges 6.75% of what is collected. The new service would also provide ESO software for electronic patient care reports. The savings is estimated at \$40,000 with the difference in rates. The average MedBill collection rate is approximately 90%. Ryan Goodwin asked if there were any exit penalties with the current provider. Mr. Warren stated that he was not aware of any, but he would provide both contracts for Mr. Bray's review. Mr. Goodwin stated that if Mr. Warren and Mr. Bray are comfortable with the contract, then he would be comfortable with it too. This will be reviewed at a future meeting after the attorney has reviewed the contract.

Mr. Warren is looking at a September 11th date to begin service. They were able to obtain a demo ambulance with 450 miles from MedEx for under \$100,000. Ten full time paramedics have been hired with experience levels from 30 years to first year as a paramedic.

The Lifeline Agreement with IU should be ready soon.

Morgantown has inquired about the lease agreement for their facility.

There are two old ambulances that they need to remove from county inventory. Mr. Bray stated that he would review Indiana Code on how these can be disposed of and will report back.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Steve McConnell, Morgan Insurance Group, stated that last week he inquired if the Board wanted to insure the property that was recently purchased on West Morgan Street and was told to bring it up at the meeting. In the meantime, he researched the policy and discovered that newly acquired buildings are automatically insured up to \$2 million for six months. This will provide coverage up

to February. If the building is still standing at the end of January, he will check back with the Board.

CLAIMS

Ryan Goodwin made a motion to approve the August 11 and August 25, 2017 payroll claims of \$472,175.90 and \$480,172.67. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

Ryan Goodwin made a motion to approve the August 11 and August 25, 2017 PERF claims of \$39,351.74 and \$39,459.50. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

Ryan Goodwin made a motion to approve the August 11 and August 25, 2017 FICA claims of \$34,109.06 and \$34,720.95. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

Ryan Goodwin made a motion to approve the monthly claims of \$1,910,928.86 with one hold of \$319.80 pending a Council transfer. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

REQUEST TO USE COUNTY PROPERTY

Jesse vonBergen, Martinsville Baptist Tabernacle Youth Pastor, requested the use of the lawn at the jail on Saturday, September 23rd and 30th from 10 to noon for a Bible lesson, songs, games, and prizes for area youth. Mr. vonBergen provided a Certificate of Insurance for the event. Ryan Goodwin made a motion to approve the request as presented. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES – 8/21/17

Ryan Goodwin made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2017 meeting. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF/JAIL UPDATE

Sheriff Robert Downey stated that the inmate population at the jail is at 341, there are 5 DOC inmates, 8 inmates on work release, and 29 jail corrections. There have been 8,035 law enforcement calls to date.

ENGINEER UPDATE

Larry Smith, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that the contractor on Bridge #67 finished the southeast abutment and is doing some backfilling. They are moving equipment around to start on the north side next week.

The contractor for Bridge #26 removed the old structure and will start the footings next week.

The thermal line striping should be done this week. They have not started the painted line striping.

Paving should be complete by next week. Chip and seal projects are complete.

ADJOURNMENT

Ryan Goodwin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Brian Goss. Motion carried 3-0.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Norman Voyles

Ryan Goodwin

Attest:

Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor

Brian Goss