

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL AND MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MET IN A JOINT SESSION ON MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2013 AT 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT - COMMISSIONERS: NORMAN VOYLES, BRIAN GOSS, AND DON ADAMS; COUNCIL: KENNY HALE, BOB O'NEAL, BRYAN COLLIER, PAUL PRATHER, JEFF QUYLE, VICKIE KIVETT, AND RYAN GOODWIN. ALSO PRESENT WERE BRENDA ADAMS, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR, DEB VERLEY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, AND PETE FOLEY, MORGAN COUNTY ATTORNEY.

NORMAN VOYLES CALLED THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ORDER.

KENNY HALE CALLED THE COUNCIL TO ORDER.

**Public Safety Dispatch Board Update**

Robert Downey, Morgan County Sheriff and Public Safety Dispatch Board Chairman, stated that the Board voted to consolidate Morgan County dispatch services into one center.

Scott Hamilton, Morgan County Sheriff Deputy, presented the budget for the dispatch center. The proposed budget is \$2.3 million. \$1.7 million of this budgeted amount is for the facility itself and of that amount, \$100,000 is for a contingency fund. The EOC (Emergency Operations Center) is included in the facility and takes up 25% of the 9,000 square feet. The radio system is on a ten-year lease and they will be able to use a trade-in to lower the purchase cost. They will be able to share some costs with Johnson County because they will be the backup for Morgan County and Morgan County will be the backup for Johnson County. They each use the same system and there won't be a need for cross-training.

Terry Burnworth, Pyramid, stated that Ross Holloway did the initial layout for the facility. There will be 40 parking spaces and a 180' tower on the property. The City of Martinsville has donated the land for the facility.

Bob O'Neal asked about the operating costs. Deputy Hamilton stated that Frans Hollanders addressed that at a meeting this morning. Mr. O'Neal stated that the amount seemed excessive for the dispatch center. Mr. Burnworth stated that it is costly to make the facility tornado proof, but the big cost is the equipment, \$1.5 million. Mr. Burnworth stated that going to one center saves the taxpayers money. Don Adams stated that he has a different point of view and it is not common to have sustainable buildings; in Florida they have a virtual center and the county's money could be spent differently. Other safety issues have a higher priority for him. Vickie Kivett asked what the backup plan would be if the funding wasn't available. Mr. Hamilton stated that he did not know. Ms. Kivett asked if there would be space for a morgue. Mr. Burnworth stated that there could be room, but they wouldn't be able to do autopsies. Mr. O'Neal stated that he wanted to see a savings if this centralization is accomplished.

Frans Hollanders stated that the Board of Commissioners have voted to go with one site per the Public Safety Dispatch Board recommendation and asked if the Council also agreed to this. Bob O'Neal stated that he was in favor of one site as long as the interlocal agreements were in place and there is a savings for taxpayers. Mr. Burnworth stated that Lake County was not getting any interlocal agreements returned and it finally came to the point that the commissioners and council remodeled the third floor of the government center for their dispatch center and said if dispatchers wanted a job, they had to apply. Mr. Burnworth stated that the Morgan County Council is the steward for the 911 funds that come into the county and there is a 25% savings by consolidating the dispatch centers. Brian Goss stated that the interlocal agreements were sent out to the Town of Mooresville and the City of Martinsville in March and have not been returned; if the interlocal agreements are not returned and the other entities don't give up PSAP status, then the county will lose the 911 funds from the state. Vickie Kivett asked if they could put a deadline on the agreement. Pete Foley stated that they could give them a deadline, but they cannot compel their (Martinsville and Mooresville) cooperation. Mr. Hollanders stated that the delay also affects Johnson County and the backup dispatch. Mr. Burnworth stated that if the municipalities want to keep a private dispatch, then calls would have to be transferred, they would not be able to take the 911 calls.

Nick Gulling, a former sheriff in Hancock County, stated that instead of staffing three centers, the county would be staffing one center and they would gain efficiency by putting everyone in one room. It has worked out well for Hancock County and solved a lot of their communication problems.

Gerry McGrath, a county taxpayer, stated that he has been at several of the Public Safety Board meetings over the last year and the members have put in a lot of time to get this off the ground. Mr. McGrath asked the Council and Commissioners to take some kind of action.

Kenny Hale stated that the Board of Commissioners has voted to go with one center, the Council came to a consensus that they would only fund one center. Bryan Collier suggested that the funding to build the center come from the Cumulative County Building Fund (1136). Kenny Hale, Jeff Quyle, Ryan Goodwin, and Paul Prather agreed. Bob O’Neal stated that the taxpayers are the one to pay the price and asked if it would be reasonable to ask that a representative of each entity explain to the Council why the county should not consolidate into one dispatch center.

Darrell Davis, Martinsville Chief of Police, stated that he could assure the Council that the City of Martinsville is going to enter into an interlocal agreement, the problem they are having is one of compensation. The city employees make more money, get more benefits, get better insurance, and more retirement than county employees. They are working on language to make sure that the city employees are covered if they become county employees. Norman Voyles stated that they are aware of the issue and are working to resolve it so long-term employees don’t lose their benefits. Mr. Davis stated that city employees don’t pay for health insurance if they retire after they reach 50 with 20 years of service, the city will pick up the cost until they reach 65.

Mark Mathis, Town of Mooresville council member, stated that he couldn’t speak for the rest of his board, but he wanted to do the best thing for his town. He believed that two PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) are good for the town and that everyone should be taxed equally. Mr. Mathis stated that he would like the chance to tell the County Council how the Town of Mooresville feels.

George Watkins, Mooresville Town Council, stated that he cannot speak on behalf of the Council, but did not think it would be fair to have the citizens of Mooresville come before a group in the county and debate something when they have not been informed of the town council’s decision yet. There are issues with the interlocal agreement, but they have to start somewhere. Taxation is also an issue.

**Capital Improvement Plan**

Kenny Hale stated that not all of the departments have updated their plan and they would review this at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Recess**

Norman Voyles recessed the Commissioner meeting and stated that they would continue at 6:30 pm.

**Adjournment**

Paul Prather made a motion to adjourn the Council meeting. Motion seconded by Bob O’Neal. Motion carried 7-0.

Morgan County Council

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

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Kenny Hale

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Norman Voyles

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Robert O’Neal

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Brian Goss

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Bryan Collier

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Don Adams

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Paul Prather

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Jeff Quyle

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Vickie Kivett

ATTEST:

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Ryan Goodwin

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Brenda Adams, Morgan Co. Auditor