

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of the Morgan County Commissioners met in their offices on Monday, January 25, 2010 with the following members present:

Mike Reed, President
Don Reynolds, Vice-President
Dean Cain, Member

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The minutes of the January 12 and 19, 2010 meeting were read and approved.

10-56 Motion by Mr. Mike Reed and seconded by Mr. Don Reynolds to approve the minutes from January 12 and 19, 2010.

Vote Don Reynolds- yea, Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- yea. Motion Carried

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden, reported traveling 133.4 miles responding to dog calls. Mrs. Thompson stated 4 dogs were picked up, 2 dogs were taken by S.P.O.T., 2 dogs were found in outside box, and one dog was redeemed.

Vicki Quesinberry, Director, Job and Family Services, and the Commissioners discussed a past debt owed by the county for Children Services in the amount of \$425,000, which occurred in the late 90's. Eric Mency, Ohio Department from Job and Family Services, BCFTA, contacted Morgan County's Job and Family Services on January 21st, to speak about the past debt owed. A payment plan for a period of ten years was presented: \$42,500 per year, \$3600.00 per month, or \$10,000 per quarter. If a payment plan is not agreed upon and the debt is not paid, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will turn this over to the Attorney General's Office. At that point, the Attorney General's office will start charging 9% on the outstanding balance. Commissioners acknowledge the severity of the proceedings if the debt remains unpaid. Commissioners encouraged Ms. Quesinberry to invite Eric Mency, O.D.J.F.S., to meet with the Commissioners to make an effort to arrive at an agreement.

Commissioners approved a letter addressed to Larry Hivnor, Executive Director, Ohio Valley Employment Resource, to remove the status of limited funds for Morgan County Job and Family Service's WIA Adult program, as submitted by Vicki Quesinberry, Director, Job and Family Services.

10-57 Motion by Mr. Dean Cain and seconded by Mr. Don Reynolds to approve the following supplemental appropriations in the WIA Account, as requested by Heidi Burns, Fiscal Officer, Job and Family Services:

Revenue:		
349-0349-4005.00	Rapid Response	\$33,500.00
349-0349-4007.00	Workforce Services	\$23,500.00
Expenditures:		
349-0349-5305.00	Rapid Response	\$33,500.00
349-0349-5307.00	Workforce Services	\$23,500.00

Vote Don Reynolds- yea, Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- yea. Motion Carried

Darrin Carpenter, Village Administrator of Malta, Paul Burkhart, Mayor of Malta, Dan Mount, ADR & Associates of Newark, Craig Landefeld, Shannon Wells, Morgan County Commissioners' Development Office, discussed the Revitalization Grant. Mr. Carpenter inquired on the county applying on behalf of the Village of Malta for the Revitalization Grant. Dan Mount addressed the issue of the numerous sewer overflows in Malta. There is not enough taps to generate funding. Malta is mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to repair the sewer problems. It will take three phases and five years to repair the sewer concerns. The overall total cost for the project is 3.3 million. Darren affirmed after this problem is fixed, less will be pumped to McConnellsville. Commissioner Reed inquired on the availability of additional stimulus money. Dan mentioned rumor of second stimulus, but there is no guarantee. Mrs. Wells confirmed the Village of Stockport is also interested in the county applying for them for this grant. Mrs. Wells met with the Mayor of Stockport. Shannon informed the Mayor that Malta also expressed interest in applying for this grant. Commissioner Cain asked if both Villages could be funded. Shannon declared the county can only apply for one project. The Village of Stockport scheduled a meeting with the Commissioners next Monday. The Commissioners will make their decision on whose behalf they will apply for after they meet with Stockport officials.

Shannon Wells, Morgan County Commissioners' Development Office, informed Commissioners she attended the CHIP application training on last Wednesday. The second planning meeting for CHIP will be held this Wednesday at the Metropolitan Housing Authority. Shannon discussed teaching G.E.D. students Micro-enterprise program at the Learning Center. The Convention and Visitor's Bureau hired a consultant to design a logo and tagline. Commissioner reviewed the selections and selected their favorites. Shannon will be attending an Economic Development Directors meeting in Marietta, on this Friday. Mrs. Wells declared she needs four more properties for consideration to be demolished for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Commissioners are in receipt of and approved the "2010 Application for Overweight Vehicles to Travel on Morgan County Roads", from Ohio Oil Gathering Corporation.

Tammy Ray and Lillian Pennington, Morgan County Humane Society, Mary Jones, Sara and Jason Bromley, Angela Sowers-Dunlap, Katherine West, Stacey Sucky, Larry Albert, Vanessa Williams, Kelly Caldwell, S.P.O.T., and Becky Thompson, Dog Warden, entered the Commissioner's office.

Tammy Ray met with Commissioners on a personal issue and complained of the Dog Warden, Becky Thompson, driving passed her house and honking horn. Tammy mentioned on one occasion she took a picture. Mrs. Ray considers this harassment and if this is not taken care of her and her husband will go further to get it stopped. Commissioner Reed inquired if Becky's father lived just down the road from Tammy's house. Tammy confirmed that Becky's father does live a long way down past her house. Tammy would appreciate the Commissioners cooperation to get this resolved. Tammy mentioned she still receives dog calls from people who think she is still the Dog Warden. Tammy requested something be put into the Herald to re-inform the public that Becky is the Dog Warden. Commissioners stated the minutes are printed in the Herald and every week which includes Becky's Dog Warden reports. It was stated that no one reads the Commissioners minutes. Tammy also stated her home number is not to be used for dog issues. The Morgan County Humane Society number is to be used instead.

Lillian Pennington, Morgan County Humane Society, addressed the Commissioners concerning a dog that was euthanized on January 18, 2010. Ms. Pennington stated it came to their attention that the County Dog Warden informed a grieving pet owner that the Morgan County Humane Society was to blame when a beloved and highly trained dog being held in the dog pound was euthanized and disposed in a landfill. Lillian reminded the Commissioners that they ended its relationship with the Morgan County Humane Society by March, 2009. Since then, the Humane Society has moved on and continues working toward its goals and fulfilling its mission. Lillian mentioned it is past time for

county officials to do the same and to no longer incorporate references to the Humane Society in business that is exclusively the county's responsibility. The Morgan County Humane Society refuses to have accountability imposed on it for issues that have nothing to do with it. Ms. Pennington pointed out serious problems with the county policy and procedures that the Humane Society believes contributed to this situation: 1) under ORC 955.12 it is a dog warden's duty to post notice in the pound describing the dog, the place where seized, 2) no specific hours are posted at the pound when it is open to the public, 3) many county pounds state a policy that they euthanize as a last resort, 4) other counties have a protocol that provides for calling the dog warden of a neighboring county when a dog that appears to be an owned animal is impounded close to a county line, and 5) a suspected lost dog should be published in the lost and found classifieds, not under Adopt a Pet in the newspaper. Sara and Jason Bromley addressed the Commissioners and expressed their heartache over the loss of their beagle that was euthanized on January 18th. Mrs. Bromley questioned why her dog was put down when the dog pound was empty and why are there no postings for dogs that are in the pound. Mr. Bromley acknowledged he and his wife belong to rescue groups and he is a farmer. Jason exclaimed his dog was a normal, healthy, neutered dog and doesn't understand why his dog was put down. He also questioned why the Dog Warden didn't contact the Muskingum County Humane Society. Mr. and Mrs. Bromley were unaware of Morgan County having a Dog Warden since the incident a couple years back. They contacted the Morgan County Humane Society to help look for their dog. The Humane Society never directed them to contact the Dog Warden. Becky Thompson, Dog Warden, declared she advertised their dog in the Morgan County Herald because it had a red/green collar and further explained that if the Humane Society would've given them her number they could have found the dog at the pound. Commissioner Cain mentioned the dog was kept eight days; O.R.C. only requires the Dog Warden to keep the dogs three days. Commissioner Cain further expressed it was unfortunate that their dog was put down. Kelly Caldwell, SPOT, noted they have forty beagles currently in their care. They couldn't take another dog. Commissioner Cain sympathizes with the Bromley family; however, he believes Becky did a good job. Lillian questioned hours for the dog pound and posting lost dogs. Commissioner Reed said they will make sure that dogs will be posted at the pound with dog description and area caught. Commissioner Reed then asked to the Humane Society inquiring on the reasons for the Humane Society not taking any county dogs since Tammy Ray resigned as Dog Warden. Lillian referred to the conditions of the dog pound on why they have not taken a dog. They have foster homes that would be devastated if parvo was introduced into their environment. However, they work with owner releases which helps eliminate some of the burden off the Dog Warden. Commissioner Reed directed a question to Kelly Caldwell, SPOT, on the amount of cases of parvo they have witnessed within the 175-180 dogs they have taken. Kelly said they have only had one case of parvo and that was from an owner release not from a dog that came through Becky the Dog Warden. Katherine West stated Morgan County needs to find a way to take care of animals in this county. Morgan County has a bad reputation about how they treat their dogs, Katherine stated. Commissioner Cain said all of us need to work together to get dogs taken care of. SPOT took over 150 and the Humane Society has not taken any. Commissioner Reed affirmed the county does not want to euthanize any dogs but also acknowledges every dog is not adoptable. Tammy Ray suggested postings be put at the pound for the dogs contained within it and questioned if the Commissioners have visited the pound. Commissioners confirmed they have visited the pound. Lillian asked the Commissioners to consider posting hours in which the dog pound would be open for the public. Commissioner Reed stated the hours for the dog pound would revolve around the Dog Warden. It is a part time position.

10-58 Motion by Mr. Don Reynolds and seconded by Mr. Dean Cain to approve a transfer of funds in the amount of \$20,000 from 017-0017-5372.00 TCM Match and place into 017-0017-5373.00 Saved Match, as requested by Diana Cline, MRDD.

Vote Don Reynolds- yea, Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- yea. Motion Carried

10-59 Motion by Mr. Dean Cain and seconded by Mr. Don Reynolds to approve a Then and Now resolution in the amount of \$180.00 to pay Derrick Moorehead, indigent counsel fees approved by Judge Lowe on December 21, 2009, as requested by Alma Tennent, Clerk, County Court.

Vote Don Reynolds- yea, Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- yea. Motion Carried

10-60 Motion by Mr. Don Reynolds and seconded by Mr. Dean Cain to approve a Then and Now resolution in the amount of \$367.00 to pay John Christie, indigent counsel fees approved by Judge Lowe on December 14, 2009, as requested by Alma Tennent, Clerk, County Court.

Vote Don Reynolds- yea, Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- yea. Motion Carried

10-61 Motion by Mr. Dean Cain and seconded by Mr. Don Reynolds to approve a Then and Now resolution in the amount of \$232.88 to pay John Wells, indigent counsel fees approved by Judge Lowe on December 21, 2009, as requested by Alma Tennent, Clerk, County Court.

Vote Don Reynolds- yea, Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- yea. Motion Carried

10-62 Motion by Mr. Don Reynolds and seconded by Mr. Dean Cain to approve a Then and Now resolution in the amount of \$35.19 to pay Staples invoice, as requested by Alma Tennent, Clerk, County Court.

Vote Don Reynolds- yea, Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- yea. Motion Carried

10-63 Motion by Mr. Dean Cain and seconded by Mr. Don Reynolds to approve a Then and Now resolution in order to pay the following invoices, as requested by Andrea Plummer, Commissioner's Clerk:

The Charles Ritter Company	\$147.10	001-0101-5303.00
The Charles Ritter Company	\$ 35.76	001-0101-5303.00
Morgan County Herald	\$332.32	001-0101-5308.00

Vote Don Reynolds- yea, Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- yea. Motion Carried

10-64 Motion by Mr. Don Reynolds and seconded by Mr. Dean Cain to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$27,000 into Soil and Water Conservation's fund #015, as requested by Sandy Lahmers.

Vote Don Reynolds- yea, Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- yea. Motion Carried

10-65 Motion by Mr. Don Reynolds and seconded by Mr. Mike Reed to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 PM

Vote Don Reynolds- yea, Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- yea. Motion Carried

Commissioners,

Mike Reed, President

Don Reynolds, Vice-President

Dean Cain, Member

Andrea Plummer, Clerk