

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of the Morgan County Commissioners met in their offices on Monday, February 14, 2011 with the following members present:

Mike Reed, President  
Tim VanHorn, Member

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The minutes of the February 7, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

**11-79** Motion by Mr. Mike Reed and seconded by Mr. Tim VanHorn to approve the minutes from February 7, 2011.

**Vote Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- absent, Tim VanHorn- yea. Motion Carried**

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden, reported traveling 166.2 miles responding to dog calls. Mrs. Thompson stated 5 dogs were impounded and 3 dogs were euthanized.

Ancil King Jr., Deputy Dog Warden, reported traveling 37.1 miles and a total of 3 hours assisting the Dog Warden.

Commissioner Mike Reed signed the Employer's Acceptance of Voluntary Insurance Program: accident, universal life, cancer, short term disability and critical illness; will David Graham, Workplace Benefits of Ohio.

Edward and William Mitchell met with Commissioners to discuss East Branch Road. Stevan Hook, Engineer, was also in attendance. Edward declared the road conditions are unsatisfactory; his son, William, lost his job due to the fact that he could not get to work on time. Pictures were provided of the conditions on East Branch Road. Mr. Mitchell mentioned snow plows do not start on their road till 2-3pm or sometimes not at all. Edward stated the roads used to be cleaned by 8:30am when school buses traveled down the road. It was also mentioned there are no guardrails on the hill. Mr. Mitchell mentioned the poor road conditions were reported to the Engineer's Office and subsequently Edward affirmed he wrecked his truck. Edward stated it is a shame the Highway Department is not taking better care of the roads. Mr. Mitchell reported he has a security camera set up that oversees his place and a part of East Branch Road. Engineer Hook stated he drove on East Branch Road around 7:15am on Wednesday, and went in and out in 2-wheel drive. Whenever there is a call such as this, Mr. Hook reported he personally checks it out. Engineer Hook agrees the hill needs guardrail. William remarked they are working people and the Highway Department needs to start earlier. Engineer Hook replied if the weather conditions are bad the Highway Department starts between 4-6am; however, there is a 12 hour limit for CDL drivers. The only two people that do not go out are the Superintendent and the Foreman. The county has 14 trucks and there is 344 miles of county roads. Commissioner VanHorn stated he understands where the Mitchell's are coming from; they only have one way in and out. William remarked he does not want to see someone get hurt; something has got to be done. Commissioner Reed questioned if the Mitchells can go down Sunday Creek. Edward replied there is no guardrail on that road at all; it is a straight down hill and you would land in the creek. Steve acknowledged there is 56 miles of guardrail needed in the county. Edward thanked the Engineer for putting a pile of cinders at the top and bottom of the hill on East Branch Road. Edward suggested if the Engineer's

Office needs more money for snow removal they should consider putting a levy on the ballot. Both Edward and William stated they would vote for it. Commissioners and Engineer Hook are in agreement a levy would simply not pass. Commissioners and Engineer Hook thanked the Mitchells for coming in.

Mark Clemens and Dwayne Maxwell met with Commissioners to discuss the road conditions on County Road 24. Dwayne mentioned the road is in bad shape; three school buses travel in the morning and afternoon on it. Dwayne stated he refuses to drive on it; however, Mark has no choice and has to put trucks in 4-wheel drive to travel on the road. It was mentioned the road is very soft and has numerous large potholes. Engineer Hook agreed with the gentlemen that County Road 24 is soft. The Highway Department is going to address County Road 16 and 24 by the end of the week and hopefully make it a lot better. Mark declared a grader has only been over County Road 24 twice in two years. Engineer Hook stated a grader has been over the road more than that. Mark mentioned he was promised two years ago the road would be fixed. Mr. Clemens further stated you cannot keep a load of hay on a wagon the road is that bad. Stevan replied he was not going to disagree with them and mentioned he is going after every grant possible to help.

Commissioners attended the Public Viewing to vacate a portion of Township Road 52 (Glisphy Lane), Marion Township, at 10:00am.

Commissioners attended the Public Viewing to vacate a portion of Township Road 903 (Ethel Croston Lane), Marion Township, at 10:30am.

Commissioners attended the Public Viewing to vacate a portion of Township Road 1131 (White Lane), Marion Township, at 10:45am.

Commissioners attended the Public Viewing to vacate a portion of Township Road 59 (Wogan Road), Marion Township, at 11:00am.

Commissioners attended the Public Viewing to vacate a portion of Township Road 1164 (Crippen Road), Marion Township, at 11:15am.

Vicki Quesinberry, Director, Job and Family Services, submitted meeting requests for Cheryl Bailey to Columbus on February 17<sup>th</sup> for "Complete Assessor Tier II" training. Ms. Quesinberry noted the AFSCME 3560 union negotiations start February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**11-80 Motion** by Mr. Tim VanHorn and seconded by Mr. Mike Reed to approve a Then and Now resolution for the following public assistance bill from the Treasurer of State in the amount of \$278.65; as requested by Heidi Burns, Fiscal Supervisor, Job and Family Services.

**Vote Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- absent, Tim VanHorn- yea. Motion Carried**

Shannon Wells, Morgan County Commissioners' Development Office, discussed adopting the updated Drug and Alcohol policy for Transit. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to maintain a drug and alcohol-free workplace in compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, and the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991. This policy is intended to comply with all applicable Federal regulations governing workplace anti-drug and alcohol programs in the transit industry.

**11-81 Motion** by Mr. Tim VanHorn and seconded by Mr. Mike Reed to adopt the updated Drug and Alcohol policy for Transit, as requested by Shannon Wells, Morgan County Commissioners' Development Office.

**Vote Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- absent, Tim VanHorn- yea. Motion Carried**

A Public Hearing was held in the Commissioner's Office at 1:30pm to vacate a portion of Township Road 903 (Ethel Croston Lane), Marion Township. Those in attendance were Commissioner Reed, Commissioner VanHorn, and Andrea Plummer, Commissioner's Clerk. With no opposition to the vacation, the Commissioners passed the following resolution.

**11-82 Motion** by Mr. Tim VanHorn and seconded by Mr. Mike Reed to vacate a portion of Township Road 903 (Ethel Croston Lane) located in Section 13 of Marion Township. Beginning at the present day intersection of Township Road 11 (Crews Lane) and Township Road 903, this point is also approximately 0.34 mile north of County Road 59 (Plantsville Road), thence from this point of beginning, in a northerly course along the old roadbed 0.07 mile to its terminus. It is intended to vacate all of the right-of-way of Township Road 903 for 0.07 mile (369.6 feet).

**Vote Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- absent, Tim VanHorn- yea. Motion Carried**

A Public Hearing was held in the Commissioner's Office at 1:35pm to vacate a portion of Township Road 1131 (White Lane), Marion Township. Those in attendance were Commissioner Reed, Commissioner VanHorn, and Andrea Plummer, Commissioner's Clerk. With no opposition to the vacation, the Commissioners passed the following resolution.

**11-83 Motion** by Mr. Mike Reed and seconded by Mr. Tim VanHorn to vacate a portion of Township Road 1131 (White Lane) located in Section 2 of Marion Township. Beginning at the intersection of present day Township Road 14 (Dille Road) and Township Road 1131 (White Lane), approximately 0.32 mile north of State Route 555 on Dille Road, thence from this place of beginning in a northwesterly course, along the driveway of Deborah Schultz, 0.03 mile (158.4 feet) to its terminus. It is intended to vacate all of the right-of-way of Township Road 1131 (White Lane) 0.03 mile.

**Vote Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- absent, Tim VanHorn- yea. Motion Carried**

A Public Hearing was held in the Commissioner's Office at 1:40pm to vacate a portion of Township Road 1164 (Crippen Road), Marion Township. Those in attendance were Commissioner Reed, Commissioner VanHorn, and Andrea Plummer, Commissioner's Clerk. With no opposition to the vacation, the Commissioners passed the following resolution.

**11-84 Motion** by Mr. Tim VanHorn and seconded by Mr. Mike Reed to vacate of portion of Township Road 1164 (Crippen Road) located in Section 30 of Marion Township. Beginning at the present day intersection of Township road 1164 (Crippen Road) and County Road 53 (Wood Road), this point is also approximately 0.52 mile south of the intersection of County Road 39 (Westland Road) and County Road 53, thence from this point of beginning, in an easterly course along Township Road 1164 roadbed 0.07 mile to the terminus of this vacation. It is intended to vacate all of the right-of-way of Township Road 1164 for 0.07 mile.

**Vote Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- absent, Tim VanHorn- yea. Motion Carried**

A Public Hearing was held in the Commissioner's Office at 1:45pm to vacate a portion of Township Road 59 (Wogan Road), Marion Township. Those in attendance were Commissioner Reed, Commissioner VanHorn, and Andrea Plummer, Commissioner's Clerk. Due to lack of a motion and communication between a landowner on Township Road 59 (Wogan Road), the Engineer's Office and the Marion Township Trustees, no action will be taken on the proposed vacation at the present time.

A Public Hearing was held in the Commissioner's Office at 2:00pm to vacate a portion of Township Road 52 (Glisphy Lane), Marion Township. Those in attendance were Commissioner Reed, Commissioner VanHorn, and Andrea Plummer, Commissioner's Clerk. With no opposition to the vacation, the Commissioners passed the following resolution.

**11-85 Motion** by Mr. Tim VanHorn and seconded by Mr. Mike Reed to vacate a portion of Township Road 52 (Glisphy Lane) located in Sections 5, 6 and 12 of Marion Township. Commencing at the present day intersection of County Road 17 (Lick Run Road) and Township Road 52 (Glisphy Lane), thence along the center of Township road 52 (561 feet) to a gate and the point of beginning of this petition, thence from this point of beginning, in a general south and easterly course, along the roadbed 2290 feet (0.43 mile) to the terminus of this vacation. It is intended to vacate all of the gated portion of Township Road (Glisphy Lane) for 0.43 mile.

**Vote Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- absent, Tim VanHorn- yea. Motion Carried**

Della Bratton telephoned Commissioners and inquired about the article in Sunday's Zanesville Times Recorder concerning ARC monies. According to the article a group of House Republicans in Washington have proposed \$2.5 trillion in budget cuts during the next 10 years to aid paying down the national deficit. Among those are cuts to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, two programs that have brought millions of dollars in infrastructure project funding to Appalachian Ohio counties such as Muskingum, Perry and Morgan. Della questioned the reported 10 ARC projects in Morgan County: \$1,375,835 in federal ARC funding, \$310,500 in state ARC funding, helping to retain 38.5 jobs and create 242. Commissioners discussed projects involving Miba Sinter, Miba Bearings, E-Z Grout, Mahle and ABC Manufacturing. Commissioners informed Della they were unaware of the proposed budget cuts however, but would look into it.

Vicki Quesinberry, Director, Job and Family Services, Heidi Burns, Fiscal Supervisor, Job and Family Services, met with Commissioners to discuss a letter received from Marcia Macon-Bruce, Chief of Collections Enforcement for the Ohio Attorney General's Office, demanding payment of \$473,363 within 10 days. Jim Konkoly, Reporter for the Herald, was also in attendance. This debt incurred from the late 1990s due to a large number of children being put into the county's care in foster and/or residential homes. Commissioner Reed remarked there is no way possible the county can pay the debt. If the county is forced to pay the nearly \$500,000 debt from the county's \$3.1 million General Fund, the county will be in a fiscal emergency and the State Auditor will have to come in and run the county. It was alleged the state is going after this long-standing debt because the state currently faces fiscal hardships. Vicki and Heidi are compiling documentation for an upcoming meeting with the Ohio JFS, Attorney General's Office, Morgan County Commissioners, Vicki Quesinberry and Heidi Burns, Morgan County JFS. Morgan County Prosecutor Mark Howdysshell will also be invited to attend the meeting; a date has yet to be set.

**11-86 Motion** by Mr. Mike Reed and seconded by Mr. Tim VanHorn to approve the following invoices as attached to the minutes.

**Vote Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- absent, Tim VanHorn- yea. Motion Carried**

**11-87 Motion** by Mr. Tim VanHorn and seconded by Mr. Mike Reed to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 PM.

**Vote Mike Reed- yea, Dean Cain- absent, Tim VanHorn- yea. Motion Carried**

**Commissioners,**

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**Mike Reed, President**

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**Dean Cain, Vice-President**

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**Tim VanHorn, Member**

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**Andrea Plummer, Clerk**