

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of the Morgan County Commissioners met in their offices on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 with the following members present:

Mike Reed, President
Dean Cain, Vice-President
Tim VanHorn, Member

11-404 Motion by Mr. Mike Reed and seconded by Mr. Dean Cain to reconvene the Commissioner's regular session at 9:00am, in order to meet with David Payne, Chief, Ohio State Parks.

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

David Payne, Chief, Ohio State Parks, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, met with Commissioners to inform the board Burr Oak Lodge will temporarily close February 1st, 2012. Xanterra currently operates the facility. Bids were sought after for the operation of Burr Oak Lodge in addition with two other lodges; zero bids were received. After Burr Oak Lodge was removed from the bid packet, bids were placed to operate the other two lodges. Therefore, Burr Oak Lodge is without an operator, effective January 31, 2012. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources cannot afford to keep the lodge up and running. Burr Oak Lodge's occupancy rate is very low: 21%. Additionally, a transformer blew not too long ago and the replacement cost is \$500,000 - \$750,000. Although the lodge is up and running with a generator, the facility is 44years old, rooms are in need of serious renovations as well as renovations to the Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning unit. ODNR is looking to partner with other entities to get Burr Oak Lodge up and running. Mr. Payne state he would like to see Burr Oak a destination area. In order to achieve this, ODNR is considering adding zip lines, paintball, horse trails, and connecting their current ATV trails with Wayne National Forest. This would entail purchasing property and receiving right of ways on county roads, etc. Commissioners are in full support of granting right of ways and assisting ODNR anyway possible to get Burr Oak Lodge operational. David mentioned Burr Oak Cottages will remain open. There are 45 employees currently at Burr Oak. ODNR plans to offer 10 employees a job to maintain the cottages; the other 35 employees will be offered jobs at other lodges through Xanterra. David stated he will keep in contact with the board. Commissioners reaffirmed their willingness to assist ODNR anyway possible.

11-405 Motion by Mr. Dean Cain and seconded by Mr. Mike Reed to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 AM.

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

Commissioners,

Mike Reed, President

Dean Cain, Vice-President

Andrea Plummer, Clerk

Tim VanHorn, Member