

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of the Morgan County Commissioners met in their offices on Monday, October 31, 2011 with the following members present:

Mike Reed, President
Dean Cain, Vice-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 October 24, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

11-445 Motion by Mr. Mike Reed and seconded by Mr. Dean Cain to approve the minutes from October 24, 2011.

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

John Murphy, Dog Warden, reported traveling 245.2 miles responding to dog calls. Mr. Murphy stated 4 dogs were impounded, 7 dogs were euthanized, 1 dog was sold and SPOT took 2 dogs. John mentioned he responded to a livestock claim; two pigs were attacked by a neighbor's 7 dogs in Malta. The pigs had to be put down. Commissioner Cain informed John he would need to research last week's market price; the pigs weighed between 80-100 lbs.

Stevan Hook, Engineer, requested permission to enter into a cooperative agreement with other subdivisions within Morgan County to create a combined application for the Ohio Public Works Round 26 Funding. The Morgan County Engineer's office shall be the lead agency; however, each subdivision is responsible for their own project and shall furnish any required project documentation to the lead agency.

11-446 Motion by Mr. Dean Cain and seconded by Mr. Tim VanHorn to allow Stevan Hook, Engineer, to enter into a cooperative agreement with other subdivisions within Morgan County to create a combined application for the Ohio Public Works Round 26 Funding. The Morgan County Engineer's office shall be the lead agency; however, each subdivision is responsible for their own project and shall furnish any required project documentation to the lead agency.

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

Peggy Barnes, Recorder, met with Commissioners to request an increase in hours for her two part time employees from 20 hours per week to 24 hours per week. Peggy stressed her office cannot keep up with the workload. With the increase in employee's hours, Peggy hopes the recording can be certified in the same week. Commissioners do not have a problem with increasing the employee's hours, however; they do not believe this will solve the problem. Commissioners suggested closing the office one whole day or a partial day in order for her office to get caught up and/or designating one employee to handle the local public questions instead of making copies for the oil/gas companies. Peggy Barnes stated she would be reluctant to closing the office due to upsetting the public.

11-447 Motion by Mr. Dean Cain and seconded by Mr. Mike Reed to approve the request by Peggy Barnes, Recorder, to increase her two part time employees hours from 20 hours per week to 24 hours per week, effective immediately.

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

The Commissioners are in receipt of a resolution passed by the Morgan Township Trustees transferring ownership of Township Road 209 (Monastary Road) to the Ohio Department of Transportation. The Commissioners support this pronouncement for the following reasons: the need to improve the roadway to accommodate the truck traffic generated by the Morgan County Ohio Department of Transportation's Maintenance Facility and the Ohio National Guard Armory; additionally, this would enhance economic development opportunities. Furthermore, the Commissioners passed a resolution to authorize the transfer of the remaining Congressional Earmark funding associated with the 209 Project, for the purpose of improving the alignment and profile of the route, to the Ohio Department of Transportation.

11-448 Motion by Mr. Dean Cain and seconded by Mr. Tim VanHorn to accept and agree with the Morgan Township Trustees Resolution and request the Ohio Department of Transportation to take jurisdiction of Township Road 209 and add it to the State Highway System.

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

11-449 Motion by Mr. Tim VanHorn and seconded by Mr. Dean Cain to authorize the transfer of the remaining Congressional Earmark funding associated with the 209 Project, for the purpose of improving the alignment and profile of the route, to the Ohio Department of Transportation.

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

Vicki Quesinberry, Director, Job and Family Services, and Jim Barnhart, Riecker/Courthouse Maintenance, discussed the necessity to place insulation in the ceilings of the offices of Job and Family Services just beneath Curves for noise reduction. Mr. Barnhart mentioned the insulation that was ordered from Elliott Lumber Company was incorrect and will need to be returned. Mrs. Quesinberry hopes the noise issue can be addressed before the first of the year. Commissioners replied they need to determine the optimal approach to rectifying this problem.

Gary Woodward, Auditor, met with Commissioners to inquire on an invoice from Elliott Lumber Company. Commissioner VanHorn stated that invoice can be disregarded, do to the fact the insulation that was ordered is incorrect and will be returned. However, there will eventually be a new bill. A discussion was held concerning the reason for purchasing the insulation. Auditor Woodward questioned which department will be paying for this. It was mentioned Job and Family Services, cannot pay for it. Gary made it clear there are no appropriations for the county to pay for it either.

Shannon Wells, Morgan County Commissioners' Development Office, informed Commissioners of the Change Order for Transit's Rehabilitation Project: a gas line will be rerouted, heating/cooling on second floor and additional data connections were added. Money will be used out of the Capital Account to pay for overages. Shannon anticipates the restroom will be up and running by the end of the week; there is a port-o-potty behind the laundromat for Transit employees to use. Mrs. Wells stated a former county resident contacted her concerning a vacant property. Shannon spoke with the Ohio Department of Transportation about the purchase offer; Shannon has not been told no yet. It was mentioned, the county was awarded the NatureWorks Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the Grove Project; the work must be completed by the end of 2012. Shannon will be attending a Convention and Visitor's Bureau meeting at

2pm today, to discuss Burr Oak Lodge closing February 2012. Mrs. Wells mentioned Ken Reed left his position in Vinton County to work for Pike County; in addition, the Housing Inspector for Vinton County will also leave his position to work for Pike County. The Development Office has a contract with Vinton County to assist with Morgan County's CHIP Grant. Shannon requested the cancellation of the contract with Vinton County and grant permission for the Development Office to enter into a new contract with Pike County; contract terms to remain the same. Mrs. Wells provided an update on the CHIP Grant: 90% fulfilled in Repair. Ten houses were projected to be accomplished; to date, seventeen have been completed. Eight homes were projected to be accomplished for Rehabilitation; up to now, there are only two projects. There is a \$40,000 cap on each project. The dilemma stems from some homes are not worth investing into due to their dilapidated condition and some homeowners are reluctant to agree to the second mortgage that must be placed on the homes for rehabilitation projects. A discussion was held concerning a local manufacturing company. Mrs. Wells made the Commissioners aware the county was invited to submit a full application for the State of Ohio Emergency Management Agency – Hazard Mitigation Program for the acquisition/demolition of property near Smithville. It was noted Muskingum Watershed has money available to use for the 12.5% required match.

11-450 Motion by Mr. Tim VanHorn and seconded by Mr. Dean Cain to cancel the contract with Vinton County and authorize Shannon Wells, Morgan County Commissioners' Development Office, to enter into a contract with Pike County for assistance with the county's CHIP Grant.

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

Larry Hivnor, Ohio Valley Employment Resource, Vicki Quesinberry, Director, Morgan County Job and Family Services, and Kim Reed, Supervisor, Morgan County's Workforce Development Agency, met with Commissioner to provide an update on the Workforce Investment NEG Dislocated Employees Flood Grant program. Larry submitted the financial report for the WIA Area #15, Council of Governments. A discussion was held concerning service to Veterans; spouses are eligible for training as well. This relates to the 40,000+ troops that are expected to return to the United States by the end of this year.

Jim Greer and Lori Dille, Greer-Dille Insurance, and Bob Tschappat, The Health Plan of the Upper Ohio Valley, met with Commissioners to submit the county's health insurance renewal rate. The medical rate came in at trend: 8.6%; the drug rate came in at 5.3%. The overall increase will be 7.55%. Mr. Greer suggested the Commissioners increase the out of pocket expenses for the employees to lower the premium. Commissioners affirmed Mr. Greer's suggestion is not an option the board would consider at this time. However, Commissioner Reed requested rates for a partially self-insured plan. Mr. Tschappat replied he would acquire a rate and get a hold of the Commissioners as soon as possible. Commissioners have until December 15, 2011 to make a decision.

Meg Deedrick, Executive Director of United Way, Audrey Foster, 2-1-1 Call Center Manager, and Susan Gable, Morgan Local Schools and member of the United Way Board of Directors, provided the Southeast Ohio 2-1-1 Call Center's Monthly Report for September 2011. The number of calls received from Morgan County residents is low. Mrs. Foster will be visiting some local agencies in Morgan County, to increase the awareness of 2-1-1. Recently, Audrey visited the Morgan County Senior Center. Information and referrals are provided by calling 2-1-1 for following types of services: emergency food pantries, hot meal programs, government services, housing and shelter, emergency weather alerts, community events, educational programs, volunteer opportunities, etc.

11-451 Motion by Mr. Mike Reed and seconded by Mr. Dean Cain to re-appoint Tim VanHorn to the Buckeye Hills RC&D Council, for a three year term, starting January 1, 2012.

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

11-452 Motion by Mr. Tim VanHorn and seconded by Mr. Dean Cain to approve a transfer of funds in the amount of \$10,000 from Labors Account (k-11A) 004-0004-5102.01 and place into Bridge Account (k-26) 004-0004-5330.01, and \$20,000 from Employee Insurance Account (k-11B) 004-0004-5365.00 and place into Materials Account (k-12) 004-0004-5330.00; as requested by Stevan Hook, Engineer.

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

11-453 Motion by Mr. Dean Cain and seconded by Mr. Tim VanHorn to approve the following supplemental appropriations: \$1539.22 into 095-0095-5102.00 Salaries, \$420.58 into 095-0095-5367.00 PERS and \$35.20 into 095-0095-5368.00 Medicare.

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

11-454 Motion by Mr. Mike Reed and seconded by Mr. Dean Cain to approve the following invoices as attached to the minutes.

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

11-455 Motion by Mr. Dean Cain and seconded by Mr. Mike Reed to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 PM.

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

Commissioners,

Mike Reed, President

Dean Cain, Vice-President

Tim VanHorn, Member

Andrea Plummer, Clerk