

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office September 13, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 8:30am with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Adam Shriver, President
Tom Bragg, Vice-President
Richard Welsh, Member

21-357- Motion by Mr. Bragg and seconded by Mr. Welsh to approve the minutes of September 7, 2021.

Mr. Shriver yea Mr. Bragg yea Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried

-The commissioners reported on their activities for the previous week:

Commissioner Shriver attended a EMA meeting Friday morning concerning Covid-19 spikes.

Also, attended the Morgan County Community Health Assessment meeting held by the Health Department and the Ohio University Voinovich Center.

Commissioner Welsh attended a meeting with Residents for Peaceful Solutions Thursday at the McConnel Manor discussing with the possibility of forming a Legal Tenants Association.

21-358- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Bragg to award the CR45 project to Ohio-West Virginia Excavating.

Mr. Shriver yea Mr. Bragg yea Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried

Heidi Burns, JFS

-Submitted bills & Timesheet

- Updates regarding Covid-19
- Community Health Assessment
- Computer outage at 3:00pm today.

Tom Reid, Broadband

-Presented a PowerPoint presentation on getting higher broadband speeds in rural areas.

John Wilt, EMA

- Ohio Emergency Operations Center coordination calls Thursdays at 1300 hours.
- Continue updating Morgan County Resource Guide.
- Coordinating with MCHD on regular basis.
- Prepared and submitted LEPC Compliance Report.

- Participated in SE Ohio Healthcare calls regarding COVID surge
- Attended Webinar on Ohio StormReady designation.
- Notified of potential for additional EMPG funding for 2019-2021 in the minimum amount of \$3700. This requires a 1:1 match. I will attempt to apply some against prior years where we exceeded the awarded amount.
- M&M EMS approached me with concerns regarding being delayed when arriving at hospitals. They floated an idea of utilizing the BluMed as a temporary staging location for patients in the county. I did some research and have determined that staffing is the biggest issue with the hospitals and would be a major limiting factor in utilizing the BluMed. EMA is undertaking a public education campaign on FB on when to call EMS to try and alleviate some of those issues.
- Spent quite a bit of time in Appalachian Hills checking on flood damage for National Weather Service from severe rainfall event. They attempt to correlate radar data with observations to refine their forecasting and reporting.
- Will be attending Community Health Assessment meeting for Health Department on Tuesday.
- Will be attending a Flood Fight Operations class from Army Corps of Engineers in Athens all day Wednesday and Thursday. This course is designed to provide information to decide if a flood fight is possible and worth the effort and cost. It will discuss general flood information, preparation strategies, mitigating options, threat evaluations, and recovery solutions.
- Would like to revisit discussion about volunteer time for County employees – the State, most universities and some other counties, cities, and villages in Ohio have volunteer time for their employees where they can respond as volunteer EMS personnel or firefighters and not lose pay. Most are capped at 40 hours per year and have fairly stringent rules to prevent abuse. With the difficulty in having sufficient volunteers for fire and EMS it would be a great show of support for volunteerism if the County would consider and adopt a volunteer time policy.
- Please update on status of the vacation and sick time I should have been earning from 2016 until 2021 when I actually began accruing the time.

Charlie Shilling, Washington County Commissioner; Jesse Roush, Southeastern Ohio Port Authority; Shannon Wells, Development Office

-Discussed two projects that could be done using ARPA funding. It is also possible to ask school boards for funding.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

-Discussed going to MCDD.

-Discussed a CHIP home project disagreement between owners and contractors. The issue is currently being turned over to Prosecutor Howdyshell.

-Mrs. Wells will have a discussion with Serafina's concerning her business.

21-359- Motion by Mr. Bragg and seconded by Mr. Welsh to hire Wilkin's Excavating to do demo and removal of trash and structures on county property located at 4091 N. St. Rt. 669 Malta. This project is not to exceed \$12,000.

Mr. Shriver yea Mr. Bragg yea Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

-Spectrum technicians came to the Riecker Building to upgrade their fiber circuit from a single user installation to a multi-user installation. This involved replacing an aggregation switch after business hours and running new fiber for the upcoming PRI installation.

After close of business on Wednesday, 8 September 2021, the Internet to the Riecker Building went down. At opening of business on 9 September 2021, Spectrum was contacted as the cause of the outage was a failed router (supplied by Spectrum). Unfortunately, Spectrum technicians were not able to replace the router until late afternoon on 10 September 2021, resulting in a two day Internet outage on an Enterprise line. Internet for the Riecker Building was routed to the Sheriff's office on a temporary basis during the outage.

The 9 – 10 September 2021 Internet outage at the Riecker Building brought up the need to repair or replace the fiber optic cable that runs between the Riecker Building and the Sheriff's office. It also highlighted that the County was in need of some critical network infrastructure equipment. Fortunately, funds have been made available to repair critical infrastructure like this. The IT Director is working on a list of hardware that will meet the County's needs for the immediate future.

The Commissioners asked the IT Director put together a quote for a video conferencing setup for their office. The video conference setup will be used for virtual meetings that have become more commonplace in the past year and half as well as to transmit weekly meetings in the event that the Riecker Building ever closes to the public again.

Transfers, Then & Now, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

-None-

21-360-Motion by Mr. Bragg and seconded by Mr. Welsh to approve payment of bills. *See attached*

Mr. Shriver yea Mr. Bragg yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried

21-361- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Bragg to adjourn the commissioners meeting at 4:00pm.

Mr. Shriver yea Mr. Bragg yea, Welsh yea, Motion Carried

Adam Shriver, President

Tom Bragg, Vice-President

Richard Welsh, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

