

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, March 24, 2025.  
The meeting was called to order at 8:30am with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Cecil Mayle, President  
Heidi Maxwell, Vice-President  
Steve Best, Member

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The commissioners did the following over the past week:

Commissioner Best attended a DAC meeting on Monday and a Health Department meeting on Thursday.

Commissioner Mayle attended a Community Action meeting on Tuesday.

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**25-178-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of March 17, 2025.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

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***Al Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance***

Bragg's started installing new carpet and as of Friday 12-27-24 the conference rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors and the Treasurer's office are completed. They are moving to the Recorder's office 12-30-24 Commissioner's finished 1-2-25 Records Office is finished 1-10-25 Now working on the extension Office 1-8-25. Carpet will be replaced in the Auditors office 2-1-25 Auditors office Carpet replacement has been completed 2-2-25. Engineer is next to be done and they should start in March.

Advanced Heating and Cooling Ordered 2 new Exhaust Fan Motors for EF5 and EF6

Advanced Heating and Cooling has sent Quote to replace the Compressor on RTU3. 3-6-25

Bought latch covers to secure the Courthouse Front Door and Side Door next to the Sheriff's Office 3-12-25

Someone entered the second floor Women's Restroom and removed everything to include some personnel items on Wednesday 3-19-25

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***Trista, Nelson, Soil & Water***

## **Funding and Distribution**

The meeting discussed the distribution of \$525,000 to producers in the county, which is 37.5% of what they received through FSA and Z. There are 268 producers, with 19 yet to sign up. Efforts are being made to contact them before the deadline next Tuesday.

## **Upcoming Events**

A bus tour is planned for the end of April to Coshoccon County, including visits to Pearl Valley Cheese, the Der Dutchman restaurant, an ethanol plant, and Porteus Farms. Additionally, there is a plan to organize a fourth-grade field day with local schools.

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## ***Missy Fisher, JFS***

Introduced a summer youth contract for the 14 to 18-year-old population, offering \$13 an hour for county offices willing to participate. Applications are being distributed, and some offices have shown interest.

Clarification is needed on who will be responsible for filling out and returning the summer youth contract to ensure timely processing and participation.

Determine which county offices will participate in the summer youth program and establish how many youths each office can accommodate to ensure adequate planning and resource allocation.

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## ***Julie Gridley, Pound Keeper***

This week we were blessed with two bags of dog food that was donated.

Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>, we did Yappy Hour with the dogs. They had pepperoni, turkey sticks and cheese. In addition, thank you both so much for coming to help us celebrate with the dogs.

We extend our gratitude to the following volunteers who came and helped with the cleaning, watering and feeding the dogs. As well as playing with them.

Cindy, Lynn, Jill, Janelle, Terry and Bob are all such a huge asset to the pound.

We took in four dogs and two were adopted leaving us two at the pound in search of their fur ever home.

### ***John Wilt, EMA; 911***

Ohio Emergency Operations Center coordination calls monthly on 3rd Thursdays at 1300 hours  
Continuous review and revision of Emergency Operations Plans.

Phone call with Rob from RFG Associates regarding mitigation planning. Plan is on hold awaiting information from State EMA.

Completing workplan for FY24 EMPG that is due soon.

LEPC exercise committee met, setting date for 2025 exercise, which will be an EOC functional exercise. Checked date with contractor – exercise set for Thursday, 5/29/2025.

HyperReach – how do commissioners envision utilizing this for employee notifications.

Receiving applications for EMS Director. I will prepare a summary sheet to match applicants information with job qualifications.

### **9-1-1 Report to Commissioners, 3/24/2025**

We continue to have some issues with Guardian. Working through them. I plan to coordinate with other pilot programs to compile all issues we are all having. This will be presented to the State 911 office.

Met with architect at proposed 9-1-1 center along with Sheriff, Shannon Wells and Adam Shriver from Development. Waiting for response from architect with proposal for initial design work.

Continuing to populate data for Sundance CAD. Dispatchers are using CAD in a practice environment currently. Migration date is up to the Sheriff.

Continue working with APCO for Intellicomm implementation, guidecard review, training, etc.

Still working with eDispatches to get Reinersville Fire on board and then transition the remaining departments.

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### **EMPG and LAPC Exercise**

Discussion on the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) requirements and the LAPC exercise scheduled for 5-29-2025. The exercise will be an EOC functional exercise, and there was a debate on whether to involve all employees or just department heads.

### **Hyper-Reach Notifications**

Issues with Hyper-Reach sending multiple fire warnings due to National Weather Service alerts. Discussion on how to manage these notifications to avoid desensitizing the public.

### **EMA Director's Job Applications**

Review of applications for the EMA Director's position, noting a diverse range of applicants. Consideration of advertising the position more widely.

### **State 911 System Issues**

Ongoing issues with the state 911 system, including ticket resolution delays and technical problems like dual call placements. Efforts to compile issues from pilot programs to address with the state.

### **911 Center and Data Migration**

Meeting with architects for the proposed 911 center and ongoing data population for Sundance. Migration date depends on the Sheriff's decision.

### **Dispatcher Training and System Improvements**

Plans for dispatcher training in Intellicom and EMD. Discussion on system improvements needed for better dispatcher efficiency.

### **Sheriff's Role in 911 System**

Clarification of the Sheriff's role in the 911 system management, addressing misconceptions about authority over countywide systems.

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### ***Kurt Johnson, Airport Authority***

#### **Airport Project Update**

The airport project is ready to submit and advertise for bids after ODOT approval.

#### **Antenna and Airspace Concerns**

Discussion on the height and location of antennas in relation to protected airspace. Mr. Johnson will investigate the current height and potential relocation options.

#### **Solar Project Contract**

There has been no communication from the solar project team since the last meeting. The contract wording on confidentiality was an issue.

### **Runway Lighting and Maintenance**

The runway lighting system is outdated and needs updating. Only one side of the runway lights work and the runway surface is in poor condition.

### **Courtesy Cars at the Airport**

Plans to acquire a courtesy car for airport visitors once an old fuel tank is removed. This is a common practice at many airports.

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***Randy Williams, Jessica Junn, Deputy Auditor***

### **IRS Audit**

The IRS is auditing the 2021 records due to discrepancies in 1099 forms. Six vendors' information was incorrect, leading to a potential fine of \$3,881.78, with a possible credit of \$1,544.40.

The team needs to sign a form acknowledging the errors and await IRS confirmation before making any payments.

### **Vendor Information Compliance**

The team is implementing stricter measures to ensure vendor information is accurate to avoid future IRS audits. Departments must provide W-9 forms for new vendors.

The process is improving, but cleanup of past records is ongoing.

### **Communication with IRS**

Jill, the new IRS contact, is more helpful than the previous contact. The team is advised to wait for IRS confirmation before making payments.

The contact recommends understanding the situation fully before signing and paying.

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***Becky Thompson, Dog Warden***

-Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

[https://www.morgancounty-oh.gov/dog\\_warden\\_reports.html](https://www.morgancounty-oh.gov/dog_warden_reports.html)

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**25-179-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to accept the Athens County EMS Contract for the year 2025.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

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***Sean Ryan, Enterprise Suite Management—Healthy Life Cycle for Vehicles***

**Enterprise Fleet Management Overview**

Enterprise Fleet Management works with approximately 90 government entities across the state, helping them buy and sell vehicles efficiently using OEM relationships. The goal is to reduce operating costs by leveraging equity rollover and providing newer vehicles with more safety features.

**Leasing Model for Government Entities**

Enterprise offers an open-end lease model for government entities, allowing them to lease vehicles without mileage restrictions. This model helps entities sell vehicles before they depreciate significantly, reducing net depreciation costs.

**Cost Savings and Analysis**

Enterprise conducts analyses to compare current vehicle management practices with their leasing model, often showing significant savings. They aim to ensure entities use the right vehicles and dispose of them at the optimal time.

**Current Partnerships and Contracts**

Enterprise is gaining traction with local government entities like Coshocton and Guernsey. They are the preferred fleet management provider for Sourcewell, a government entity that vets vendors for government contracts.

**Vehicle Types and Recommendations**

Enterprise can manage a wide range of vehicles, such as transit vans. They provide recommendations based on the lowest total cost of ownership and are brand agnostic, ensuring the best fit for the entity's needs.

**Existing Vehicle Management**

Enterprise can assist with existing vehicles by offering gas cards and maintenance programs. They can also help sell old vehicles as entities transition to their leasing model.

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***Shannon Wells, Development Office***

The TID Committee will meet on March 24, 2025 at 3:00pm to discuss a roadway project eligible for TID funding to Ohio Department of Development.

A proposal was received from DLZ to prepare a jail study for Morgan County.

Shannon Wells, Traci Baker and Karen Hinkle will be attending a transit conference on March 25 and 26 at Mohican State Park.

Aspire Energy will be meeting at EZG Manufacturing on March 27, 2025 at 1pm to discuss gas utilities.

Mowing Quotes Three quotes were received.

Earich Lawncare \$130/per wk transit \$100/per wk Health Dept.

Norman Lawncare \$110/per wk transit \$100/per wk Health Dept.

**25-180-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to table all quotes.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

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***Amber Wallace, Senior Center***

-No report given

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***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator***

Several test calls were made from the elevator at the Riecker Building this week. The phones in the elevators are programmed to dial 911 and play an automated message. The 911 operators then press a button to hear the location of the phone that made the call or press another button to talk with the person that made the call. During a recent elevator inspection, the 911 operators were not able to talk with the person in the elevator. After some troubleshooting with the 911 phone contractor, it was discovered that a feature was missing on the 911 soft-phones in dispatch – they were unable to send DTMF tones over the active call. This issue was resolved and calls from the elevator are once again working normally.

The Prosecutor's office discussed the prospect of procuring their own cell phones for use on the County's Verizon account.

The IT Director discussed the new e-mail service, Microsoft 365 for Business, and the associated quote from Dell with all elected officials and office heads. The Commissioners agreed to move forward with this service for County e-mail on the new domain, [morgancountyohio.gov](mailto:morgancountyohio.gov). The IT Director will get an accurate count of e-mail users in all offices to ensure that the billing breakout is correct.

The Riecker Building's existing Internet service is no longer able to effectively support all the users in the Riecker Building. The IT Director has a meeting with GloFiber this coming week to discuss the installation of fiber Internet in the Riecker Building.

The computers that JFS procured for the Learning Center in 2023 are being reused throughout

the County in offices that need to expand or upgrade existing Windows 10 machines. Reuse of these excess computers is the preferable option versus storing the computers until they become obsolete.

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The commissioners attended a Transportation Improvement District meeting from 3:30pm to 3:55pm. See Attachment A

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**Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications**

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None

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**25-1-**Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve payment of bills. \*See attached\*

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

**25-177-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting March, 24, 2025 at 4:00pm.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

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**Cecil Mayle, President**

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**Heidi Maxwell, Vice-President**

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**Steven Best, Member**

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**Sheila Welch, Clerk**

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Attachment A:

### **Morgan County Transportation Improvement District Board Meeting - 3/24/2025**

**In Attendance:** Morgan County Commissioners, Heidi Maxwell and Cecil Mayle; Village of McConnellsville Mayor, John W. Finley; Village of Malta Mayor, Terry McGrath; Morgan County Engineer, John Telesz; Morgan County Deputy Engineer, Stevan Hook; Director of Economic Development, Shannon Wells; Shelly & Sands Engineer, Steve Williams; and Windsor Township Trustee, Steve Hanson.

Stevan Hook began the meeting by sharing a little bit of history and an explanation of what the Morgan County Transportation Improvement District (TID) was originally set up to do. He passed out materials including a copy of the original resolution (TID 2017-01) which established the code of regulations governing the TID. Another handout provided a timeline of the previous project the TID completed, which was the turning lane on State Route 60 at the MIBA and Mahle industrial plants. Finally, a Board Member Roster was passed around this sheet included the names and contact information for the individuals which agreed to serve on the TID Board.

The TID was set up to pursue funding opportunities to enhance business and workforce development within Morgan County. The participants were told that EZ Grout which resides south of the McConnellsville Dam on County Road 2 (CR 2) had plans to expand their workforce significantly in the next few years, but they were concerned that the poor state of Front Street and CR 2 caused issues with their ability to recruit personnel, raw material delivery and finished product shipments.

Shannon Wells discussed the proposed project to address the issues brought up by EZ Grout explaining there was a potential grant available for \$500k

The current proposed project encompasses roadway improvements to Front Street in the Village of Malta and County Road 2. Details included that the roadway in Malta was in poor condition and that the Village had contracted with DLZ Consulting to come up with a cost estimate for roadway repairs. A new cost estimate was in the works at the time of the meeting and it appeared to be nearing \$750k. Funding options were discussed including a potential grant from JobsOhio and ODOT for up to \$500k. The County Engineer indicated that the portion of the project which was under county jurisdiction would cost approximately \$65k. Options for obtaining the remaining portion included requesting funds from the Road Use and Maintenance Agreement (RUMA) with Ruhlin Construction and ODNR. Steve Hook indicated that a meeting was set up to discuss this with ODNR and Ruhlin the next morning.

Steve Hook suggested that new Officers for the TID be elected, See next page for motions and nominations.

Steve Hook detailed the previous TID projects including the roundabouts and the St Rt 60 turn lane.

He then explained the RUMA agreement with Ruhlin in more detail. Steve Willaims questioned how specific the RUMA agreement with Ruhlin was and Steve Hook replied it potentially covers \$125k worth of damages on CR2, and in the Villages of Malta and McConnelsville.

Steve Hook questioned how much of the road wear and damages was from Ruhlin's use and how much was from the Malta water project. Steve asked Mayor Terry McGrath if he had any more Malta projects planned along Front Street, and Mayor Mcgrath said no.

An update on the McConnelsville Dam reconstruction project was given including a preliminary timeline for completion. This was important because part of the proposed project goes through the construction zone of the dam project where traffic has been reduced to a single lane. It was discussed how Ruhlin was tracking possibly 13 months ahead of schedule, so they may be finished much sooner than expected. Mayor John Finley explained in the contract between Ruhlin and McConnelsville, Ruhlin will fix the McConnelsville pool parking lot back up along with the hillside. The roadway distress in front of the Methodist church was the only known damages so far on his side.

Steve Willaims questioned if the RUMA agreement was between Ruhlin and the County & Villages and Steve Hook informed him, yes, it was.

John Telesz inquired about the requirements of the grant application before the deadline which is Friday, 3/28/2025?

Shannon Wells informed the board that the application would need a Location Map, a Construction Cost Estimate, Letters of Commitment for the outstanding funds, Letters of Support and a Project Schedule, the meeting adjourned with the necessity for further meetings and discussions with some local businesses.



Nominations of Officers for the TID Board during the 3:00 pm. Meeting held in the Commissioner's office on 3/24/25.  
Steve Hook announced that the term will be one year.

Steve Hook calls for Nominations for **Chairman**

Steve Williams: I nominate The County Engineer, John Telesz

John Finley: I second that motion

Steve Hook calls for Nominations for **Vice Chairman**

John Telesz: I nominate Shannon Wells

Steve Williams: I second that motion

Steve Hook calls for Nominations of **Treasurer**

John Telesz: I nominate Steve Hanson

John Finley: I second that motion

Steve Hook calls for Nominations of **Secretary**

John Telesz: I nominate Steve Hanson

John Finley: I second that motion

Steve Hook calls for approval of all nominations, All in Favor say I,

All: I

Nahs:0

Steve Hook: Do we have a motion to apply a TID project for funding,

John Finley: I motion to apply for funds

Steve Hanson: I second that motion

Steve Hook: All in favor of applying for TID funds say I,

All: I

Nahs:0

This meeting was adjourned at 3:31pm.



