

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, April 14, 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 Family and Children First meeting Friday.

Saturday, Commissioner Best attended a EMS and Fire Department Banquet meeting on Saturday.

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**25-208-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of April 7, 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 Recorders 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.

Contacted Kone Elevator Company to get cost on a Service Contract and do a Maintenance Service on the Elevator and repair the faults from the State Elevator Inspection Report. The new service Rep for Kone (Mitch McConnell) drove from Columbus to introduce himself and look at the elevator and get pictures. 4-9-25

Sent vehicle information to the Auditors (Courtney) to report hail damage to insurance company. 4-7-25

Received a call from the Senior Citizen Center about the rear entrance door being hard to close, tried to make adjustments and noticed the whole metal door frame anchors were loose. The door was installed by G&M Construction. G&M needs to check the door and frame and make adjustments as needed. 4-3-25

Installed new stall door latches for the restrooms. 4-2-25

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***Cheryl, Brink, Treasurer***

Mrs. Brink shared her information during their quarterly Investment Advisory meeting:

**Investment Strategy**

Discussion on the plan to invest \$5 million in treasury securities with a laddered maturity of one to three years to ensure continuous cash flow. The strategy is based on current cash flow needs and market conditions.

The plan is to allocate \$5 million into treasury securities with a laddered maturity.

**Bank Account and Rates**

The U.S. bank account is open and ready. Citizens and First National banks were contacted, but their rates are lower than U.S. Treasury securities. First National is kept at \$2.5 million due to poor rates.

The U.S. bank account is ready, and Citizens and First National banks offer lower rates than Treasury securities.

**Tax Collection and Contracts**

Efforts to collect taxes include putting people on contracts to avoid penalties. There is a focus on tax liens and delinquent taxes, with a plan to sell liens to companies for immediate tax collection. Contracts are being used to manage tax payments, and tax liens are being sold for immediate collection.

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***Heidi Burns, JFS Director***

Title XX Plan for 10/1/25—9/30/26 signature required

- Hearing was held on 4/9/25 @ 8:30am
- Planned services of 3,126 children and 6,034 adults

PRC Planning Committee meeting will be held May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am

Subgrant Agreement with ODJFS

Springfest is April 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm at the Morgan County Fairgrounds

## Travel/Meeting Requests

- Devan Vincent to Caldwell on 5/5 for College & Career Expo

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## Service Provision Concerns

Discussion on the potential elimination of services that served 3,100 children and provided 6,034 services last year. Concerns were raised about the impact on elderly services and the fear of losing funding.

## TANF Funding Cuts

The meeting addressed the reduction in TANF funding, which supports families with transportation, car, and utility expenses. Feedback is needed on service gaps in the county.

## Annual Audit and Compliance

The organization must comply with laws and undergo an annual audit.

## Family Event Planning

Discussion on the April 26th family event at Wonderful Fairgrounds, which aims to showcase services for child abuse prevention. Plans for next year's event include activities like fishing, bounce houses, and hot dogs.

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## *John Wilt, EMA/911*

## Building Renovation

Discussion on the evaluation and renovation of the back part of a building, focusing on structural integrity, environmental issues, and creating a basic floor plan.

The architect, is familiar with 911 centers and will make recommendations based on his walkthrough.

## Telecommunicators Week Proclamation

A proclamation to honor telecommunicators in Morgan County for their dedication and professionalism. The week of April 13 through 19 is declared as National Telecommunicators Week in Morgan County.

The proclamation will be signed and shared on social media to recognize telecommunicators.

See Attachment A

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***Jim Fisher, Sheriff***

**Feasibility Study for Jail**

Discussion on conducting a feasibility study for a new jail, costing less than \$10 million. The study is necessary to determine the viability of building a new facility and to address current issues with jail capacity and costs.

A feasibility study is deemed necessary and should be conducted.

**Current Jail Costs and Capacity**

The current jail is not full, and costs are high, with \$118 per day for beds. There is a need to manage costs and capacity effectively, considering alternatives like sending inmates to other counties.

**State Budget Cuts Impact**

The state of Ohio is cutting budgets, affecting local jail management. Non-violent offenders with lower-degree felonies are being released, impacting local resources.

**Funding and Grants**

Discussion on potential funding, including \$70 million expected in 2026-2027. The need to secure additional funds to avoid future financial issues is highlighted.

**Security and Vulnerability Studies**

Security studies for the courthouse and county court are underway, with results expected soon. These studies are crucial for addressing security vulnerabilities.

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***Shannon Wells, Development Office***

Shannon Wells met with Inverve Marketing and ODOT on April 9, 2025 to continue the new website build for [www.buckeyesoutheast.com](http://www.buckeyesoutheast.com). Quotes are being requested for new van graphics.

Shannon Wells met with the Morgan County Commissioners and staff from Congressman Troy Balderson's Office on April 10, 2025.

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will be meeting with clients on April 15, 2025 in the Economic Development conference room.

**25-209.** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve entering into a contract with Shriver Septic and Excavation LLC for \$ 8,700.00 for the Home Sewage Treatment System

Program Contract 23-5C for the replacement of one septic system. This resolution will be contingent upon funding.

The following addresses will be provided services:

10880 Ferrell Rd McConnelsville, OH 43756 (Replacement)

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

Congressman Balderson's office will be accepting Community Project Funding requests for FY 26 UNTIL April 25, 2025.

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*Steve Fate, Jeff Fleming; Medical Mutual*

## **Insurance Claims and Renewal Analysis**

- **Experience Period and Renewal**

The experience period for the upcoming renewal is from August through July, with a run-out month in August 2025. The renewal will be delivered by late September or October 1, 2025. Current claims are running higher than last year, with a loss ratio of 107%.

- **High Claimants**

There are currently no claimants above \$200,000, but several are in the \$150,000 to \$200,000 range. The first three high claimants have exceeded the pooling point, potentially providing a credit against pooling charges.

- **Population and Stability**

The group has grown to 115 employees, with a stable population and low turnover. This stability is favorable for underwriting.

- **Financial Trends**

Claims are up by \$1 million, with a 48% increase in per employee per month costs. Inpatient costs have increased significantly, while pharmacy costs have decreased by 18%.

- **Pharmacy Costs**

Pharmacy costs are down, with a high generic substitution rate. The highest cost drug is Humira at \$11,000 per fill, which is lower than typical high-cost drugs.

- **Network Utilization**

The report covers institutional utilization, with Genesis and Riverside being the top facilities used. Outpatient claims are significant, with some inpatient activity at Riverside.

## **Wellness Program Implementation and Benefits**

- **Wellness Program Overview**

The wellness program, in partnership with Medical Youthful, focuses on prevention,

understanding biometrics, and employee incentives. It includes HR services, legal hotlines, and training programs.

- **Partnership with Medical Mutual**

The partnership offers wellness benefits like tobacco coaching and Weight Watchers reimbursement. A dedicated wellness consultant helps implement and track the program's goals.

- **Program Implementation and Goals**

The program involves planning meetings, education for employees, and monitoring engagement. It aims to achieve preventive care utilization and participation in biometric screenings and health assessments.

- **Incentives and Premium Holidays**

Incentives include a wellness fund and premium holidays based on participation levels. Achieving certain participation rates unlocks financial benefits for the employer.

- **Employee Engagement and Rewards**

Employees can earn gift cards for completing health assessments and screenings. The program offers various communication methods to engage employees.

- **Additional Programming Options**

Work Spring offers additional resources like monthly toolkits, biometric check-ins, and wellness committee attendance. Mental health first aid training is available for a fee.

## **Health and Wellness Program Implementation and Review**

- **Wellness Program**

Discussion on the potential interest and implementation of a wellness program in the county, including the need for ownership and engagement.

- **Fire Department Health Plan**

Review of the fire department's current health plan and the potential impact of bringing on additional employees, including concerns about high pharmacy costs and the need for consumerism.

- **Underwriting Review**

Discussion on the underwriting review for a potential July 1st implementation, including concerns about pharmacy costs and the impact on rates.

- **Pharmacy Co-pays and Consumerism**

Consideration of implementing consumerism in the health plan to control costs, particularly regarding pharmacy co-pays.

- **Employee Count and Plan Eligibility**

Clarification needed on the number of employees eligible for the health plan and the potential impact of bringing them on.

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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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***Valarie Mayle; Tracie Wagoner, BOE***

On April 7, 2025 Valarie Mayle, Deputy Director of Morgan Co. Board of Elections and Cindy Tuttle, Board Member, met with the County Commissioners regarding the use of the Community Room for elections.

Due to the revitalization project of the town square, the Morgan Co. Board of Elections will not be able to utilize the Senior Citizens as a polling location for the upcoming November General Election. The Board of Elections has been advised by the Village Administrator that we would need to find a different location for the November election.

Also, with the uncertainty of the parking in the area, it was discussed in the April 2, 2025 Board of Elections meeting of possibly moving the voting location to the Community Room permanently for every election here on out. A motion was made by Bailey Wilson to speak with the commissioners on the use of the room to re-locate the polling location. The motion was seconded by Judy Ray. All approved.

The Board of Elections discussed with the commissioners that they have been in communication with Mary Ann Bogatay, and Cecil Mayle County Commissioner has been in contact with David Brightbill, WMCA, for permission in using the room for every election here on out.

On April 14, 2025 the Morgan Co. Board of Elections received verification from the Morgan County Commissioners that it has been approved to permanently relocate the voting location from the Senior Citizens Center to the Community Room of the Riecker Building.

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***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator***

A new screen cover was received from DEG Petro for the fuel meter on the County's fuel pump at Greuey's Fuel. The screen on the fuel meter is damaged and difficult to read. Unfortunately, the screen cannot be changed out alone as it is connected to the keypad. The IT Director will work with the Maintenance office to schedule a time to remove the old screen and keypad and install the new one.

A new page was created on the County's website for requests for proposals (RFP) and requests for qualifications (RFQ) for the Economic Development office. The new page will archive old RFPs and RFQs and show the dates they were first posted as well as when they were due.

Poynter's Office Supplies sent a notice to the IT Director and users of Canon printers about a vulnerability in older Canon printer drivers that are currently in use on various County networks. The IT Director will reinstall the print drivers on all affected computers.

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***Raymond McCommas, Kinder's Insurance***

**Insurance Claims and Property Damage**

The meeting discussed recent hailstorm damage affecting county vehicles and properties, including roofs. The county's insurance claims process and the impact of these damages on insurance renewals were highlighted.

**County Insurance Renewal and Coverage**

Ray McComas explained the county's insurance renewal process with Corsa, detailing changes in payroll, vehicle count, and insurance values. The discussion included the increase in deductibles and coverage limits, especially for law enforcement and public officials.

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

**25-210-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer the mandated Share for April 2025 in the amount of \$3,278.83.

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

**25-211-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer \$2,000.00 from 084-2024-5309.00 other expenses to 084-2024-5306.00 contracts.

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

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**25-212-** 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**

**25-213-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting April 14, 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  
Commissioners***

155 East Main St., Room 216  
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756  
Phone: 740-962-3183  
Fax: 740-962-2014

Cecil Mayle  
Heidi Maxwell  
Steve Best

Sheila Welch, Clerk

***PROCLAMATION***

**DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 13-19, 2025 AS NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, the telecommunicators of the Morgan County Sheriff's Office perform a critical function and are a key link in the public safety chain which protects all of us and are constantly striving to improve their emergency response capabilities through leadership, dedication, and technology; and

**WHEREAS**, the safety of our Law Enforcement Officers, Emergency Medical Personnel, and Firefighters in Morgan County are dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Morgan County 9-1-1 Communications Center; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Morgan County Sheriff's Office have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and,

**WHEREAS**, each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of County Commissioners of Morgan County, Ohio does hereby commend the **Morgan County Telecommunicators** for their dedication in providing life-saving service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, and are the first, first responders; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of County Commissioners of Morgan County, Ohio does hereby proclaim the week of April 13 - 19, 2025 as **National Telecommunicators Week** in Morgan County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe, and encourages all citizens to join in recognizing the commitment of our telecommunicators who dedicate their lives to serving the public.

**Presented this 14th day of April 2025.**

Cecil Mayle, Commissioner

Heidi Maxwell, Commissioner

Steve Best, Commissioner

