

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, May 19, 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 Maxwell and Commissioner Best attended a CIC meeting Monday evening.

Commissioner Best attended a Health Department meeting on Thursday.

Commissioner Maxwell attended a Courthouse Security meeting Friday.

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**25-251-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of May 12, 2025.

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

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**25-252-** Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to appoint Mrs. Maxwell to the Court Security Committee.

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

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***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator***

The IT Director discussed what should be done with old computer equipment that is no longer needed or usable within the County. In the past, equipment that was no longer usable was declared excess and recycled as electronic waste (e-waste) during special collections. The Commissioners decided to continue with this policy.

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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 June/July. 5-6-25

Haas Sanitation set the Port-a-john at the Grove Park 5-6-25 (Has been chained and Locked)

Cleaned and mowed Grove Park and Commons, and there is still Christmas Decorations in the park. 5-6-25

Courthouse door latch covers are now installed on front door and side door going to the Sheriff's office.5-15-25

Called Modern Glass to check inside rear entry door, and entry door going into Workforce. The entrance door for Workforce slams very hard and can't be adjusted, all the oil has leaked out and the seals are bad. Modern Glass may have to replace the cylinder if it can't be rebuilt.5-16-25

Still awaiting Apperson's to replace sewer drain pipe in the basement Women's public restroom. Waiting for 10' cast iron pipe to come in. 5-16-25

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***Heidi Burns, JFS***

Northwoods renewal contract for case aide services for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Interagency shared employment agreement with Perry County and Jackson County for a CWIS/Onboarding Coordinator.

Met with Brave Beginnings (CAC) IN Muskingum County. Planning on doing a MOU with them along with our Prosecutor's Office and Sherriff's Office.

Reminder of PRC meeting Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 10am.

Travel Requests

- Heidi Burns and Kari Schaad to Burr Oak Lodge on 5/20 for a regional CPS meeting with Board of Mental Health.

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***Julie Gridley, Pound Keeper***

Strays: All Burr Oak puppies and two moms

Surrendered: one owner surrender

Adoptions: we had four dogs adopted this week.

We want to thank Andie, Amanda for all your help this week. These two stepped up and did whatever was needed in the pound.

We want to also thank John Gridley for coming and helping with the feeding, watering and playing with the dogs. In addition, he mowed the grass for us.

Thank you to Tiffany McGrew, Kay Morgan, Tammy Ray and Becky Thompsom for donating baked goods for our baked sale.

Huge thank you to Lori with the Perry Animal Welfare Society. They donated six bags of 50 pounds of puppy chow, provided a box of flea and tick medicine for the dogs.

In addition, they took Lucky, one of the puppies from the Burr Oak rescue to the hospital to get much needed medical attention. Lucky is in bad shape and will require surgery for his injuries.

They graciously are taking care of all of the expenses for him. We transferred ownership of Lucky to Perry Animal Welfare society.

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### **Lucky's welfare and expenses**

Discussed the bear named Lucky, whose right ear is gone and left ear is partially gone. Ownership of Lucky has been transferred back to the Welfare Society, which will cover his expenses and keep him in their care. Ownership and expenses for Lucky are now with the Welfare Society.

### **Fundraising event and donations**

[Speaker 1] reported a fundraising event held recently, raising \$755.14. Lori from the Perianimal Welfare Society donated \$6.50, which will be used for puppy chow. The event was described as a "date show" and was successful in raising funds for animal care.

A total of \$755.14 was raised at the event, and \$6.50 was donated for puppy chow.

### **Volunteer and operational support needs**

It was expressed the need for more volunteers to help with caring for the dogs, keeping the town clean, and walking the animals. There was help mowing the dog pound on Saturday. There are

ongoing issues with equipment, such as not having a suitable ladder to replace light bulbs, and several plants are out. The current ladder is unsafe to use for these tasks.

### **Fundraising ideas and facility maintenance**

Ms. Gridley shared that several ideas were discussed for future fundraisers to raise additional money. Maintenance issues persist, including four plants that are out, two light bulbs that need replacement, and the lack of a proper ladder to reach them. There is also mention of not having the necessary tools to address these facility needs.

### **Legal and administrative support**

It was mentioned possibly needing the Prosecutor's assistance with legal and administrative matters, including being asked to type a letter and helping to organize operations to ensure compliance and legality. Rick has a jury trial but continues to provide support, including offering to send the necessary file.

### **Animal care logistics**

Discussed ongoing efforts to find homes for dogs, including making twelve phone calls to find a home for Tiger and managing five dogs prior to recent events. There is a new kennel that was taken out to the site for the dogs, but it is still sitting unused and needs to be put into service. Additionally, there are issues with the washer and dryer: the washer is working, but the dryer is not functioning, which affects the ability to clean animal bedding and supplies. There was also mention of suggestions to dump rainwater over the hill, but Ms. Gridley indicated they would not do that.

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### ***John Wilt, EMA/911***

- Ohio Emergency Operations Center coordination calls monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 1300 hours
- Continuous review and revision of Emergency Operations Plans.
- Mitigation planning is still on hold awaiting information from State EMA. Since it is FY2024 funding it appears that it remains funded. Working with Ohio EMA to change payout schedule to appease contractor.
- Organizing information for June 30<sup>th</sup> handoff of position.

### **9-1-1 Report to Commissioners, 5/19/2025**

- Continuing to populate data for Sundance CAD.
  - Completed APCO Intellicomm guidecard initial review.
  - eDispatches project is complete. All FDs have migrated to master account.
  - Waiting on final radio quote from JD Johnson
  - Issues continue with Eventide, our recorder. This is due to data feed from Guardian. ComTech, Solacom, and Interaction Insight are working on the issues.
  - Had 962-2393 and 962-3333 removed from billing by Brightspeed and one was abandoned and one was ported to 9-1-1.
  - Meeting with MARCS officials and interested parties today at 1300 hours.
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### **FY2024 Funding and BRIC Grants**

Discussion on FY2024 funding status, noting that funding is proceeding even though the BRIC grants were cancelled. Efforts are ongoing with Luan from EMA to adjust the contractor payout schedule to improve contractor satisfaction. The importance of keeping this information organized and visible was emphasized, and work on this is still in progress.

### **Sundance CAD Data Population**

Ongoing work on populating data for Sundance CAD, which is favored by users because it allows them to pull up personnel pictures. This feature is appreciated by those utilizing the system.

### **APCOM, APCO, and Telecom Guide Card Review**

The initial review of APCOM, APCO, and telecom guide cards has been completed and submitted. The team is now waiting for the requested changes to be made and for the revised documents to be sent back for further review.

### **Medical Director Securing**

Efforts continue to secure a new medical director after the fire department changed theirs. The process is ongoing, and Mr. Wilt mentioned knowing the doctor involved and may become the medical director themselves, but this is not yet finalized.

### **E-Dispatches Project Completion**

The e-dispatches project is complete. All fire departments have migrated to the master account, enabling full integration of available systems and resources. The project is now complete.

### **Radio Quote and Courthouse Assessment**

Awaiting a radio quote from J.D. There is a need for J.D. to visit the courthouse to assess the

situation and determine the specific requirements. J.D.'s team has a bucket truck, but it is unclear if it will be sufficient for the assessment.

### **Eventide Recorder Issues**

There are ongoing issues with the Eventide recorder. A data feed from Guardian has caused problems, resulting in the recorder not labeling calls correctly and making it difficult to track where 9-1-1 calls originated. The issue is attributed to incorrect information from Guardian, and efforts are being made to convince Guardian to address and resolve the problem.

### **Phone Line Removal from Billing**

Phone numbers 962-2393 and 3333 have been removed from billing by Brightspeed. One line was abandoned, and the other was ported.

### **Radio Coverage Meeting in Morgan County**

A meeting is scheduled with Mark's officials and inter-parties to discuss radio coverage in Morgan County. Attendees will include Angie Canepa, who oversees both Mark's and 9-1-1 for the Department of Administrative Services, Don Jones (expected), and several key personnel from Mark's, including the director, the field director, and others. Chavez is unable to attend due to other commitments. The meeting is expected to cover familiar topics regarding radio coverage.

### **Hiring of New District**

Announcement of the hiring of a new district was made, though further details about the new hire or their role were not provided.

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### ***Amber Wilson, Senior Citizens Director***

### **Payment and Tax Issues Related to Rentals and Car Purchases**

Raised concerns about payment obligations, noting that if someone does not pay up, they do not pay sales. It was mentioned that when buying a car, tax must be paid. There was also a reference to rental situations, including mention of someone in another state where the cost is around \$800, possibly relating to rental or purchase fees.

### **Meeting Schedules and Club Meetings**

Discussed upcoming meetings, specifying that a meeting is planned for Tuesday. It was also stated that another group or club continues to meet on the third Monday of every month, although there may be concerns about having enough participants or sufficient attendance. Despite these concerns, the meetings are still being held.

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### ***Sophia Wiseman, OSU Extension***

#### **Sophia Whisman- 4-H Extension Educator**

Late April Sophia attended a curriculum committee meeting with 4-H publishing in Columbus, Sophia also had her performance review with her supervisor Pam Montgomery.

On May 1st Sophia held QA test-out. 5 kids registered only 3 showed to take the test. May 2nd Sophia attended WHIZ Live at Noon to interview and talk about 4-H Camp Counselor training. May 5th Sophia volunteered to help with Real Money Real World in Muskingum County for West M Middle School also will help with RMRW on May 16th at East Muskingum Middle School. May 6th Sophia attended a STEAM design team meeting. So far this month Sophia has attended Sale Committee, 4-H Committee, Older Youth In Training and Junior Leader meetings.

Sophia is preparing for Cloverbud Day Camp, Project Judging and 4-H Camp at this point!

#### **Pam Montgomery-4-H/FCS Extension Educator and Area Leader**

In the past month she has been working with 4-H Camp Counselors to complete the annual required training and on developing their Luau theme for 4-H Camp. She is currently planning the Camp Counselor Camp to be held at Camp Hervida on June 5th and 6th. 4-H Fashion board held their 4th meeting May 5th and putting the skills they have learned together to make pillowcases.

CARTEEN members presented their second program of year on April 29th and received positive feedback from participants. She assisted Sophia Whisman and Alivia Mock with Cloverbud Stem Day on April 25th.

Pam Montgomery attends the monthly Morgan County Family and Children First Council meetings and serves as the current chair of the council.

In the Family and Consumer Sciences program area Pam is looking forward to upcoming programs and exploring new ways to advertise programs being offered. She is still working with her co-presenter to set a schedule for Matter of Balance to be offered later in the year.

As the Area Leader for Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, and Washington Counties she continues to have one-on-one meetings with the staff members she is supervising in the counties, attends staff meetings, and Extension Advisory Committee meetings when requested. She also attends 2 monthly Area Leader Zoom meetings. April and May have been busy with annual Performance Reviews with all the staff members in Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, and Washington Counties. She is busy onboarding the new Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator in Washington County, TJ Wells.

**Betsy Ellingsworth- SNAP-Ed Coordinator/Educator**

Betsy is collaborating with the Morgan United Ministries foodbank in Malta and offered recipes for recipients of food commodity boxes to aid them with how to use the items they received in Stockport & Chesterhill on May 7 and in Malta on May 14.

She is concluding the “Spring has Sprung” nutrition series at the Senior Center at the end of May which took place every Tuesday at 11am. She offered nutritional handouts at the Morgan County Senior Health Resource Fair at the Malta Youth Building on May 2 and provided nutritional handouts for the Community Baby Shower held on May 3.

At the end of May she is also concluding a weekly nutrition series at Allwell Behavioral Health to those who attend a group meeting.

There is a monthly series currently offered at JFS to help SNAP recipients with food budgeting and shopping.

Betsy has been at Morgan South & Morgan East Elementary for programming with the kindergarten- 2nd grade students at each school and is finishing up these programs at the end of May.

Betsy is also doing monthly SNAP-Ed programs at the Head Start parent meetings in Malta and is attending the Head Start Family Night to offer indirect programming on May 22.

She attended the FCFC meeting with Pam Montgomery on May 9 and attended the annual SNAP-Ed conference in Columbus on May 14. She also attended a PSE PEARS training in Columbus on April 23.

**Jordan Penrose- Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator**

In April Jordan gave his monthly TV interview on WHIZ News, discussing upcoming events, farm safety, Callery pear trees, and checking pastures after the drought. Jordan taught Soils and

Lawns for the new Master Gardener class in Belmont County. He also taught about ag safety, a day in the wood, and invasive pests during the Morgan Master Gardeners monthly meeting. Jordan also held a Farmers Market Vendor meeting to discuss rule and regulations of the upcoming 2025 season for the Farmers Market. He also attended the Morgan SWCD bus trip. Jordan also worked with ODA to host a pesticide testing locating at the office where people needing to get their license to use pesticides could test, with 16 people taking the tests. In May Jordan with the Master Gardeners, Twin City Opera House, and Kate Love Simpson Library, had the Master Gardeners Spring Talk about Birdie Big Year Elevating Women Birders by Tiffany Kersten. Jordan has also participated in various meetings, such as the weekly corn call meeting, bi-weekly between the rows meetings, monthly beef team meeting, and monthly forage team meeting, to share updates about crops, forages, livestock, and drought conditions in Morgan County with his coworkers around the state.

#### **Alivia Mock- Extension Educator Coordinator**

Alivia has completed onboarding training requirements and has begun to help with programing in all three areas. Alivia also attended the Extension Advisory Meeting in April.

4-H – Aliva has been posting weekly Cloverbud recourses on the website and has put together 5 activity kits that can be signed out by clubs to use at their meetings with Cloverbuds. Alivia assisted with Quality Assurance at the High School and Cloverbud STEAM Day in April. Alivia attended the 4-H Advisory meeting as well. Alivia will be providing education on identifying and addressing concerns of child abuse and neglect to the 4-H Camp Counselors during Camp Counselor Training in July. Alivia will be doing a nutrition activity with the Smoothie Bike at 4-H Camp with the campers in July as well.

ANR – Alivia has been assisting with programming for the Master Gardner’s and has attended two MGV meetings. Alivia attended the Farmers Market Vendor meeting and will be at the Farmers Market on the 15<sup>th</sup> for the first market of the season. Alivia also completed the Person in Charge training that was required by the health department for the Farmers Market.

FCS – Alivia completed a Sun Safety Training and provided Sun Safety Education and Dermascan Programming in Gurnsey County. Alivia will be at the Morgan County Farm Bureau

Safety Meeting at the end of the month providing sun safety education and Dermascan programing. Alivia worked a station at a Real Money Real World program at Waterford High School and will be coordinating with the educators in Morgan County to host Real Money Real World in Morgan County next school year.

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***Shannon Wells, Development Office***

Adam Shriver attended the Malta Council meeting on May 15, 2025 on behalf of Shannon Wells.

Two bids were received on May 15, 2025 for the airport runway lighting project and need tabled for review by the engineer.

Jess Howard Electric Base Bid \$444,009.50

J. Ranck Electric Base Bid \$681,359.75

**25-253-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to table the airport runway lighting project.

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

The welcome sign on SR60 North is being installed today by Xpressive Graphics.

**25-254-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve entering into a contract with Roxsol LLC for the design of two NPDES systems.

The following addresses will be provided services:

1775 S. St. Rt.377 Stockport, OH 43787 (Daryl and Judith Woodruff)

6161 N. St. Rt. 60 NW McConnelsville, OH 43756 (Shawn Richards)

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

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***Jeff Michaels; Elaine Flesher, Health Department***

**Building condemnation, emergency response, and budget/payment process issues**

- **Emergency condemnation of building on Main Street**  
Discussion of the emergency board meeting held on May 16th at 4:00 PM regarding the condemnation of a building for human habitation due to safety concerns, presence of children, and engineer's report. Utilities were turned off and all tenants were served notice.
- **Communication with tenants and service agencies**  
Efforts to coordinate with Children's Services, Red Cross, United Way, and Salvation Army to provide support for displaced tenants, including families with children and homeless individuals.
- **Utility and structural issues in condemned building**  
Discussion of water leak resulting in a \$17,000 water bill, arcing wires, and water in the basement, contributing to the decision to condemn the building.
- **Legal process and motions during condemnation**  
Board members discussed the legal motions (five in total) required for condemnation, ensuring all actions were properly documented and legally compliant.
- **Budget increase and payment timing (6% increase)**  
Debate over the timing of a 6% budget increase, with confusion about why the increase will not be received until 2026, and whether the Budget Commission approved this delay.
- **Discrepancies in budget and payment records**  
Ongoing issues with mismatched budget sheets, lack of access to complete county records, and difficulties reconciling PRS and Medicare accounts between the health department and auditor's office.
- **Approval process for health department bills**  
Uncertainty over whether health department bills require commissioner signatures for payment, with conflicting information about established procedures and authority.
- **Public communication and board responsibilities**  
Clarification that board members should not answer public health or environmental questions directly, but refer inquiries to the health department.
- **Documentation and meeting minutes accuracy**  
Concerns raised about incomplete or inaccurate meeting minutes, specifically regarding motions and votes not being properly recorded.
- **Community relations and public perception**  
Discussion of public frustration with communication from the health department and the need for improved public relations.

**Inter-agency cooperation, financial autonomy, transparency, and operational challenges in health department management.**

- **Financial Autonomy and Bill Approval**  
Discussion about the health department's autonomy in approving its own bills and budget, referencing a 46-year precedent and the lack of need for auditor approval unless legally changed.
- **Commissioners' Questions on Equipment and Spending**  
Commissioners questioned the necessity and categorization of equipment purchases.

- **Grant Management and Equipment Distribution**  
Clarification that five badge makers (printers) were purchased through an MRC grant and distributed to four other counties as part of a regional initiative.
- **Audit and Reporting Challenges**  
Ongoing difficulties in extracting specific payroll and deduction reports from a new system, especially for health department-only data, and the need to possibly use county-wide reports.
- **Board Structure and Meeting Frequency**  
Clarification that board members are appointed by the DAC, not commissioners, and that the board meets only once a year, with lengthy minutes produced for each meeting.
- **Transparency and Public Information**  
Discussion on the importance of making board meeting minutes and reports accessible online to improve transparency and public understanding.
- **Funding Limitations**  
Acknowledgement of insufficient funding for many initiatives, with staff pushing to accomplish tasks regardless of financial constraints.
- **Misunderstandings and Perceptions of Health Department Role**  
Examples of misunderstandings among officials and the public about the health department's responsibilities, including food safety and broader public health activities.

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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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***Tammy Ray, Concerned Citizen; Becky Thompson, Dog Warden***

**Conflict among volunteers and staff at the dog pound**

There was a heated discussion regarding ongoing interpersonal conflicts between volunteers and staff, particularly involving Ms. Ray, Mrs. Thompson and Kelly Caldwell. Ms. Ray expressed frustration, claiming to be unfairly targeted and harassed by Mrs. Thompson and Ms. Caldwell and stated a desire to clear the air and avoid drama or confrontation. Mrs. Thompson denied making negative comments or harassing Ms. Ray. The conflict included accusations of exclusion, negative remarks, and blame for past issues.

**Volunteer participation and access to the dog pound**

Ms. Ray questioned whether she was excluded from volunteering at the dog pound, emphasizing her status as a taxpayer and purchaser of dog tags. Ms. Ray stated their intention was solely to help Julie and the dogs, not to cause problems, and mentioned bringing family members who also wanted to volunteer. There was uncertainty about the authority to exclude volunteers and the official policy regarding volunteer participation. She asserted their right to be present and help.

### **Support for Julie and the work at the dog pound**

Ms. Ray repeatedly praised Julie and the two girls working at the dog pound, describing them as the best thing that has happened to the facility and commending their dedication and hard work. She expressed appreciation for the challenging nature of the job and described bringing materials, such as fencing, to help improve the facility and support the dogs' well-being, specifically so Julie could let a dog run in a secure area.

### **Procedures and policies regarding volunteer involvement**

There was discussion about whether there are established procedures or policies for volunteer involvement at the dog pound.

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### **Transfers, Then & Now, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications**

**25-255-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve a supplemental appropriation of \$500.00 to expense line 001-1501-5315.00 State Vendors License Fee. The amount of \$2,000.00 from the unallocated Grant Funds to miscellaneous Expense line item #023-2025-5307.00.

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

**25-256-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to transfer money from 063-0063-5102-00 to 063-00635309.00 in the amount of \$5,000.00.

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

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**25-257-** 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**

**25-258-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting Tuesday, May 19, 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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