

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, July 21, 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

The commissioners did the following over the past week:

Commissioner Best attended an American 250 meeting Tuesday. He also attended a meeting at the Health Department Thursday.

Commissioner Mayle attended a Jail Board meeting Thursday.

25-360- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of July 14, 2025.

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

Al Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance

Bragg's started installing new carpet and as of Friday 12-27-24 the conference rooms on the 2nd and 3rd 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 are starting 7-18-25

Advance Heating and Cooling has found the Compressor and Condenser for RTU 3 and Quote has been signed and parts are ordered. 7-14-25

All mowing was completed on 7-16-25

Courthouse Clock has stopped working, checked breakers and switches. Jason Pierce checked the motors and one of the two motors isn't working, it has been removed and Jason is taking it to Zanesville to Nichols Electrical to see if it can be repaired. 7-8-25

Custard Insurance Adjusters (Shane Mott) was on site to do an estimate on the lower roof of the Riecker Building and will send the Quote forward. 7-3-25

Elevator problem from 7-14 25 has been fixed and Kone Elevator Company has been called to schedule the service and Pressure Release Test in August.

RTU 1 Has been temporarily repaired and awaiting New Compressor fan motor that was ordered 7-17-25

Fire Alarm Unit Replacement

An old 220 unit was replaced with a new 120 unit, which required a new breaker and line. There was a mention of potentially running it off an extension cord.

Heidi Burns, JFS

25-361- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to hereby resolve that: Pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, Section 3125.13 and 3125.14 of the Ohio Revised Code and rule 5101.12—10—45 and its supplemental rules of the Ohio Administration Code promulgated by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Morgan County CSEA is authorized to contract with public or private agencies for the purchase of services. The particular resolution will allow for extradition services with Morgan County Sheriff's Office.

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

WIOA Area met all the performance metrics for PY23.

Busy next two weeks because of meeting, back to school bash, and back to school shopping starting.

Julie Gridley, Pound Keeper

Strays: Three

Surrounded: One

Adoptions: One

Transfer of Ownership: Eight

Our pit bull puppies were taken to Mom's and Pups in Canton

Donations: One bag of dog food, eight cases of food. Two boxes of dog bones.

Dogs at the Pound: We currently have 19 dogs. We are full and cannot take anymore dogs.

Volunteers: Thank you so much Tammy, Janette and Cindy for helping Friday the 11th of July. They bathed puppies so we could get them transported to the rescue. Helped with the pound cleaning and feeding. Thank you to everyone else who helped take care of the pound while I was dealing with a family medical emergency.

Dog Adoption and Transfers

Mrs. Gridley discussed the process of adopting out dogs, noting that a specific dog was adopted by a lady, though she usually sends pictures of adopted dogs. She also mentioned beagle puppies, most of whom have already been adopted and are set to go on the 30th. It was also mentioned having gotten rid of five dogs in August, and currently only has two dogs remaining,

Logistics and Transportation

It was addressed challenges in transporting dogs, particularly large dogs, stating an inability to transport them in an open vehicle and that it would be tight in their current vehicle. Transfers are supposed to be completed by July 31st.

Facility and Maintenance Issues

Mrs. Gridley described problems with the greenhouse, where a dog was caught, and issues with water drainage, which is suspected to be a drainage problem requiring the use of a shop vac after disinfecting dogs pens. There were also issues with boxes that were left in the middle, with a dog peeing everywhere, including on two large boxes that were behind two kennels.

Funding and Account Management

The need was discussed to open a new account for local donations, explaining that whatever is donated needs to go into a general fund to help with funding and to address a negative balance. They noted that they haven't opened the account yet and were supposed to have a meeting. Mrs. Gridley also mentioned the requirement for federal status and confirmed that a grant was not received, which needs to be addressed. She also expressed concerns about acting under two people's names on the account.

Medical and Welfare Concerns

Mrs. Gridley mentioned a dog that was healing but did not receive its medicine. The discussion also touched upon the need for a general fund to support welfare, as donations are intended to help with founding and taking away the negative balance, implicitly covering medical and care needs.

Steve Redrup, EMA Director

- 7/10/25 Meeting with Chief Smedley, reference updating the EMA records on resources available within the county.
- Called Muskingum County EMA reference a meeting 7/22/25, meeting is canceled and will be rescheduled.
- Followed up on radio reprogramming, Muskingum EMA says they are waiting for two more counties to bring in their radios.
- Scheduled Regional EMA meeting for 9/19/25 at Ross County EMA.

EMA Resource Update and Inventory

[Mr. Redrup discussed updating the EMA resources available within the county. He received a good list from one county fire department and asked other county fire departments for the same information, including details on agents, apparatus, and pumping capabilities, to understand the available resources within the county.

Boater Certificates and Legal Compliance

He addressed the need for boater certificates under Ohio law, clarifying there is no exemption for fire departments for boating. In departments involved in flooding incidents or similar situations that have over 10 [operators/units, implied], anyone operating a boat needs to be updated. Individuals born before January 1st, 1982, are grandfathered, but those born after that date will need to be addressed, which is an ongoing task.

Regional Coordination and Radio Programming

Mr. Redrup mentioned that a meeting with Muskingum County, which was called just this morning, was canceled. He also followed up on radio programming already completed. The county is currently waiting for two more counties to bring their radios, and a regional meeting has been scheduled with the county to address this.

EMA Vehicle Maintenance and Compliance

It was highlighted that the EMA vehicle needs to be compliant, specifically noting a broken taillight as a legality issue. He stated that he can order the taillight and install it.

Sophia Wiseman, OSU Extension

Sophia Whisman- 4-H Extension Educator

June 16th Sophia held Cloverbud Day Camp. This camp was planned by the OYIT and JL. There were 7 OYIT presents and 10 cloverbuds attended, Pam Montgomery and Alivia Mock assisted. At the end of June Sophia attended Junior Fair Board and Senior Fair Board meetings. She also wrote an article for the herald. On July 9th Sophia held Project Judging for our still projects. A total of 70 registrations for this event. July 13th-July 18th Sophia will be at 4-H Camp serving as the assistant camp director and leading nature themed rotations for the youth. Pam Montgomery and Alivia Mock will also be in attendance.

Sophia continues to prep for Skillathon and working on updating Fair Entry for our fair.

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

4-H activities for the past month include assisting Sophia Whisman with Cloverbud Day Camp on June 16 at the fairgrounds and 4-H Project Judging on July 9. She worked with a sub-committee of the 4-H Advisory Committee to evaluate and update the 4-H Honor club process. She provided leadership to Morgan County 4-H Camp July 14-18 with 12 camp counselors, 4-H volunteers serving as camp nurse, camp cooks, and Dean of men. She was pleased that 4-H Educator, Sophia Whisman served as Assistant Camp Director, and Program Coordinator, Alivia Mock, had an opportunity to present to all campers. A total of 52 campers joined the adult staff and camp counselors.

Area Leader activities over the past month include one-on-one meetings with staff members in Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, and Washington Counties. She is also working with new staff members to learn their responsibilities

Betsy Ellingsworth- SNAP-Ed Coordinator/Educator

Betsy is collaborating with the Morgan County United Ministries (MCUM) foodbank in Malta and offered recipes for recipients of food commodity boxes to aid them with how to use the items they received on July 2 in Stockport & Chesterhill and on July 9 in Malta. She also has partnered with the Farm to Family mobile food pantry to provide nutritional information weekly as participants receive their food.

She has launched the Senior Summer Seafood Adventures nutrition series at the Senior Center which takes place in July through August on Tuesdays at 11am.

There is a monthly series currently offered at JFS to help SNAP recipients with food budgeting and shopping, and it was last held on June 25.

Betsy is offering nutrition programming at Kate Love Simpson Library at the Mom & Tot Storytime and at the Pre-School Storytime.

She is at the Morgan County Farmer's Market monthly to distribute recipes and nutritional resources to those who attend.

Betsy is also offering programming each Tuesday at the Board of Developmental Disabilities' Summer Camp for children.

Jordan Penrose- Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator

In June, Jordan had his monthly TV interview on WHIZ News and discussed upcoming events, baleage, and a general ag update. Jordan also attended the National Association of County Agriculture Agents Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in Billings Montana, at the end of June and into the beginning of July. Jordan had two poster presentations at the conference. Jordan also helped Garth Ruff with a meat judging contest. Jordan also started year two of his Mechanical Control of Johnsongrass research project and is now taking measurements once a month, and mowing twice a month, following the same treatments as last year that were set up for the project. He has been checking insect traps in corn fields on five different farms that have partnered with him to monitor corn earworm and western bean cutworm. Jordan has also continued to participate 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

In the month of June Alivia assisted with Quality Assurance for the 4H members with Sophia and Jordan. Alivia provided training on identifying and addressing child abuse and neglect in a camp setting with the camp counselors during their camp counselor training. Alivia assisted with Colverbud Day Camp and maintained Cloverbud resources for the clubs to utilize. Alivia also assisted Sophia with two educational events at the MCBDD summer camp.

In the month of June Alivia assisted with maintaining the Morgan County Famers Market each Thursday and assisted vendors and customers as needed. Alivia also assisted with checking LEP bug traps for ANR Educator Penrose while they were at the national conference in Wyoming.

Alivia attended a round table meeting with Ohio Southeast as a representative of OSU Extension to learn of resources available to the county.

Pam Montgomery, OSU Extension

Proposal to Hire a Temporary Employee

Mrs. Mongomery proposed hiring Betsy Ellingsworth, whose SNAP-Ed position is being eliminated within the next four weeks, as a full-time temporary Family and Consumer Science Program Assistant using levy funds. The plan involves expanding her role to include generation and family and consumer science for age programs for her school enrichment, thereby expanding the organization's work and presence in schools. The position will be advertised externally for one week on the OSU job site, with language in the description indicating a preferred internal candidate to manage expectations for other applicants.

Justification and Community Support for the Candidate

Ms. Ellingsworth is highly valued by principals, teachers at elementary schools, and the senior citizen center, all of whom utilize her regularly. She also works with the DD board camp, doing 15 to 20 activities. Children know her as 'the vegetable lady' or 'the fruit lady'. She is described as vibrant, enthusiastic, and always where she is supposed to be. The principals love her, and senior citizens appreciate her work. Betsy loves her relocation to Morgan County, being part of the community, and serving its people. Her husband works locally, and she wishes to continue working where she lives.

Hiring Process, Approvals, and Funding

Ms. Montgomery sought permission from the commissioners, as they are responsible for the levy funds, emphasizing a desire to avoid surprising them. The position must be advertised externally, but not on public social media, to be fair to other potential local candidates, with advertising

limited to the OSU job site for one week. Funding for the position is secure until 2028. The speaker also noted that the advisory committee would be informed.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

25-362- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve entering into a contract with Singree Construction for \$15,900.00 for the Home Sewage Treatment System Program Contract 24-5C for the replacement of one septic system. Two quotes were received on this project from Shriver Excavating for \$23,500 and Singree Construction for \$15,900.00. This resolution will be contingent upon funding.

The following address will be provided services:

1775 S. St. Rt. 377 Stockport, OH 43787 (Woodruff) (Septic Replacement)

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

25-363- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve entering into a contract with Lepi Enterprises for \$6,840.00 for the asbestos abatement located at 3310 Water Street Stockport, OH 43787. This was the only quote received. Quotes were requested from EnviroHab, Lepi and Hina Enterprises.

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

Shannon Wells met with Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Corrections on July 17, 2025 to discuss the staffing needs to re-open the county jail once the renovations have been complete. Commissioner Mayle, Commissioner Maxwell, Commissioner Best and Sheriff Fisher were in attendance for the meeting as well.

Shannon Wells will be attending a quarterly meeting of the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance in Caldwell on July 25, 2025.

Patrick Kidd, Engineer's Office

Bid Openings—Motor Paving on Roads 14,38,101 & 62.

Shelly & Company--\$825,125.17

25-364-- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to table the bid.

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

Mike Norman, Matt Perry, Genesis

Healthcare service innovation, educational program enhancement, and financial restructuring for sustainability

Genesis Service Innovation and Home Care Model

Discussion on exploring a new, larger, and better approach to healthcare delivery, specifically for "taking care of a home at Genesis." Emphasis was placed on integrating economic and business development benefits. The challenge in Morgan County is that its population is not large enough to support a traditional freestanding outpatient center model, unlike Perry County which serves a population of about 35,000 compared to 14,000.

Tech School Revitalization

A key concern was raised about saving the local tech school, which is a vital part of the community. Issues include budget cuts at the school district impacting vocational programs such as trades. The unique benefits of having a T&I (Trade & Industry) program housed directly on the high school campus were highlighted, as it allows students to participate in all aspects of high school life while learning a trade, enabling them to enter the workforce profitably upon graduation.

Healthcare Educational Partnerships

Ideas were exchanged regarding partnering with nearby high schools and technical programs (e.g., Perry County, Mid-East) to offer courses in LPN, STNA, phlebotomy, nursing, laboratory, radiology, and respiratory therapy. The aim is to provide students a jumpstart into healthcare careers, potentially allowing them to skip initial college years, and to foster workforce development through early certifications and alternative educational pathways. Genesis provides additional funding to these programs.

HealthyPAP/Healthy Path Insurance Product

A level-funded health insurance product named HealthyPAP (also referred to as Healthy Path) was presented. This product, in development for a couple of years and currently covering 600

lives (employees), is designed to reduce healthcare costs, particularly pharmaceutical expenses, by disaggregating the healthcare insurance process and removing hidden fees. It targets local employers, ranging from those with 5 employees up to those with 300 employees, with an example citing potential savings of about \$1,000,000 annually for a school system. It functions as a product directly linking Genesis with employers, not as a traditional health insurance company, ensuring transparency.

Medicaid Cuts and Provider Tax Adjustments

The discussion covered recent Medicaid cuts, specifically the impact of the OB-BBA (Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) which reduces Medicaid funding over the next 10 years. It also addressed the impact of provider taxes on healthcare funding. It was noted that Ohio currently operates at 3.4% of revenue from provider taxes with a cap of 6%. Genesis has implemented a local provider tax strategy to reach the 6% cap, which is expected to significantly increase their Medicaid funding for the next several years, with a projected decline not starting until 2028. Additional concerns included how new work requirements for able-bodied individuals might lead to loss of insurance, and the need for coordinated assistance with health and human service agencies to help people navigate this process.

Healthcare reimbursement adjustments and EMS service integration

Medicare Reimbursement Adjustments

Discussion focused on the implications of a new bill that would adjust Medicaid reimbursements. Currently, Genesis receives about 70 cents on the dollar compared to Medicare rates. The bill aims to bring all providers up to 100% of Medicare reimbursement, meaning Genesis would see an increase. Conversely, some providers currently receiving \$1.40 for a service would see their reimbursement reduced to \$1.00. This change will redistribute Medicaid dollars, potentially increasing reimbursement for rural independent providers like Genesis, who have historically received lower rates, due to a shift in Ohio's political landscape favoring the preservation of rural independent organizations.

EMS and Immediate Care Integration Model

The team explored a potential model to combine EMS services with an immediate care system. This integrated service aims to treat a higher percentage of patients locally, reducing transfers to main campuses. For example, Perry County's emergency department processes about 18,000 to 19,000 visits annually, transferring roughly 90 to 100 patients per month (about 1,100 patients

per year or roughly 6% of cases) to the main campus. The goal is to achieve a similar low transfer rate in Morgan County by treating 90% of cases locally. The discussion included leveraging advanced point-of-care testing and noted that Morgan County already invests approximately \$1 million annually in EMS, an investment that could be redirected to support this enhanced, integrated service.

Operational Efficiency in EMS and Data Requirements

There was a discussion on methods to improve EMS operational efficiency, aiming to reduce service downtime (e.g., from three hours, as experienced in Perry County, to a more efficient two hours or less). The need for a comprehensive data review of EMS runs, including patient outcomes, and public transit usage patterns was emphasized to inform logistical and service adjustments for the proposed integrated model.

Public Transportation Oversight

Brief mention was made regarding the public transportation program, overseen by Mrs. Wells, who offered to provide data on patient destinations and usage patterns. This program, recently rebranded, is the main provider of public transit and is relevant to the overall discussion on community services, particularly for supporting non-emergency transport needs.

Collaboration on EMS integration, non-emergency transport solutions, and expanded mental health services to support community recovery in a post-COVID context.

EMS Integration and Service Expansion

Discussion focused on integrating EMS services with other healthcare offerings, including virtual specialist visits and the strategic use of emergency vehicles. The concept involves combining EMS, which operates 24/7, with immediate care to create a comprehensive system. This integration would leverage Genesis's larger system, allowing for backfilling and pre-positioning of EMS trucks from locations like Zanesville and Perry County, to ensure continuous coverage and improve operational efficiency in Morgan County, even if local units are out of service.

Mental Health Services Enhancement

Talk centered on addressing the under-resourced mental health crisis, identified as the second highest community health need (after substance abuse) in a recent Morgan Public Health assessment. Genesis is making significant investments, including the development of a 10-bed youth crisis intervention center (renovating an unused wing of their behavioral health inpatient

unit) and expanding behavioral health facilities, leveraging recently acquired grants. The discussion highlighted the widespread impact of mental health issues (affecting 25% or more of the population.)

Collaboration with Public Transit and Occupational Medicine

The discussion highlighted potential partnerships with public transit for non-emergency patient pickups, including dialysis runs, and its role in reducing unnecessary emergency room visits by transporting non-emergency patients. The proposed integrated center would also include occupational medicine services, such as drug testing, aiming to optimize resource use and improve healthcare accessibility for employers and the community.

Pay Scale Standardization and Staffing Coordination

Participants emphasized that all staff across regions (e.g., Zanesville, Perry County, & Morgan County) adhere to one corporate pay scale. This standardization supports fairness and equity, as individuals performing the same task receive the same pay regardless of location. It also enhances staffing coordination by promoting mobility and rotational staffing between branches, alleviating resource constraints and ensuring personnel are available where needed.

Data Analysis and Resource Allocation

There was a call for comprehensive data collection on EMS and public transit operations to support efficient resource allocation and service network expansion. This includes detailed information on EMS runs (e.g., vehicle counts, run numbers, hot vs. non-hot runs, geographic service areas, and revenue figures), as well as public transit usage patterns and destinations. It was noted that Morgan County owns the EMS vehicles, and the EMS service operates as a non-profit.

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

Advanced Heating and Cooling returned to troubleshoot and fix a condenser fan on RTU-1. The failed fan was directly over one of the larger compressor and caused the whole system to overheat. The fan was replaced and RTU-1 was returned to normal operations.

On the morning of July 20, 2025, the Sheriff's office reported that the phones throughout the Sheriff's office building were not working properly. They had difficulty making outgoing calls and all calls sounded terrible. The phone system was

rebooted and the phones returned to normal operations. Advanced Business Communications was contacted about a possible replacement for the phones system's processor card.

The deployment of new e-mail accounts throughout the County continues, though slower than initially planned.

The new voice over IP (VOIP) phones were ordered for Monroe County Transit. The plan is to have them sent to the Riecker Building for configuration before they are deployed in Monroe County.

The IT Director met with GloFiber about the installation of fiber Internet at the Sheriff's office for 911.

The IT Director met with Equivant about the new CourtView deployment for County and Common Pleas Courts.

The IT Director asked the Commissioners for clarification on the disposition of excess equipment. The question of whether equipment that was declared excess by one office and then reused for testing purposes needed to be declared again prior to disposition. The Commissioners confirmed that once equipment is declared excess, it can be disposed of per the County's disposition policy.

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

https://www.morgancounty-oh.gov/dog_warden_reports.html

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

25-365-- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following supplemental appropriations for fund 113Morgan County Public Transit:

Monroe County Driver's Salary	113-0113-5102-05	\$26,000.00
Monroe County Admin Salary	113-0113-5102-06	\$10,000.00
Noble County Driver's PERS	113-0113-5367.03	\$ 9,000.00
Noble County Dispatcher PERS	113-0113-5367.04	\$ 8,000.00
Monroe County Driver's PERS	113-0113-5367.05	\$15,000.00
Monroe County Admin PERS	113-0113-5367.06	\$ 6,000.00

Monroe County Driver Medicare	113-0113-5368.05	\$ 2,000.00
Monroe County Admin Medicare	113-0113-5368.06	\$ 1,000.00
Monroe County Insurance	113-0113-5371-05	\$10,000.00
Monroe Admin Insurance	113-0113-5371.06	\$ 6,000.00

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

25-366--- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to request new revenue line items for Morgan County Public Transit Fund 113:

113-0113-4001-01	Monroe County Fares
113-0113-4002-02	Monroe County Contracts
113-0113-4005-02	Monroe County JFS
113-0113-4012-02	Monroe County Donations

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

25-367- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to request supplemental appropriations for fund 110 CDBG:

B-C-21-1CA-2:	110-2021-5305-00--\$15,264.00
B-C-21-1CA-1:	110-2021-5303-00--\$30,211.00

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

25-368- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioner's meeting on Monday at 4:00pm.

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

Cecil Mayle, President

Heidi Maxwell, Vice-President

Steven Best, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

