

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Tuesday, August 11, 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:

The commissioners attended a COG—and a hardhat ceremony at the new Visitor’s Center on Monday.

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**25-399-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of August 5, 2025.

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

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***Al Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance***

Carpet installation has been completed, except for the Development Office. 7-20-25

Advance Heating and Cooling has replaced the Compressor and Condenser on RTU 3 and it’s up and operational 8-7-25

All mowing was completed on 8-6-25

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 Jason Pierce said that the rebuild of the clock motor will cost around \$1800. 7-23-25

Took Toyota Van to Carter Locke for air conditioner repair. A/C has been repaired and the van has been returned. 8-8-25

Apperson’s replaced broken water line in the Courthouse basement, water had been running before the building was opened Monday morning. 8-4-25

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***Heidi Burns, JFS Director***

**25-400-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the mandated share for State Fiscal Year 2026 is \$41,313.00. The August 2025 in \$3,442.75.

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

1. Travel Requests

- Heidi Burns & Joe Frazier to Senecaville on 8/4/25 for a COG/WDB Meeting
- Heidi Burns to Zanesville on 8/5/25 for a monthly East Central JFS Meeting
- Heidi Burns to Athens on 8/11/25 to Habitat to look at a training site
- Heidi Burns to Perrysville on 8/14-8/15/25 for a monthly OJFSDA Board Meeting
- Joe Frazier to Marysville on 9/9/25 for an ODJFS HR Association Meeting
- Aliah Encinias, Anastasia Nicholas, and Nicholas McGrew to Athens on 8/6/25 for Case Documentation training

2. Back to School program ended and went well – we served 603 kids and 364 families

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***Steve Redrup, EMA Director***

- Continued work on (HMP) Hazardous Mitigation Plan for Morgan County
- Meeting with the Motorola
- Assisted departments with new ID cards
- Distributed PPE
- Continued training

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**Hazardous Mitigation Plan (HMP) Progress**

Mr. Redrup reported ongoing work on the Hazardous Mitigation Plan, including attending a meeting with Motorola and assisting county departments with ID cards and PPE distribution. Training requirements for the job are also being addressed.

**Federal Training Completion**

He also completed one of the federally required classes.

**Drone Usage Over Sheriff's Office**

There was an inquiry about the possibility of flying a drone over the sheriff's office. It was confirmed drones are available at the office and can be used with Mr. Redrup's blessing, noting the airspace is not restricted and suggesting it could be used for a road inspection.

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***John Wilt, 911 Coordinator***

## **Budget & Financial Adjustments**

Discussion focused on the 9-1-1 budget shortfalls in the salary area due to the addition of extra personnel, as the initial calculations were not quite right. Projections were based on 16 pays, averaging the last four pays when the Sheriff's Office costs had leveled out and become consistent, then projecting forward for 10 pays to determine exact needs. The conversation confirmed that PERS and Medicare payments for both employees and the speaker have already exceeded the budget. This situation is leading to a planned supplemental funding request, with the money expected to be available later this month or early September from levy proceeds.

## **Property and Grants Initiatives**

Talk centered on the ongoing property saga, including a letter of intent to apply for the Amler Grant, which is in the recipient's name, and a separate USDA grant application. Additionally, the utility setup for a new site was discussed, including the location of hydrants, water, sewer, and the possibility of fiber already being present on 607.

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*John Telesz, Engineer*

## **Site and Infrastructure Planning**

The meeting covered issues related to site layout for a potential new 911 facility and adjacent yard waste management. Topics included using a drone, possibly operated by Steve, to survey the yard waste area to get a lay of the land, as it's currently hard to see when driving by. The yard waste is currently out in the road and has been pushed back multiple times this summer, now clear down into the driveway. Planning for the installation of an orange fence with stakes and a closed sign along the road was discussed, as people are not respecting the current closure. Challenges posed by existing infrastructure and land use were addressed, such as the question of whether to have 911 and yard waste in the "front yard," and the need for a tub grinder to process the waste, with Mike Reiter and Alan Adkins being potential contacts for equipment and assistance. Large logs were also noted outside the gate.

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*Shannon Wells, Development Office*

Shannon Wells applied to Ohio Department of Transportation for the Workforce Mobility grant for two additional vehicles in the fleet on August 8, 2025.

A van will be delivered today with new graphics for Buckeye Southeast Transit. The press release and photo will be sent to the Herald.

A meeting will be held today, August 11, 2025 at 1:15 to begin the jail design process.

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## **Conference Call, Conference Call ARC Project Eligibility, Application Process, and Funding Procedures**

### **Project Ineligibility Due to Missing OAKS ID**

Concerns were raised about a \$2.3 million ARC project being deemed ineligible because the OAKS ID was not listed, despite \$1.6 million in matching funds and the project's priority status. The process of obtaining the OAKS ID was in process, but the omission led to the project being tossed out.

### **Clarification on Application Process and Scoring**

Mrs. Wells questioned whether the lack of an OAKS ID should have resulted in immediate disqualification, noting that they believed the OAKS ID was not necessary for the pre-application stage and there would be time to obtain it before a full application or grant award. Mrs. Wells also referenced attending a webinar and reviewing slides, but did not recall any explicit mention of this requirement or scoring related to it. It was explained that changes this year require projects to be ready for full application, and that incomplete submissions, such as those without an OAKS ID, are no longer accepted, a practice also adopted by other districts.

### **Project List and Funding Status**

Mrs. Wells requested access to the project list to verify if the ineligible project was still included. It was confirmed the project remains on the list but clarified it would not be considered for funding this year due to the missing OAKS ID and increased pushback against flexible submissions.

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## ***Jason Peirce, Peirce Electric***

### **Clock Mechanism Evaluation and Replacement**

It was discussed the evaluation of an old clock mechanism. The existing mechanism has a 5/16<sup>th</sup> shaft and an electric plate dated 1945, but it *doesn't* have the required two RPMs, which is a key

consideration for replacement. They discussed the process of replacing or upgrading it, including the wiring, switches, and the physical setup across different floors. One option considered was a set from Massachusetts.

### **Power Supply and Resetting Issues**

The power requirements were addressed for the clock, noting options of 120, 115, or 230 volts, with a cost difference of a few hundred dollars per part. The challenge was highlighted of frequent and constant power outages, which significantly complicate resetting the clock. The discussion emphasized the difficulty of resetting the clock precisely, requiring specific adjustments like pulling pins and setting seconds.

### **Physical Layout and Maintenance Challenges**

Significant physical challenges of accessing and maintaining the clock were described due to the tight space and its considerable height. The mechanism is arranged across multiple floors, with the clock face one story above the setting, and the shaft extending up to the clock box. It was also mentioned the four-sided clock and the visible complexity of its gear system.

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*Amber Wilson, Senior Citizens Director*

### **Legal Aid for Tenants**

A legal aid session for tenants, provided by Legal Aid, will be held at the library on the 25th of the month. The topic is 'how to get your landlord to make repairs and obligations of the tenants'. This session is intended for everyone. Also, Mrs. Wells helped with its organization.

### **Flyer Printing**

The Development Office will print flyers for the event. It was noted that their office does not have a color printer and that while they don't always make flyers, they did for this event.

### **Equipment**

There was a discussion about potentially leasing new equipment versus continuing with their current owned equipment, which is four to five years old. Ms. Wilson mentioned that their current equipment receives service. No final decision was made regarding the equipment.

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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; Julie Bay; Larry Hostetler; Cindy Karp; Jane Cooper; Becky Thompson; Rick Welch, Animal Welfare*

### **Animal Welfare Facility Improvement**

#### **Dog Pound Conditions and Staffing Issues**

A detailed discussion was held about the poor conditions at the dog pound, Concerns were raised about inadequate exercise, mental stimulation, and overall animal welfare.

#### **Animal Welfare and Impact on Dog Behavior**

Participants discussed the negative impact of poor living conditions on the dogs' physical and mental health. The conversation highlighted that dogs, used as service animals, require regular exercise, sunlight, and mental stimulation to avoid rapid decline, emphasizing the need for improved care practices.

#### **Facility Improvements: Lighting and Fencing**

The meeting covered proposed facility upgrades including enhancements to the lighting and the installation of a bottom rail on the fence to improve safety and prevent dogs from sliding when eating.

#### **Volunteer Staffing and Resource Management**

Issues were raised regarding volunteer support and resource allocation. The conversation noted the pound keeper's assistant is scheduled to start training tomorrow with the aim that, once trained, they can manage independently. Additionally, questions were posed about the source and regularity of dog food donations from stores like Tractor Supply, Kroger, Dollar General, and Walmart.

#### **Dog Pound Management, Animal Welfare, and Policy Enforcement**

##### **Feeding Schedule and Nutritional Concerns**

The meeting reviewed changes in the feeding schedule from three times a day to once a day, issues of rapid eating, food waste, and subsequent aggression. It was noted that this departure from proper feeding practices can harm the dogs' health in both physical and behavioral aspects.

### **Treatment of the Mother Dog and Puppies**

Concerns were raised about the separation of a nursing mother from her puppies, including issues with sedation, improper care, and lack of adequate nourishment and water for the puppies. The handling of the situation by the employee was questioned. After review of camera footage, it was determined that the mother dog was escaping the kennel.

### **Dog Transportation and Rescue Procedures**

The dialogue covered the processes involved in transporting dogs to rescue facilities, including the use of chemical sedation and the proper role of veterinarians versus dog wardens. Discussion emphasized that sedation should comply with legal requirements and proper certification

### **Policy Revision and Compliance with Regulations**

Participants discussed the need for a revised policy addressing issues such as overcrowding, humane treatment, and the chemical capturing of animals. Specific reference was made to the Ohio Revised Code and certification requirements for administering sedatives.

### **Dog Shelter Operations and Funding Challenges**

#### **Funding, Licensing, and Revenue Strategies**

People expressed concerns over the Dog & Kennel Fund being in the red by at least \$35,000. Discussion included current revenue sources such as licensing fees, dog tag checks, citations, and fines. There was frustration over insufficient funds and the limitations of relying solely on these measures to sustain operations.

#### **Exploring Grant Opportunities for Funding Improvements**

Several speakers brought up the idea of seeking additional funding through grants. Specific mention was made of national grants, including opportunities from foundations founded by Bob Barker, to support struggling organizations in need of funds for improvements such as spay, neuter programs, and other operational enhancements.

### **Animal Shelter Operational Improvements**

#### **Funding and Grants for Animal Shelter**

Discussion on the importance of securing grant money and funding which must be used specifically for spay and neuter procedures.

#### **Legal and Financial Responsibilities for Humane Cases**

Discussion regarding the handling of animals coming into the facility under humane cases. Key points include directives not to name or treat the dog without a court order, as well as

arrangements for filing the proper paperwork and recouping incurred expenses through the court process.

## **Animal Rescue Medical Funding and Fund Management**

### **Medical Care for Animals**

Discussion focused on the essential need to address medical issues in animals without delay. The conversation referenced a specific case with a pit bull, and debated offering financial support for veterinary care and spay/neuter procedures. Concerns were raised about refusals to accept help, which were criticized as counterproductive to reducing animal suffering.

### **Fundraising and Financial Accountability**

Participants reviewed fundraising practices and fund allocation, including the establishment of a separate medical fund managed through the Muskingum County Community Foundation. They stressed that funds should be clearly labeled for medical use and not mixed with county or general funds, with specific processes for tracking donations from events like bake sales.

## **Dog Foster Program and Shelter Facility Management**

### **Fostering Policy**

The discussion focused on the current policy that prevents fostering dogs from the pound and proposals to include fostering options. Different approaches were considered, such as temporary foster care versus fostering for adoption.

### **Fostering Success Stories**

A detailed account was shared about a Rottweiler that, through therapeutic fostering, underwent a significant personality change and was successfully adopted, illustrating the life-saving potential of a well-managed fostering program.

### **Facility and Kennel Improvements**

The meeting covered issues related to the shelter's infrastructure, including faulty drainage, inadequate fencing, and the inefficiency of current cleaning methods. The need for kennel separation, better drainage filtration, and improved waste management was emphasized.

## **Animal Welfare and Operational Efficiency**

### **Compassionate Action in Animal Welfare**

It was stressed the importance of compassion and proper care for animals. They discussed the

emotional impact of witnessing neglect, the need for investigations on complaints, and the importance of having humane and caring personnel.

**Acknowledgement of Community and Individual Contributions**

It was recognized contributions from individuals like Prosecutor Welch, who invested his own money and time, and praised the responsive actions of local authorities, including the prosecutor's rapid intervention, underscoring the importance of community support in animal welfare.

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***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator***

Advanced Business Communications (ABC) returned to finish phone configurations at the Courthouse for the Prosecutor's new office. ABC also fixed an issue with an analog phone line in the Prosecutor's office. Ultimately, rebooting the phone system at the Sheriff's office fixed this issue. This is yet another phone problem on the Sheriff's office PBX that could be attributed to a failing main processor board. The IT Director asked ABC for a quote for a new processor card for the Sheriff's office PBX.

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

**25-401** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following supplemental appropriation for 911. This is needed because the budget as prepared by the Auditor's Office did not account for the total scheduling of Telecommunicators or the move of the Coordinator to 911 only.

Amount	To
\$27,500	010-0010-5102.00 Salary Admin
\$3,600	010-0010-5367.00 PERS Admin
\$350	010-5368.00 Medicare Admin
\$5,400	010-0010-5368.01 Medicare Employee
\$36,850	Total Supplemental

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

**25-402---** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to transfer the following:

Please approve the following supplemental appropriation to continue to pay for bills.

\$2,000 to Commissioners Other Expenses 001-0101-5309.00

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

**25-403-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to supplementally appropriate additional funds into expense line 001-0601-5304.01 Sheriff's Equipment Vehicles line in the amount of \$41,547.25.

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

**25-404-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to declare the following items excess and available for sale:

2005 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 SK1

Used Forklift-currently inoperable

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

**25-405-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve payment of bills. \*See attached\*

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

**25-406-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioner's meeting on August 11, 2025 at 5:00pm

**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**



