

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Tuesday, August 25, 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:

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**25-421-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of August 11, 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

All mowing was completed on 8-20-25

Courthouse Clock has stopped working, Jason Pierce has found a Clock controller to replace the old clock motor that burnt up. The controller has been ordered 8-13-25

Ables Heating Cooling has ordered a new drip pan for the first floor West side air handler at the Courthouse. 8-12-25

Dog Pound air conditioning was down 8-11-25, Fox Heating and Cooling was called and the unit is up and operational. 8-15-25

Went to the Courthouse Attic with each Department from the Riecker Building to look at the records storage rooms. 8-21-25

Cleared and removed all the brush, weeds and the tree growing through the fence from the Schools property at the Old Transit Parking Lot. 8-19-25

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**Transit Parking Lot Fence and Brush Clearing**

Discussion about the clearing of brush and installation of tight new fences at the transit parking

lot. Specific issues include one fence section pushed up against a building and another area where the fence could not be fully installed, leaving a gap on the school side.

### **Gate and School Side Fence Issues**

Details about the gate at the transit parking lot, which is closed but not locked. Efforts were made to open it and push back brush and debris, including limbs from fallen trees, up on the hill, especially on the school side where the fence is spaced apart.

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### ***Heidi Burns, JFS Director***

#### Travel Requests

- Nick McGrew to Athens on 8/25 for CORE Training
- Joe Frazier to Cambridge on 10/8 for TPOC Training

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### ***Sunny Clay, Pound Keeper***

#### **Social Media Communication**

Discussed posting "pictures" and "answers" on Facebook, noting that people call and type in messages. Ms. Clay also expressed concerns about what is shared online, advising caution about what is put out there.

#### **Animal Shelter Work Schedule**

The dog pound hours and schedule were described. Sunday and Monday are closed, but staff still go to feed and walk the dogs and clean their kennels; Tuesday through Friday, the shelter is open from 9 AM to 2 PM and then from 6 PM to 8 PM, with the later hours accommodating people working during 9 AM to 4 PM; and Saturday, it is open from 9am-2pm and 6 PM to 8 PM.

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The commissioners had a meeting discussing the M&M fire department with John W. Finley, Chief, Ed Haines, driver and Waylon Clark, EMS present.

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### ***John Telesz, Engineer***

**25-422-**Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

See attachment A

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

**25-423-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the following:

See Attachment B

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

**25-424-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

See Attachment C

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

**25-425-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

See Attachment D

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

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***Tracey Simons, Visitor's Center***

See Attachment See Attachment E

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-The commissioners attended an Investment Advisory Committee meeting with Cheryl Brink, Treasurer

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***Amber Wilson***

**Long-Term Care Speaker Session**

A speaker session on long-term care is scheduled for a Wednesday before bingo.

**Senior Day Preparations**

Preparations are underway for Senior Day at the fair. Lunch will be served at 11:00. Singers who have previously performed at the county fair are expected to perform, and arrangements are being made for their transportation.

## **National Team Nurses Event Review**

The National Team Nurses event was successful, though attendance was lower than the previous year, but still considered nice. Ms. Wilson noted the significant effort involved in setting up all the tables and chairs, taking them down, and cleaning the building.

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## ***Greg Gifford; Adam Copelnd, Morgan Local Schools***

### **Collaboration Between Schools and Commissioners**

Emphasis on the importance of collaboration between schools and commissioners, including the possibility of creating specific grants, with the ultimate goal of helping students.

### **School Year Start and Staffing Changes**

Update on the start of the school year, which had a huge opening day with teachers returning on Monday and students on Wednesday. There has been positive feedback, despite staff retirements and transitions at the district office.

### **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs**

Discussion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, which remain available, including machining, carpentry, cosmetology, agriculture, and electronics (through Mr. Robinson's technology program). While auto and business programs are not fully woven into pathways, other programs are, with some taught by a single teacher. Declining enrollment numbers were noted, with examples of classes having as few as two or ten students, and some students choosing other places. Efforts are ongoing to maintain opportunities, including exciting middle school coursework like forestry.

### **Career Connections Course for Sixth Graders**

All sixth graders are currently enrolled in the Career Connections course, taught by Aaron Delaney. The program focuses on STEM, broadening career horizons, and includes both assessments and aptitude tests. Its goal is to help students explore various job interests and develop essential technology skills, with a strong emphasis on safety. The plan is for this to become a dedicated sixth-grade offering after the initial two years, ensuring no student misses the course.

### **Technology and AI in Education**

Discussion centered on the importance of embracing technology and AI in education, drawing

parallels to past fears about programming calculators not taking jobs. The consensus was that AI will not eliminate hardworking or blue-collar jobs but will simplify some roles, particularly for programmers. The focus is on preparing students for future programming and technology roles by teaching them to program in advanced, non-old-school ways.

### **School Board Election**

An update was provided on the school board elections, noting that six candidates are running for three available spots. The deadline for candidacy was August 6. The importance of candidates running for the right reasons and caring about kids to improve the district was emphasized.

### **Ownership of Athletic Field Stands**

Significant uncertainty exists regarding the ownership of the land where the athletic field stands are located, specifically a hillside section. The school district owns the athletic field (approximately 4.56 acres) but not the land beneath the stands. Concerns about the hillside 'slipping' were raised, and the district is interested in selling the stands but needs to confirm ownership of the underlying land to avoid selling property they don't own. Previous research indicated no clear owner, and a 1938 deed was found but didn't clarify ownership. The village and county were considered potential owners, but neither claimed it. The recorder's office was suggested as a place to find a definitive deed.

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### ***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator***

No Report

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### ***Shannon Wells, Development Office***

**25-426** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve entering into a contract with Roxsol LLC for the soil report and design. The total cost will be \$1,400.00. This resolution will be contingent upon funding.

The following addresses will be provided services:

8765 Boxer Mayle Lane Chesterhill, Ohio 43758

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

A request to approve a Section 504 Grievance Policy and Procedure to be included in the Morgan County Policy & Procedure handbook. This policy is required for a USDA grant since the county commissioners employ more than 15 people.

**25-427-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to award a Broadband Investment and Planning project to Reid Consulting. The project will include comprehensive broadband mapping, analysis and BEAD/POWER funding support. The consulting fee will be paid for with POWER grant funds.

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

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

**25-428-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to request a supplementally appropriation to account number 031-0031-5309.00 in the amount of \$5,000.00. These funds are necessary to cover the purchase of ammunition required for our deputies' annual qualifications as well as for duty carry needs throughout the year.

Proper ammunition supply is essential for maintaining compliance with state-mandated training and ensuring that deputies remain prepared to safely and effectively preform their duties in the field.

Your consideration and approval of this supplementary request will directly support the continued readiness and safety and the community we serve.

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

**25-429---** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to supplementally appropriate additional funds into expense line 001-0601-5304.01 sheriff's equipment-vehicles line in the amount of \$18,75.98

Please supplementally appropriate additional funds into expense line 001-0601-5303.01 supplies-gasoline line in the amount of \$5,000.00.

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

**25-430-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer \$3,320.33 from 046-0046-5301.00 (Probation Fee) to 415-0415-4001.00 (Equipment).

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

**25-431-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the following supplemental appropriation to continue to pay the TIF Loan in the amount of \$4,417.91 to expenses 012-0012-5301.00

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

**25-432-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve payment of bills. \*See attached\*

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

**25-433-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to recess the commissioner's meeting on August 25, 2025 at 4:00pm.

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

**25-434-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to reconvene the commissioners meeting for a ground breaking ceremony for the Round-a-Bout on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 2:00pm.

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

**25-435-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to recess the commissioner's meeting on August 26, 2025 at 3:00pm.

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

**25-436-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to reconvene the commissioners meeting for Muskingum Water Conservancy meeting on Wednesday beginning at 2:30pm.

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

**25-437-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting Wednesday, August 27, 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**

Attachment A

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING John Telesz, Morgan County Engineer  
TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL  
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE  
CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED

WHEREAS, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation  
Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for  
capital improvements to public infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Morgan County Engineer is planning to make capital improvements  
in Co-Op with the Village of Malta to Project #1 named Village of Malta & Morgan County  
CR #2 from the Old Bridge to T-373, and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a  
priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Board of the Morgan County  
Commissioners :

*Heidi R Maxwell Gaskas*  
*Steven Bert 8/25/25*

Section 1: The Morgan County Engineer is hereby authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above.

Section 2: The Morgan County Engineer is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

Passed: August 25, 2025

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Board of Morgan County Commissioners

Attachment B:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING John Telesz, Morgan County Engineer  
TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL  
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE  
CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED

WHEREAS, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation  
Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for  
capital improvements to public infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Morgan County Engineer is planning to make capital improvements  
to Project #2 named Morgan County CR #14 Mountville & CR #11 Unionville, and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a  
priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Board of the Morgan County  
Commissioners :

*Lucas L. Maxwell Stasdas*  
*Steven Best 8/25/25*

Section 1: The Morgan County Engineer is hereby authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above.

Section 2: The Morgan County Engineer is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

Passed: August 25, 2025

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Board of Morgan County Commissioners

Attachment C:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING John Telesz, Morgan County Engineer  
TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL  
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE  
CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED

WHEREAS, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation  
Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for  
capital improvements to public infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Morgan County Engineer is planning to make capital improvements  
in Co-op with Village of McConnelsville & Center Township to Project #3 named  
McConnelsville Village & Center Township combo, and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a  
priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Board of the Morgan County  
Commissioners :

*Sheldon L. Maxwell 8/25/25*  
*Steven Best 8/25/25*

Section 1: The Morgan County Engineer is hereby authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above.

Section 2: The Morgan County Engineer is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

Passed: August 25, 2025

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Board of Morgan County Commissioners

Attachment D:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING John Telesz, Morgan County Engineer  
TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL  
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE  
CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED

WHEREAS, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation  
Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for  
capital improvements to public infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Morgan County Engineer is planning to make capital improvements  
in Co-op with Bloom, Homer, Meigsville & Penn Townships to Project #4 named  
Township Bundle, and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a  
priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Board of the Morgan County  
Commissioners :

*Shirley Maxwell 8/25/25*  
*Stuart Bert 8/25/25*

Section 1: The Morgan County Engineer is hereby authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above.

Section 2: The Morgan County Engineer is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

Passed: August 25, 2025

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Board of Morgan County Commissioners

Attachment E:

**Fair**

The fair will be starting soon. I'll be set up M-F various hours.

**Rural Business Development Grant (RDBG)**

The RDBG Grant supporting ORCA and ACEnet to provide technical assistance to communities and local businesses in Morgan, Noble, and Monroe has been extended to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Delia, with ORCA, came out to take photos we can use for publications, marketing, and social media. She will be making another trip over to photograph places she wasn't able to get to. She took photos at Muskie Bucket, Village of McConelsville, and the Twin City Opera House.

They will be scheduling training/workshops online or in-person to support 10 small businesses and 14 entrepreneurs across the 3 counties. I'll learn more once a meeting is scheduled.

**Visitor Center**

**Visitors**

May – 52

June – 83

July – 53

Total – 188

YTD - 397

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT MAY 19, 2025**

### **Heritage Day**

People are starting to submit their photos for the gallery we will be having during Heritage Day.

Heritage Day will be held in the Commons this year due to construction in the village.

### **America 250**

I couldn't attend the last meeting. I met with Devan to go over what I missed. They applied for the \$5,000 grant but didn't get awarded.

Next meeting is Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the community room.

### **Heritage Ohio**

Frances and Lorna from Heritage Ohio came for the 3 hour meeting to go over our goals and committee projects, however, several community members came and it became a repeat of the community meeting we originally had. We had 7 board members, but with the additional community participation at the meeting, we gained a couple new members.

We have a meeting Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

### **Regional Branding/ORCA**

The name that was settled on was Ohio's Rolling Hills.

### **Easten Ohio Development Alliance**

Shannon and I attended their yearly meeting/conference. Special Speaker, Sarah Wickam, Director Ohio Tourism was a speaker as was Sharon Strouse, Executive Director for National Scenic Byway Foundation.

### **AMLER**

Last year I applied to AMLER for the visitor center project and 4 murals in the village. We did not get funded.

AMLER just release the 2025 amount of \$10 million and I submitted a Letter of Intent in the amount of \$2.6+ million for the project and 3 multi use paths.

**Morgan County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Minute Notes  
May 19, 2025**

Present: Clint Foreman, Shannon Wells, Tyrell Curtis, Steve Best  
Staff: Tracy Simons  
Absent: Brianna Mayle

Meeting called to order by Clint Foreman at 4:33 PM

Approval of the May 19, 2025, minutes: Motion to approve by Tyrell Curtis, motion second by Steve Best. All in favor, minutes approved.

**Financial report:**

Public account balance: \$133,502.00  
Private account balance: \$2,344.08  
Total balance: \$135,846.08  
May total balance: \$142,969.65

Director's Report: Attached

**Marketing Budget Update:**

Group went over the Facebook Insights, which are down.  
Discussion of whether to keep social media contract with iTrack for \$480/month. Current 6-month contract ends October 1, 2025.  
Tracy to reach out to iTrack for website analytics and send to board.

**New Business**

Discussed part-time help in the Visitor Center. The visitor season is winding down, will wait and reevaluate later. Budget is a concern to add staff.

Tracy ordered a brochure holder to put up outside of the visitor center to place brochures in for off hours.

Tyrell stated Burr Oak Lodge will be rapping up interior construction over the next month. This will open the last rooms.

The board discussed having our merchandise at local events. Tracy will talk with Sarah to see if this is a possibility when Ohio's Winding Road goes to events.

Next meeting TBD

**Meeting Adjourned**

Motion to adjourn by Steve Best, seconded by Tyrell Curtis. Meeting Adjourned 5:20 PM



