

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, September 22, 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:

On Tuesday, Commissioner Mayle attended a Community Action meeting. He also attended a State Quarter meeting on Thursday.

Commissioner Maxwell attended an MOU meeting on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, Commissioner Best attended the Grand Opening of the Farm Science Review. He also attended a meeting for the Health Department on Thursday.

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**25-472-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of September 15, 2025.

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

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***Randy Williams, Auditor***

**Accounting compliance for dog pound donations**

Auditor Williams reports an auditor-driven complaint: prepaid cards (from Tractor Supply) donated for dog food are not recorded on county books. County cannot account for prepaid cards because they cannot be put on the books and 'anybody' could use them, making them untraceable. In contrast, cash donations can be added to the books, assigned a line item, and spent properly, ensuring all expenditures by the dog pound are officially recorded.

**Handling of donations and legal structure**

County government must ensure all monies received or spent flow through its accounting system. Prepaid cards pose a risk because 'anybody' could use them, making them untraceable.

**Recent correction in court-related cash handling**

It was referenced a recent issue “over the courts last week involving cash coming in and being

spent out as cash with no accounting. It has been corrected by putting funds on a line item and ensuring proper handling by current staff.

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***Alan Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance***

**Painting and Maintenance**

Mentioned plans to paint the basement.

**Lighting Issues**

Mr. Eltringham is trying to contact Mr. Epley to look at new LEDs lights for the dog pound.

There is a concern that the sockets are broken.

**Heating System Problems**

The heating is solely sourced from ceiling units in the winter, which is problematic. There are explicit restrictions against installing gas heaters on the current system or putting in a new supply line. Currently, only the kitchen range and ventilation system are connected to the existing gas supply line.

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***Steve Redrup, EMA Director***

- Worked on 2026 budget request
  - Attended virtual meetings
  - Attended training online
  - Worked on maintenance of trailers and equipment, currently working to fix lighting and a leak in a generator
  - Provided area residents with face masks
  - The Muskingum Watershed advised that the EMA's PWM grant application is eligible and will be reviewed for funding consideration
  - Summited the LEPC SFY 2025 Compliance Report to the State
  - Worked on 2026 EMA budget
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***John Wilt, 911 Coordinator***

**AMLER grant quotes for Motorola systems**

Discussed two Motorola quotes for radio systems. The installation details were discussed as well.

### **Number of stations and dispatch positions in quotes**

Both Motorola quotes were for two stations. Originally quoted for a four-position system, but revised it to a two-position configuration. This quote was prepared back in May, and it was noted it may have changed due to tariffs. The updated quote is \$100,000.

### **Procurement threshold and need for additional quotes**

Because the quote is \$100,000 and exceeds \$75,000, it was stated that it is necessary to obtain additional quotes to comply with procurement requirements.

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

#### Travel Request

- Ginger Bowen to Cambridge on 10/8 for UX Info Session
- Ginger Bowen, Alexis Vincent, Hillary Ball to Columbus on 10/19-10/21 for Fall Child Support Conference
- Ginger Bowen, Missy Fisher, ManDee Houston, and Kari Schaad to Pickerington on 11/5 for OHPELRA Level Up Training

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

Mike Konkler has stated he will retire on October 31, 2025. Mike Reiter has asked for a job posting to be made to replace this recycling driver position. This will be a full-time position.

Shannon Wells and Adam Shriver attended the pre-construction meeting for the SR60 water project on September 16, 2025. Rock River Construction will begin construction on September 29, 2025.

Shannon Wells and John Sampson met with Matt Barrett principal of the high school on September 17, 2025 to discuss high school students job shadowing at the transit office.

Shannon Wells and Adam Shriver attended a focus group organized by Building Bridges to Careers on September 17, 2025 to discuss entrepreneurship in the Appalachian region.

Shannon Wells attended a prosperity forum hosted by OhioSE at Zane State College on September 18, 2025.

A meeting of the jail renovations with DLZ will be held today September 22, 2025 at 1:15pm.

Nomination forms are due today to the EPA for the next round of Home Sewage Treatment System funding. The Economic Development office will submit a nomination form for Morgan County for the maximum request of \$150,000.

Shannon Wells met with a local business owner regarding the need for a loan to make building improvements and install a new roof.

**25-470**--Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to enter into a contract with Roxsol LLC for a soil report and design for \$1,400.00. The address for the work to be completed is 13544 Rosefarm Rd. Crooksville, Ohio 43731 (Glass).

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

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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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***Chasity Schmelzenbach, Buckeye Hills***

**Regional program updates, compliance and funding changes, aging managed care transition, project coordination, and village viability risks**

- **Newsletter and project materials overview**

Reviewed distributed materials: Enclosed in Highways newsletter, annual report, dues invoice, project listings with regional maps, and a return on investment (ROI) report, which showed a return of \$1.80 per dues dollar and \$109.53 per capita.

- **Project pipeline status and goals**

The project count is lower than desired, with multiple One Ohio and brownfields projects currently processing, alongside ongoing OPWC projects. Planning staff time is heavily allocated to current work. Winter (January) visits will be used to discuss future goals.

- **Gas line application issues and proposed cure period**

There is disappointment regarding the gas line application. A proposal for the next funding round is to institute a cure period (e.g., 30 days) to allow for the correction of small compliance oversights.

- Compliance focus and new Compliance Manager hire**

Recent training highlighted the importance of compliance. A Compliance Manager role is being established, initially driven by changes in aging programs but intended to be organization-wide. Elizabeth, who joined via a federal buyout from the USD on September 30, has been hired for this role. She possesses a strong compliance background, having processed revolving housing matters and managed direct housing programs across four counties.
- Aging program transition to managed care**

Ohio is transitioning aging programs to a managed care model with four plans, described as a more private industry approach that was mandated. The organization will no longer receive administrative dollars, and pass-through funds will be paid directly by managed care plans to providers. The organization will receive a per-month stipend, which must be negotiated blindly without knowledge of enrollment numbers or plan choices. Individuals can switch plans at will, and plans are permitted to advertise starting in the spring. This transition is expected to result in savings, though concerns exist about potential delays in procedure approvals.
- ARC oversight tightening and OMB involvement**

Most federal commissions have been zeroed out, with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) being the sole exception. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has placed oversight personnel directly in the ARC office, leading to increased scrutiny of all active ARC grants. Applications now require alignment with updated language, such as ensuring terms like "diverse population" and "equitable parity" are fully supported, and detailed line-item estimates instead of grouped estimates. Previously, ARC was often a flexible "gap filler" for projects, allowing for extensions or scope changes, but this is no longer the case. A specific instance involved a fallback of less than \$10,000 from a \$50,000 award where over \$40,000 had been spent, due to misalignment with current requirements.
- Coordination with mayor's partnership and village projects**

Weekly coordination meetings are held with the mayor's partnership to prevent duplicative planning efforts across villages. The Ms. Schmelzenbach mentioned being out

of the office for three weeks due to a family medical emergency but noted ongoing work, such as Malta's water/sewer projects.

### **Regional funding strategy, legislative navigation, and service consolidation for ARC and RTPO-driven development**

- **Municipal service consolidation and contracting implications**

The potential for merging Malta and McConnellsville was discussed, noting previous resistance but acknowledging that the new village viability provisions might force such consolidation. The counting of police, fire, and water/sewer services, particularly when contracted (e.g., a dedicated sheriff's deputy for Caldwell), is highly nuanced and needs clarification. House Bill 986, which introduces these provisions, is currently temporary legislation and its final form and interpretation are still being sorted out.

- **Legislative context: House Bill 986 and novice caucus dynamics**

House Bill 986 is temporary legislation, with its eventual conversion to permanent law uncertain. Its origins are attributed to the "Doge Caucus" and the influence of a large number of new, inexperienced legislators. During a challenging budget cycle, these legislators, lacking experience in program implementation, readily adopted a federal mantra of reducing and streamlining government without fully understanding the impacts of their actions.

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### ***Dick Smith, Concerned Citizen***

#### **Veterans Day Event**

Mr. Smith is organizing the 11th annual Veterans Day event, which is the 10th to be held due to COVID. The event includes a parade at 3:00 PM that goes through Deavertown and a catered lunch at 4:00 PM at Rose Farm and Church. This year's lunch will be catered, and Mr. Smith is actively seeking donations for door prizes. He extends an invitation to the audience to attend, emphasizing the abundance of food. This will be his last year organizing the event.

#### **Food Distribution Schedule and Future Plans**

The ministry's current food distribution schedule involves packing food boxes on the third Wednesday of every month. Distribution occurs on the first Wednesday in Stockport and Chesterhill. Additionally, meat and bread are distributed separately from the boxed items. Due to

ongoing shortages, a proposal to change the distribution frequency to every other month is under consideration, a measure Mr. Smith strongly opposes, stating that people are not hungry every now and then' and expressing a desire not to cut services further.

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*Amber Wilson, Senior Citizen Director*

### **Bingo Schedule**

The group confirmed the schedule for two upcoming bingo events. The normal monthly bingo occurs on the last Wednesday of every month at 11 AM, with a meal at noon. Shriver's Hospice will host another bingo on Friday at 1 PM.

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*Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator*

The IT Director provided a briefing to the Commissioners about the requirements of ORC 9.64 at this time and what will need to be created prior to the end of the year. At this time, Morgan County is required to acknowledge and adhere to the new reporting requirements for any cybersecurity incidents. This change provides a new contact for the DHS/DPS and adds the Auditor of State into the contact list. Next, Morgan County must acknowledge that if a ransom is to be paid as part of the resolution of a ransomware incident, then the Board of Commissioners will need to make a resolution approving the payment and detailing why the payment is in the best interest of the County. Finally, ORC 9.64 stipulates that details about cybersecurity incidents as well as safeguards to defend the County's infrastructure from cyber attack are not considered public records and are exempt from Sunshine Law requests for information.

The virtual servers for CourtView in County Court were configured this week and the logon details were sent to Equivant for the migration of data and final configuration.

**25-471-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the following:

### **Resolution to Commit to Cybersecurity Directives Outlined in ORC 9.64.**

WHEREAS the Morgan County Commissioners' Office has been duly notified of the provisions within Ohio Revised Code Section 9.64 (ORC 9.64) that will take effect on September 30, 2025, the Commissioners' Office is committed to enhancing the County's cybersecurity posture by enacting said provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Morgan County Commissioners' Office will ban the payment of ransom as part of the response to and/or recovery from a cybersecurity incident. It is also understood that there may be extenuating circumstances involved in any cybersecurity incident, so;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Morgan County Commissioners' Office understands that if a ransom needs to be paid as part of the resolution to and/or recovery from a cybersecurity incident, the decision to do so must be made in a Resolution by the Board of County Commissioners and that said Resolution must detail the benefits to the County in the payment of the ransom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Morgan County Commissioners' Office understands and will adhere to the updated reporting requirements of a cybersecurity incident as detailed in ORC 9.64.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Morgan County Commissioners' Office understands that all cybersecurity-related records are considered security records under ORC 149.433, which means cybersecurity-related records are not considered public records as detailed by ORC 149.43 and are exempt from public records requests.

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

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

**25-473-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to establish a new revenue line and a corresponding expense line in order to separately track donations received, apart from grant funds.

The proposed new revenue line is: 345-0345-4001-00

The proposed new expense line is: 345-0345-5301.00

Please let me know if any information or documentation is needed to process any additional this request. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

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

**25-474-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer the following:

\$1,000.00 from 001-0207-5323.00 (visiting judge) to 001-0207-5303.00 (supplies).

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

**25-475-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to recess the commissioner's meeting on September 22, 2025 at 4:00pm.

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

**25-476-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to reconvene the commissioners meeting for the Hazardous Mitigation meeting on Tuesday, September, 23, 2025 at 4:00pm.

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

**25-477-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:30pm.

**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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