

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, September 29, 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 Maxwell attended a Senior Citizens meeting.

On Friday Commissioner Best attended a One Ohio Region 12 meeting. He also attended a Farm Bureau meeting on Saturday.

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**25-478-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of September 22, 2025.

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

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***Cathy Oney, Concerned Citizen***

The discussion centers on seniors' access challenges to the senior center and nearby services, highlighting parking meters, limited parking, sidewalk hazards, and roundabout safety. It also addresses concerns about restrictive senior nutrition program policies requiring on-site meal consumption. The conversation notes building repair needs, relocation feasibility issues, and the financial strain of parking enforcement on seniors. No specific solutions were finalized; other town's practices were examined, and suggested potential accommodations such as designated parking allowances were reviewed.

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***Alan Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance***

Carpet replacement in the Development Office finished 9-19-25

Courthouse Clock has been repaired by Jason Pierce. 9-25-25

Ables Heating Cooling has ordered a new drip pan for the first floor West side air handler at the Courthouse. 8-12-25 Still awaiting Parts. 9-19-25

Chevrolet Truck has a broken brake line for the rear brakes, it will need to be taken somewhere to be replaced. 9-8-25

Pierce Electric has finished the wiring at the Health Department for the fire alarm system 9-25-25

Called Jim Eppley about replacing the lights at the Dog Pound 9-22-25

Made contact with Vincent Ferragonio of ABM and scheduled a date for a walk thru of the County Buildings for 10-7-25

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***Missy Fisher, JFS***

**25-479-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the mandated share for State Fiscal Year 2026 is \$41,313.00. October Mandated Share is: \$3,442.75

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

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***John Telesz, Engineer; Patrick Kidd, Deputy Engineer***

This meeting covered the prioritization of paving projects for funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). The engineer and the commissioners discussed a scoring strategy to secure funding for three key projects and confirmed the need to schedule an official committee meeting. Other topics included upcoming paving work from last year's budget and a preliminary discussion about a new fuel bid.

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***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator***

The IT Director and the Commissioners discussed the use of personal cell phones for County business and the need to change this practice.

The IT Director attended a webinar from the Governor's office about ORC 9.64 and the creation of a cybersecurity policy. There were a number upset individuals in the webinar and the topic of discussion strayed from its intended purpose. Future webinars on ORC 9.64 will be coming.

Even though the Commissioners passed a resolution signifying Morgan County's adherence to ORC 9.64, the IT director presented the Commissioners with a policy update stating the County's updated ransomware policy as well as updated contact procedures for cybersecurity incidents. These new procedures will take effect on Sept. 30, 2025. The IT Director will send these updates to all County employees.

The IT Director had a meeting and software demonstration with Okta, a two factor authentication (2FA) company. While Okta has an impressive range of features, they cannot authenticate through a voice call to a land line, which is a hard requirement for Morgan County. The search for a 2FA suite for the County will continue.

The IT Director attended the Zanesville – Muskingum Chamber of Commerce Safety Council meeting on Sept. 22, 2025. The topic of discussion was the BWC's SUPR program, presented by Recovery Ohio.

The IT Director traveled to Woodsfield and Caldwell to look at IT issues for the Public Transit offices in those locations. Phones were recovered from Monroe County to be set up correctly prior to deployment. E-mail, phones, and other items were set up for the new office manager in Noble County.

Computers and phones were moved to new locations within the Development office now that the renovations have been completed.

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***Steve Redrup, EMA Director***

Worked on 2026 budget request

Submitted the 2025 SPF survey to the state

Submitted the 2025 NIMS survey required for all EMPG recipients

Held the first meeting of the HMP committee

Worked on awning and installed new lighting on Multi Agency Response Unit

Hyper-Reach and IPAWS training

Spoke with contractor about roof issue, contractor advised he would fix the issue

Reviewed inventory assests, reviewed BLU-MED documents

Spoke with several members of the public about the Hazard Mitigation Plan

Distributed more PPE

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***Sunny Clay, Pound Keeper***

A comprehensive management strategy for the four-month-old dog's biting behavior remains undecided. This is the most critical unresolved issue, as the lack of a defined approach creates a significant risk of being unable to properly handle the dog's behavior and prevent potential biting incidents.

A specific action plan detailing the immediate response if the dog bites has not been established. This tactical gap leaves the pound without clear instructions for incident management, which is a critical safety and liability concern that requires immediate clarification.

The pound has not resolved the underlying 'conflict and dilemma' regarding how to address the dog's biting potential. This indecision is the root cause blocking the development of both a long-term management strategy and an immediate incident response plan, and it must be addressed to move forward.

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***Traci Baker, Development Office***

Bids were opened at 10:00am in the Commissioners' Office for the Transit Pk Lot Site Imp.

Contractor	Base Bid
Engineer's Estimate	\$385,000.00
Paul Construction Company	\$409,000.00
Singree Construction Services	\$319,067.00
McVoyt Construction	\$383,916.05

**25-480-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best table all bids.

**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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***Louis Keller, Civic Plus Joint***

This zoom call focused on coordinating a joint demo for records request and social media archiving solutions involving Morgan County and the Sheriff's Office. It was noted that Civic

Joint Plus has been engaging with the Sheriff's Office, including handling and older records retrieval. The commissioners prefer a consolidated session including Sheriff Fisher. Civic Joint Plus will work on coordinating scheduling with all parties and sharing materials.

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***Amber Wilson, Senior Citizens***

- Budget Submission
  - A budget for the upcoming year has been prepared for the Ohio Department of Aging.
  - The original submission deadline of September 14th was extended to October 3rd.
  - It is expected that the budget will need to be amended after it is submitted.
- Calendar of Events
  - An informational "Medicare checkup and enrollment" event will be held on a Friday.
  - The main bingo event occurs on the last Monday of the month and can have as many as 40 attendees.
  - A club meeting is held on the third Monday of the month, and a holiday dinner is also planned.

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***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator; Randy Williams, Auditor***

### **Cybersecurity Upgrades and Policies**

- The implementation of two-factor authentication is a primary focus.
- A new identity management system is looking to be planned. This system will enforce password templates with complexity requirements and allow for the creation of rules for user access, which is expected to resolve many current audit findings.
- A procedure for responding to cybersecurity incidents has been drafted. It formalizes the process, designating a primary contact who will then notify law enforcement, the prosecutor's office, and the Ohio Cyber Integration Center.

- A webinar is scheduled for October 9th, 2025 that will provide guidance on writing a formal cybersecurity policy tailored to what regulators are looking for.
- A solution has not been found for providing two-factor authentication to employees who will not use personal cell phones, as the proposed software vendor does not support landline calls.

## Public Records and Employee Phone Use

- There is a need to formally define what constitutes a "public record," and a plan was made to consult with the prosecutor on the topic.
- It was noted that voice recordings of meetings are currently considered "transient notes" and are retained only until transcribed into official minutes.
- Research into other counties of a similar size shows they often have employees use personal phones for work and provide a stipend for that use.
- It remains unclear what officially constitutes a "public record," which affects how items like two-factor authentication codes are handled.

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### *Shannon Wells, Development Office*

**25-481**--Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to enter into a contract with Singree Construction Services for \$9,800.00 for the Home Sewage Treatment System Program Contract 24-10C for the replacement of one septic system. This resolution will be contingent upon funding.

The following addresses will be provided services:

8765 Boxer Mayle Lane Chesterhill, OH 43728 (Mayle) (Replacement). See Attachment A

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

**25-482**- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to enter into a contract with Roxsol LLC for the soil report and design. The total cost for the design of the system will be \$1,400.00 This resolution will be contingent upon funding.

The following addresses will be provided services:

9141 St. Rt. 37 Malta, OH 43758 (Cybulski). See Attachment B

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

Shannon Wells and Brad Peoples, OhioSE met with Bernie Anderson and Jonathan Schott at Miba Sinter on September 29, 2025.

Bids were opened on September 29, 2025 at 10am for the transit parking lot improvement project and tabled for further review by the engineer.

There will be a meeting September 30, 2025 at 10am at the transit office with Buckeye Hills and mobility managers to discuss transportation in all three counties.

The Morgan County Land Reutilization Corporation will meet on October 1, 2025 at 9am in the second-floor conference room at the Riecker Building.

A meeting will be held on October 1, 2025 at 1:15pm in the second-floor conference room to discuss the jail renovation project.

A meeting will be held on October 1, 2025 at 1:30pm in the economic development conference room with Ohio Department of Development to review the Brownfield program.

A pre-construction meeting was held on September 25, 2025 with McVoyt Construction regarding the demolition of structures on Water Street in Stockport.

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

**25-483-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to rename fund 010 from Government Assistance to 911 Local Fund 10 is where the levy settlement funds and the 911 surcharge funds are held, not the State government assistance funds, so this more truly aligns the funds name with the funding source.

In fund 100, establish the following line items:

- Salary-Admin
- PERS—Admin
- Medicare—Admin
- Contracts
- Training
- Other Expenses

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

**25-484-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer \$10,000 from 084-2024-5309 (other expenses) to 084-2024-5102 (salaries)

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

**25-485-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to transfer money from 063-0063-530.00 E2 Supplies (2,0000) and 063-0063-5309.02 E12B State Examination (\$1,000 to 063-0063-5309.05 Vaccine in the amount of \$3,000.

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

**25-486-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to provide a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$80.33 from the line 049-0040-4001.00 (elections revenue) to line item elections revenue expenses 049-0049-5301.00 for the cost associated with the purchase of ADA Headphones for the Express Vote machines for Morgan County Board of Elections.

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

**25-487-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to supplementally appropriate additional funds into expense 001-0105-5306.00 (contracts) in the amount of \$1,012.44. These were unexpected funds received due to hail damage to the Prosecutor's Office vehicle Please adjust P.O. 2025-00291.

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

**25-488-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following budget transfer for fund 274. Transfer \$500.00 from 274-0274-5306.00 contract services to 274-5303-.00 supplies. This is to continue purchasing supplies for the Riecker Building.

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

**25-489-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to recess the commissioner's meeting on September 29, 2025 at 4:00pm.

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

**25-490-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to reconvene the commissioners meeting for the Land Bank meeting on Wednesday, October, 1, 2025 at 9:00am.

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

**25-491-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to recess the commissioners meeting Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 10:00am.

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

**25-492-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to reconvene the commissioners meeting for the CORSA meeting on Thursday, October 3, 2025 at 10:00am.

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

**25-495-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to adjourn the commissioners meeting on Thursday, October 3, 2025 at 12:00pm.

**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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Attachment A:

**Morgan County HSTS**

8765 Boxer Mayle Lane  
Chesterhill, OH 43728

<b>Septic Installation</b>			<b>Total</b>
Champion Services	-	-	\$0.00
D & L Drilling	-	-	\$0.00
Beagle Hill Services LLC	-	-	\$0.00
Fouss Septic Systems	-	-	\$0.00
Johns Excavating	-	-	\$0.00
Kings Future Builders	-	-	\$0.00
LM Excavating	-	-	\$0.00
Fleming's Excavating & Utilities	-	-	\$0.00
Muskingum Site Services	-	-	\$0.00
Newberry Excavating	-	-	\$0.00
Zemba	-	-	\$0.00
Masterson Complete	-	-	\$0.00
Shriver Septic & Excavation	-	-	\$0.00
Singree Construction	9,800.00	-	\$9,800.00
Wilkins Excavating	-	-	\$0.00

Attachment B:

### Morgan County Design

9141 St. Rt. 37 Malta, OH  
43758

<b>Septic Installation</b>		<b>Total</b>
Roxsol LLC	1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Flowers Septic System Design	-	\$0.00
Bell Soil Evaluations LLC	-	\$0.00
HSTS Services Inc	-	\$0.00
Kevin Lewis LTD	-	\$0.00
NeoSoils Inc	-	\$0.00
Native Soils LLC	-	\$0.00
Jason Senned	-	\$0.00
Smart Services	-	\$0.00
Kevin Lewis	-	\$0.00
Terry Priest	-	\$0.00
Good Ground LLC	-	\$0.00



