

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, October 7, 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:

On Wednesday, Commissioner Mayle and Commissioner Maxwell attended a Land Bank Meeting.

All three commissioners attended an HR Policy meeting on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, Commissioner Maxwell attended a Tax and Finance meeting.

On Friday, she also attended a Buckeye Hills meeting.

*Commissioners are in receipt of September expense, revenue and statement of cash report from the Morgan County Auditor.

25-494- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of September 29, 2025.

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

Alan Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance

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

Jim Eppley replaced the lights at the Dog Pound. 10-3-25

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

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

Called Kone Elevator Company to get the elevator serviced. Scheduled for 10-8-25

Cleaned and removed items from the basement and identified an area for JFS to install a washer and dryer. 10-2-25

Ordered and received LED light bulbs for the EMA Building. EMA Director will install the new bulbs. 10-2-25

Coke Company removed the coke machine from the first floor area. 10-6-25

Elevator went down at the Courthouse, I went down and showed them how to reset it and called Boyd Rhodes from Otis Elevator Company to look at it because it keeps timing out. 10-6-25

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

The IT Director will be researching network identity management software. Microsoft's Entra ID is included with our Microsoft 365 Business Basic subscription. Testing will be done on Entra ID to see if it will meet the County and State's needs for an identity management suite.

New CAT6 cabling was run for the new cameras in Board of Elections. The older cameras will be replaced and their coaxial wiring will be removed.

The Board of Elections had a cybersecurity audit on Oct. 3, 2025.

ServerSim was onsite to address many of the issues and gather information for the audit. The findings were forward to the Morgan County IT Director, the Board of Elections, and ServerSim.

The IT Director met with Dell and CrowdStrike to discuss the Falcon EDR software.

CrowdStrike sells both endpoint detection and response (EDR) and managed detection and response (MDR) software. Dell will provide a quote for both versions of the Falcon software.

The IT Director traveled to Logan, Ohio to meet with other IT Directors from around the State to discuss the new cybersecurity requirements in ORC 9.64.

John Telesz, Engineer; Patrick Kidd, Deputy Engineer

- Paving schedule

- Paving was supposed to start “this week,” possibly planned to start “yesterday,” with “14” referenced as a starting point and a suggestion to check the Morgan County Highway Facebook for updates.
- The exact start location and date remain uncertain; follow-up was planned to confirm.
- **Floodplain apartment rehab**
 - Discussion covered whether commercial building oversight applies locally or via Marietta; the county is still handling building oversight.
 - The “50%” rule was highlighted: if rehab costs exceed “50%” of the property’s value (as per the auditor), the apartments must be upgraded to current standards, and first-floor occupancy in the floodplain would be prohibited (“You can’t have anyone on that first floor... you can only use the second floor” if above “50%”). Costs referenced include extensive drywall work and potential lawsuits.
- **Guard rail decision and cost-sharing**
 - Unresolved whether to install the guard rail near the intersection and whether costs will be split with the landowner.
 - Risk of setting a precedent for future cost-sharing requests.
- **Bridge closures based on ratings**
 - Unresolved discrepancy between computer-based bridge ratings and observed performance, leading to closures.
 - Risk of unnecessary infrastructure shutdowns and community impact if ratings are not corrected.

Heidi Burns, Job & Family Services

1. Subgrant with Morgan Local Schools for the Lice Program for \$15,000
2. Federal Shutdown
 - SNAP benefits will go out for October as usual; nothing is confirmed past October
 - OWF benefits will go out for October as usual; nothing is confirmed past October – please remember that 99% of our OWF cases are child only
 - Receiving funds from the state
3. Employee training and retreat next week on Thursday
4. Contract Negotiations will be starting probably in November

Sunny Clay, Pound Keeper

- **Staffing and Applications for Open Position**
 - A position was posted yesterday, and three resumes were received today.
 - Scheduling:

- Mondays are closed to the public, and one staff member must have that day off; coverage questions were raised and clarified.
 - **Kennel Cleaning Process and Use of Lime**
 - Described procedure: scoop waste first, then hose the kennel, aiming to use minimal water; apply lime afterward and dump the contents.
 - Concern was raised that wet conditions cause sores on dogs' feet; minimizing water is intended to reduce this harm.
 - **Ideas Discussed**
 - Potential hauling options: asking local haulers
 - **Facility Safety and Equipment**
 - Floor safety was identified as the “next priority,” with a request for maintenance to examine the floor and provide ideas to keep staff on their feet.
 - Maintenance was also mentioned as planning to look at new lights.
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Steve Redrup, EMA

- Converted EMA offices over to LED lighting. This allows for more efficiency and better lighting.
 - Designed new website for the EMA and LEPC. Included many links to area agencies and links to safety information
 - Attended online training
 - Worked on agency assets
 - Facility maintenance
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Steve Fate, Jeff Fleming, Medical Mutal

Health Insurance Claims, Renewal, and Strategy

The review covered the full 12-month experience period from August through July.

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

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

John Wilt, 911 Coordinator

Radio quotes

SHSP Grant for P-25 pagers for all county public safety (LE, Fire, EMS, EMA)
GloFiber installed at Sheriff's Office
State compliance visit on October 23rd.
Performing a trial of T-Mobile equipment with satellite capabilities.

Traci Baker, Development Office

- Interview Scheduling for Recycling Program Driver Position
 - The team plans to schedule interviews for the recycling position, with 11 applications received. Interviews are tentatively set for October 15 or October 16, with a preference to schedule all on October 15.
 - Mike Ryder will participate in interviews alongside Mrs. Wells due to the nature of the position and related responsibilities. Interviews will start at 9 a.m. with a half-hour interval between each.
 - The position was advertised at twenty dollars per hour, full time. One candidate currently earns more and would face a reduction in pay if selected.
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Amber Wilson, Senior Citizens

- Upcoming events and activities
 - There is a luncheon scheduled for this Friday.
 - A ride and picnic are planned for the 15th at “the Muskie Bucket
 - Administrative and facilities updates
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25-493- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to appoint Mrs. Wells to the EODA Board for the 2026-2027 term.

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

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

25-496- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to request to continue the Recorders Technology's Fund (ORC 317.321 fka the Equipment Fund #038-0038-5301. This fund is

currently used for purchasing computers, indexing, scanning, back-scanning previously recorded documents and cloud storage for the Recorder’s Office. The current contract is for \$5.00 per document recorded due to the ORC 317.06, which now requires that a County Recorders continuing education fees, registration fees, lodging, meal expenses and travel expenses shall be paid from the Recorders Technology Fund. This fund should generate about \$800.00 to \$1,400.00 per month.

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

25-497- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$92.40 to the line item 001-0301-4003 (Receipts & Reimbursements) which is reimbursement for travel expenses to deliver DYMO paper rolls to Vinton County Board of Elections.

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

25-498- 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

25-499- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer money from 063-0063-5102.00 (salaries) to 063-0063-5309.00 (other expenses) in the amount of \$15,000.

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

25-502- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to adjourn the commissioners meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 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

