

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, October 20, 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:

Commissioner Best attended an FCFC meeting. He also attended a Soil and Water Conservation meeting on Saturday.

25-673- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of October 14, 2025.

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

Alan Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance

Carpet replacement in the Development Office almost finished for the rest of the base board trim
10-6-25

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

Called Apperson Plumbing to look at the kitchen drain for the dishwasher. 10-8-25

Called Duane King about the Grease trap and it was cleaned on 9-11-25 Community Action is going to pay to have the entire plumbing system in the kitchen Jetted and cleaned by Enviro Flow and will be inspected by Duane King when it's finished. 10-10-25

Enviro Flow Jetted and cleaned all the drain lines in the kitchen and ran a camera through afterwards, it looked good. 10-15-25

All mowing and trimming has been completed. 10-16-25

25-515- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to leave dog tags the same price as last year at \$14.00 and extend the time period to the 28th of February.

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

25-674- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to hire Christian Campbell as the dog pound keeper assistant to be reimbursed by JFS for six months.

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

Heidi Burns, JFS

Federal Shutdown

- SNAP benefits for November are on hold and will not go out to the clients, see letter
- OWF benefits are unknown at this time for November
- Receiving limited funds from the state, they have instructed counties to continue to pay NET (transportation mostly through Transit)

Timesheet

Tracy Simons, Visitor's Center

Overview

This meeting addressed operational and security matters for the building. Key topics included a proposal to open on Saturdays using a volunteer-based system to gauge public interest before committing to a budget for paid staff. Significant security vulnerabilities were also discussed, particularly an unmonitored side door, and strategies for community engagement and promotion were reviewed.

Saturday Building Operations and Volunteer Access

The board discussed opening on Saturdays for a few hours, such as from 10 AM to 2 PM, to serve visitors.

While hiring a part-time employee was considered, the current budget is a constraint. The idea of hiring someone may be revisited next year.

A rotational volunteer schedule was proposed as a solution, based on a suggestion from a Heritage Ohio meeting.

This approach is preferred over relying on individual volunteers, whose attendance can be unpredictable.

Using a volunteer group will help test public demand and justify whether a paid position is needed in the future.

To facilitate Saturday openings, volunteers will require building access.

Ms. Simons expressed a strong preference against distributing full building keys.

A proposed solution is to provide volunteers with a key for the new deadbolt lock on the front door only. Riecker Maintenance will investigate getting these keys made and check if a suitable key existed previously.

Building Security Vulnerabilities and Risks

A major security concern was raised regarding a side door that provides access to the back of the building.

This entrance is not visible, lacks camera surveillance, and could allow an individual to enter the building undetected, posing a risk to government offices like Children's Services.

It was strongly recommended that this door be kept locked throughout the day.

The current security level was contrasted with other government facilities that have metal detectors and armed guards.

The unmonitored and unlocked side door presents a significant security risk, providing discreet access to the building.

The reliability of a volunteer-based system for Saturday openings remains a concern, though the trial period is intended to assess its viability.

It is unclear how to increase the adoption of the online events calendar among local businesses and groups who are not utilizing the promotional tool.

Community Resources and Promotion

Visitors frequently request maps, especially for the covered bridge trail.

The county engineer is creating a new map that will feature local attractions and be available in a digital format.

Ms. Simons is also coordinating with map makers to produce a dedicated guide for the bridge trail.

There is an ongoing effort to encourage local businesses and organizations to submit their events to the online calendar, though adoption of this tool has been inconsistent.

Steve Redrup, EMA

Updated files on NIMS certifications for McConnellsville PD and other county agencies

Testing radios, phones, and other equipment

Assisted M&M EMS personnel, arranged a debriefing for EMS and SO personnel
Arranged the EMA for 911 testing
Continued work on the HMP and the upcoming Oct 24th Meeting
Attended the Fall State EMA Conference

Sophia Wiseman, OSU Extension

In September, Jordan gave his monthly TV interview on WHIZ News, discussing upcoming events, soil testing, and a general agricultural update for the area. He also attended and worked two days at Farm Science Review with the livestock team. The insect trapping in corn fields wrapped up at the end of September, where he worked with five farms throughout the growing season. At the end of September and the first part of October, Jordan helped lead and taught at the Jackson Artificial Insemination School in Jackson. He also wrapped up data collection on the Mechanical Control of Johnsongrass research project. The master gardeners held their first fall talk series event, where attendees learned about handcrafted tinctures, salves, hydrosols, and lotions. Jordan was also at the Things to Consider Before a Timber Harvest at Cherry Orchards, learning about efforts to salvage yellow-poplar trees, the basic dos and don'ts of harvesting timber, and the importance of managing invasive plants, especially before a timber harvest. Jordan has also continued to participate in various meetings, including the weekly corn call meeting, bi-weekly between-the-rows meetings, monthly beef team meetings, and monthly forage team meetings, to share updates about crops, forages, livestock, and conditions in Morgan County with his coworkers around the state.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

Mike Reiter and Shannon Wells interviewed 11 candidates for the recycling driver program last week.

Shannon Wells met with OhioSE regarding the Vibrant Communities grant and a potential project in the Village of McConnellsville.

Shannon Wells will attend the Ohio Land Bank Conference in Marietta on October 23, 2025.

25-516- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to request the transit parking lot bids be untable all.

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

25-517-Motion by Mr. Best and Mrs. Maxwell to reject all bids. This project will be rebid in early 2026.

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

25-518- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to accept the estimate from Fox Heating and Cooling in the amount of \$3,400.00 for the old transit building.

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

Amber Wilson, Senior Center Director

Medicare Fraud Friday at 11:00

October 30th is the last day for open enrollment—still a few spots left

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

The IT Director discussed the inclusion of office-provided cell phones and fiber Internet at the Riecker Building into the budget discussions that will be starting in the coming weeks. Most offices are aware of the need for both, but may have forgotten about the need to budget for them.

The unused Dell computers that were bought by JFS for the Learning Center were all updated for reuse at the Sheriff's office. The computers were delivered to the Sheriff's office and will be install within the next couple weeks. The IT Director also needs to discuss a server upgrade with the Sheriff as this will affect how these new computers are configured for use.

The IT Director discussed the possibility of getting CrowdStrike Falcon EDR for free from the State with Cyber Ohio. Unfortunately, there does not appear to be a free option for this software from the State. Dell can provide CrowdStrike Falcon EDR for around \$11,000 per year and CrowdStrike Falcon Complete MDR for around \$30,000 per year. This was more expensive than expected, so the IT Director will explore getting this software under State contract pricing.

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

25-519-Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve payment of bills. *See attached*

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

25-520- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to request the creation of a separate budget line item within the Morgan County Sheriff’s Office Rotary Account 092for the School Resource Officer (SRO) position. This dedicated line will help ensure accurate tracking of all expenses, payroll and other reimbursements associated with the SRO program.

Please establish this line item under the account number 092-0092-4006.00 and designate it specifically for the School Resource Officer.

The separation will assist in maintaining clear accounting and transparency for both county and school district financial responsibilities related to the program.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please let me know if any additional documentation or formal approval is required to complete this process.

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

25-521- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following budget transfers for fund 005 Dog and Kennel.

\$1,500.00 from 005-0005-5303.00 Supplies to 005-0005-5309.00 Other Expenses, to pay contract bills for 2025.

\$420.00 from 005-0005-5367.00 Public Employee RETIREMENT TO 005-0005-5321.00 Capital Improvement moving to pay for fence.

\$887.90 from 005-0005-5303.00 Supplies to 005-0005-5321.00 Capital Improvement, moving to pay for fence.

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

25-523- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to request the following supplemental appropriation of \$250,000.00 for the purpose of ongoing expenses for 9-1-1 Center.

| Amount | To |
|--------------|---|
| \$250,000.00 | 100-100-5302.00 911 Fund (911 State Fund OTSCI Exp. |

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

25-524- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to request a supplemental appropriation for the CCA 2.0 2026/27 Grant Period for \$11,921.00.

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

25-525- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to adjourn the commissioners meeting on Monday, October 20, 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
