

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, October 27, 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 Mayle attended a Community Action meeting on Tuesday.

Also Tuesday, Commissioner Best attended an America 250 meeting. In addition, he was present for a Soil and Water Conservation District tour on Saturday.

Commissioner Maxwell attended a Land Bank meeting conference on Thursday.

25-526- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of October 20, 2025.

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

Alan Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance

Took both trucks to the Transit Garage to have tires replaced. 10-21-25

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, we are going to replace it using the lift in the old transit garage.

Had all new tires put on both Maintenance trucks, Ford truck had 3 tires with broken belts and the Chevy truck had all 4 tires dry rotted and the rims were also rusted to the hubs. 10-23-25

The bank leading to the old pool house has been mowed. 10-22-25

American Light delivered the replacement LED bulbs for the EMA building that were broken at no cost. 10-22-25

Heidi Burns, JFS

25-527 Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to enter executive session with Heidi Burns at 8:34am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

25-528- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to exit executive session with Heidi Burns at 8:55am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

Shannon Wells, Development Office

A demo project for 303 W. Riverside Drive will advertise Nov 5 and Nov 12 in the Morgan County Herald. The bid opening will be December 1, 2025 at 10am.

Jesse Roush from Washington County Port Authority would like to be added to the commissioner agenda on November 24 at 10am.

Shannon Wells and Commissioner Mayle attended a zoom meeting with representatives from Genesis and Community Ambulance Services on October 30, 2025.

Shannon Wells attended a zoom meeting with representatives from Morgan Local Schools on October 31, 2025 to discuss a partnership with Future Plans.

Grant deadlines approaching:

ODOD Demolition FY2026 – November 19, 2025 – eligible for \$230,000

ODOT Transit FY2026 – November 14, 2025

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

The IT Director attended the Zanesville – Muskingum Chamber of Commerce Safety Council meeting this week. The topic of discussion was fire extinguisher usage and safety.

A new network switch was installed in the 911 rack at the Sheriff's office in preparation for the OARNet cutover from Spectrum to GloFiber. The installation was completed without incident.

The IT Director went to Woodsfield to install the new VOIP phones from Spectrum at the Buckeye Southeast Transit office in Monroe County. The phones were installed with no issues

encountered. On the way back to McConnelsville, the IT Director stopped in Caldwell to fix several computer and phone related issues at the Buckeye Southeast Transit Noble County office.

The IT Director attended a webinar from CCAO and Cyber Ohio discussing the new cybersecurity requirements in ORC 9.64. Cyber Ohio opined that the State Auditors will only be looking for the paperwork in the 2026 audits. That is to say, they will be looking for the actual cybersecurity policy, the resolutions to adopt it, and the updates to County policy regarding the payment of ransomware and contact procedures in the event of a cybersecurity incident.

Dell has informed the County that they will suspend our account for non-payment unless the past due invoices are paid within the next couple days.

John Telesz, Engineer

Rescheduling of OPWC Subcommittee Meeting

The OPWC subcommittee meeting must be rescheduled to a specific date.

The new meeting date is set for November 3rd at 10 AM.

Previous decisions made regarding this will be rescinded.

Paving Project Update

Paving has been completed on several roads:

County Road 14

County Road 38 (Bishopville Road)

County Road 62

Work on County Road 98, Cordray Road, and Roy Janes Road is scheduled for next week, including:

- Culverts
- Ditching
- Grinding

The project is expected to be completed this fall, weather permitting.

Center Township Work Schedule

Work was initially expected to begin in Center Township.

The schedule may have changed, with work possibly starting in a section in town instead.

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

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

Steve Redrup, EMA

EMA/ OHS Report to Commissioners

- Reviewed with the state the 2025 Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) surveys
- Submitted FY24 Q8 Workplan to the state
- Working on EMPG FY24 Q8 grant

Shannon Wells, Development Office

Morgan County HSTS

Septic Installation

13544 Rosefarm Rd Crooksville, OH 43731

Total

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	17,550.00	-	\$17,550.00
Zemba	-	-	\$0.00
Masterson Complete	-	-	\$0.00
Shriver Septic & Excavation	-	-	\$0.00
Singree Construction	18,999.00	-	\$18,999.00
Wilkins Excavating	-	-	\$0.00

25-528-Motion by Mr. Best and Mrs. Maxwell to enter into a contract with Newberry Excavating for \$17,550.00 for the Home Sewage Treatment System Program Contract 24-12C for the replacement of one septic system. This resolution will be contingent upon funding.

The following addresses will be provided services:

13544 Rosefarm Rd Crooksville, OH 43731 (Replacement)

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

John Walter Finley, Fire Chief; Randy Williams, Auditor; Ed Haines, Trustee

EMS revenue and reimbursement levels

The agency reports being paid 30% less than the average state pays and 34% less than the national average. This gap contributes to ongoing financial strain.

August billing was \$160,000, but only \$9,418 was received; September billing was incomplete due to processing timelines.

EMS Non-Transport Costs and Billing Limitations

EMS frequently responds to calls without transporting patients, with “solid five percent of them or so” being non-transports, generating no revenue, while incurring fuel, labor, travel time, and vehicle wear costs.

Staffing levels, attrition, and coverage

24% of current staff are leaving after graduating from nursing school, with two departing in December, one in May, and another following thereafter. Given the small staff size, each departure significantly impacts coverage.

Since returning to M&M, there have been 11 employees; staffing has at times provided 50% coverage in Chesterhill, indicating frequent shortfalls. Minimum staffing is reportedly met monthly, but station coverage remains challenging.

EMS staffing declined from 12 full-time people (four per shift, supplemented by part-time) to seven full-time people currently guaranteed for days; many staff leave for better-paying jobs.

Volunteers are very few, with one excellent volunteer out of town, increasing response delays.

Dispatch/911 costs and responsibilities

A new scheduling program for staff costs \$3,214 per year, increasing to \$3,369 per year. Dispatcher pay year-to-date (through October) totals \$65,055.

The team believes dispatch costs are unfairly borne by M&M given a levy for the 911 system. Complaints from the 911 director include training adequacy and job performance; M&M disputes the fairness of these complaints.

There is a view that 911 dispatch staffing should be stationed at M&M or covered by the sheriff's office personnel using existing equipment; M&M is currently covering electric and utilities associated with dispatch functions.

Discussion acknowledged difficulties with a dedicated 911 building; progress toward a new facility was described as "not real close."

Contract Terms

A one-year service contract is currently reviewed quarterly; EMS proposes moving to a three-year contract due to long equipment lead times (an ambulance ordered several months ago will not arrive until "two years from this month).

Rising costs and budget pressure

Significant increases in supplies/equipment and broad cost category since 2021 strain the budget. Ambulance costs in 2021 were \$174,500, with maintenance costs elevated due to mileage and terrain.

Staffing attrition and coverage risk

With 24% of staff leaving after graduating from nursing school and specific departure dates approaching (December, May, and thereafter), there is a risk of insufficient coverage, especially in Chesterhill where coverage has been as low as 50%.

Reduced full-time staffing and low volunteer availability pose risks to response times and service coverage, especially for critical patients.

Amber Wilson, Senior Center Director

Senior Citizens Council meeting at 9:30am tomorrow

Buckeye Hills Title 3 funding meeting tomorrow

Carlie Anderson, NextRequest

Lack of formal social media archiving and retention compliance. Impact: Risk of non-compliance with Ohio public records laws, inability to respond to records requests, and exposure during legal challenges. Current situation: Content lives only on platform (e.g., Facebook),

treated as transient in RC2 but without an off-platform archive; no defined deletion or RC3 documentation process tied to social content. Examples: Multiple county pages.

Time and effort to fulfill potential public records requests from social media. Impact: Potentially large manual search effort across posts/comments/messages if a request arrives; could delay statutory response timelines. Current situation: No prior social media requests; concern about digging through historical posts without tools.

Misrouted requests across jurisdictions/departments waste time. Citizens submit county-related requests to city portals or vice versa. Impact: Back-and-forth rerouting, longer resolution times, lower satisfaction. Current situation: Considering keyword alerts to redirect requests

Reduce time and effort to respond to potential records requests. Have search and export capabilities to fulfill social media-related requests quickly. Timeframe: Following selection/implementation of archiving tool. Resources: Admin training, request workflows, possible NextRequest integration. Success metrics: Fulfillment time reduced from manual multi-hour searches to minutes; audit logs of exports.

Develop or finalize a county-wide social media policy aligned with Sunshine Law and RC schedules Standardize moderation, retention, deletion, DMs handling, and non-blocking practices across offices.

Implement clear social media policies that align with First Amendment and define moderation and retention practices. Timeframe: Draft and circulate policies shortly after 2025-10-27; finalize after stakeholder review. Resources Required: Ohio Electronic Records Committee social media guidance, legal review, training materials. Approve policy and put it in place.

Reduce request volume by enabling a public reading room for self-service access to published records. Deflect repetitive requests through searchable, publicly accessible records (audio, incident documents). Timeframe: Assess feasibility and policy before next proposal meeting (on/after 2025-11-03).

Enable secure handling of large files and efficient redaction. Support uploads with no file-size limits and apply built-in text-based redaction; integrate with body cam providers when applicable. Timeframe: Validate during pilot configuration ahead of full rollout.

Establish clear publishing/privacy policies. Decide what to publish (requests, names, points of contact, responsive documents) to balance transparency and privacy.

Vincent Ferraeonio, APM Industries

The project is a co-authored approach, developed with the county's maintenance team and officials.

The county's current equipment is old and at risk of failure, creating a need for proactive replacement to avoid costly emergency repairs.

The total project funding is estimated to be around \$2.9 million to \$3 million.

The project aims to reduce the utility cost across six buildings from the current \$2.77 per square foot to a conservative \$1.85 per square foot.

Guaranteed Savings

Energy Savings: Over \$81,000 per year.

Operational Savings: A conservative estimate of \$35,000 per year from reduced maintenance and repairs, which could likely be doubled.

Total Guaranteed Annual Savings: Over \$116,000.

If actual savings fall short of the projection, the vendor will issue a check for the difference.

Project Funding and Terms

The guaranteed annual savings are used to offset the lease payments. A \$200,000 annual payment would have a net cost to the county of only \$84,000.

Over a 20-year term, the project is projected to generate over \$2.3 million in funding.

Reicker Building

The building was identified as having particularly high energy and operational costs.

HVAC System

Replace two rooftop units that are over 40 years old and a third unit to maximize efficiency.

Replace kitchen HVAC equipment (exhaust fan, make-up air unit) that is over 20 years old.

Controls and Lighting

Implement a county-wide open protocol building automation system for HVAC controls.

Retrofit existing lighting to LED and install occupancy and high-low sensors.

Courthouse

HVAC and Building Envelope

Replace one furnace that is at its end of life.

Replace single-pane, drafty windows that are over 40 years old.

Controls and Lighting

Implement building automation for HVAC.

Perform a full LED lighting retrofit.

Sheriff's Office

A county expansion is planned for the jail area but will not include renovations to the existing front of the building.

HVAC

Replace a dozen past-end-of-life air conditioning units and split systems.

Building Envelope

Replace aging windows. The roof was also noted as being in very poor condition, with potential asbestos issues.

Lighting

Upgrade electrical systems with an LED retrofit.

Water Conservation

Install electronic, restricted-flow faucets and toilet sensors in the jail to reduce high water costs.

Dog Pound

The new HVAC system needs to be added to a control system.

Address a significant sanitary sewer issue where waste "daylights" over a hill. Proposed solutions include a new septic-type system or repairing an existing cistern.

Financial Incentives

An expected 20% increase in the county's electric rates in 2026 makes solar generation a way to insulate the county from rate hikes.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) offers a direct-pay tax credit to government entities, potentially covering 40% to 50% of the installation cost.

Urgency and Considerations

This federal tax credit is expiring; solar panels must be on-site by July 4, 2026, to qualify. The technology is guaranteed with a 30-year warranty for labor and materials. A mock-up for a rooftop installation would generate an estimated \$9,800 in annual savings, though the financial return on small-scale solar is often not as compelling as on larger projects.

Transfers, Then & Now, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

25-530-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

25-531- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to request the following supplemental appropriation for fund 099 Grant Administration:

099-0099-5102-00 Salary Line Item \$6,000.00

Please do the following transfers:

Transfer \$2,968.69 from 099-0099-5370.00 Insurance Line Item into 099-0099-5370.01 Other Expenses line item.

Transfer \$56.25 from 099-0099-5370.00 insurance line item into 099-0099-5368.01 other Medicare line item.

Transfer \$960.19 from 099-0099-5370.00 insurance line item into 099-0099-5367.01 other PERS line item.

Transfer \$2,000.00 from the supplies line item into 099-0099-5309.00 miscellaneous expense line item.

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

25-532- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following supplemental appropriations for general fund 01 courthouse maintenance

\$6,828.20 to salaries 001-0402-5102.00

\$93.31 to PERS 001-0402-5367.00

\$886.93 TO MEDICARE 001-0402-5368.00

This covers the remaining pay and benefits for the employee pad from these funds for the remainder of 2025. The initial budget did not account for the summer help paid here, which is why the funds are short.

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

25-533- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to provide a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$1,455.79 from the line item 001-0301-4003.00 (receipts &

reimbursements) to line item 001-0301-5306.00 (contract services) which is reimbursement for monies spent for May 6, 2025 special election for Morgan County Board of Elections.

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

25-534- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to requesting new line items for Morgan County Public Transit Fund 113:

113-0113-5371.03 Noble Driver Insurance

113-0113-5369.03 Noble Diver Workers Comp

113-0113-5369.04 Monroe Driver Workers Comp

113-0113-5369-05 Dispatcher Workers Comp

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

25-535- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to establish a new revenue and expense line item the 056 OWDA Fund

056-2025-4001.00 OWDA/HSTS 2025 Receipts

056-2025-5301.00 OWDA/HSTS 2025 Expense

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

25-536- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following budget transfer fund 321 ARPA

Transfer \$100,000.00 from 3210321-5301.00 ARPA-SLFRF TO 315302.00 LATCF.

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

25-537- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the following budget transfer for fund 274 Reicker.

Transfer \$500.00 from 24-0274-5306.00 contracts services to 274-0274-5303.00 supplies

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

25-538- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to recess the commissioners meeting on Monday, October 20, 2025 at 4:00pm.

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

25-539- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to reconvene the commissioners meeting Tuesday October 28, 2025 at 4:00am for the mitigation meeting.

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

25-540- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to recess the commissioners meeting on Tuesday October 28, 2025 at 6:00pm.

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

25-541- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to reconvene the commissioners meeting Thursday October 30, 2025 at 9:00am for Budget meetings.

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

25-542- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to adjourn the commissioners meeting on Thursday, October 30, 2025 at 2:00pm.

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

Cecil Mayle, President

Heidi Maxwell, Vice-President

Steven Best, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

