

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, November 3, 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:

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

**25-550-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of October 27, 2025.

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

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***Alan Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance***

Ables Heating Cooling has ordered a new drip pan for the first floor West side air handler at the Courthouse. 8-12-25 Scheduled for 11-5-25

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.

2012 Dodge Grand Caravan was released from Gov Deals 10-28-25. Purchased new battery and windshield wiper blades and added brake fluid. Checked all fluid levels and lights. Getting it ready to turn over to the Morgan County Dog Pound. 10-28-25

Toyota Van Has been paid for through Gov Deals and picked up. 10-31-25

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***Amber Wilson, Senior Center***

Financially, the Older Americans Act Title III funding saw a slight increase, avoiding a feared cut. Past financial commitments from 2024 were also clarified.

Financial Updates

The Older Americans Act Title III funding was not decreased by 40% as was previously a concern.

The funding actually received a slight increase.

A past contribution of "five" was made in 2024.

A decision was made not to provide "\$20,000" because it had not been budgeted for.

A response provided in 2024 was for that year only and not a commitment for the next five years.

Activities and Events

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### ***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator***

The IT Director asked the Commissioners for clarification on who exactly the County's cybersecurity policy would cover. As far as all are concerned, the cybersecurity policy only covers the County offices as the Commissioners would be the governing body of the policy.

The IT Director asked the Commissioners if quotes received from various vendors for software or cybersecurity services needed to be included in the minutes. The Commissioners advised that because the quotes in question were under a certain dollar amount, they did not need to be included in the minutes.

Following the recent meeting with Civica Plus about archiving the County's social media content, the IT Director started looking for a company that would archive the County's e-mail in a similar fashion. This would make responding to records requests much easier and would provide a permanent archive location for e-mail.

The Development office will be the first to start using the new Entra ID identity management feature that came with the County's new Microsoft 365 accounts. Identity management is something that the County has needed on its networks for some time. If the Entra ID deployment goes well for the Development office, the IT Director will start setting it up in all other County offices.

Dell has suspended Morgan County's account for non-payment of invoices.

The IT Director attended the EMA office's Hazard Mitigation Meeting this past week.

The computer that manages the County's fuel meter at Greuey's Fuel is now obsolete; it runs Windows 10 and cannot be upgraded to Windows 11. The software on the computer does not require an Internet connection, so the IT Director is planning to remove the computer from the

network and operate it as standalone system until a Windows 11 computer can be procured for the fuel meter software.

The IT Director discussed a Cyber Ohio webinar regarding records pertaining to cybersecurity. Per ORC 9.64 (E)(F), certain information regarding cybersecurity is not considered a public record and is exempt from Sunshine Law/other public records requests. The IT Director and the Commissioners need to determine the best way to discuss cybersecurity matters moving forward. It was decided that the details of cybersecurity matters would be discussed in e-mail only.

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***Heidi Burns, JFS***

Federal Shutdown

- SNAP benefits for November are on hold and will not go out to the clients – A couple of Federal Judges have ruled that partial payments need to be made but the President’s Administration is planning to appeal Judge rulings. Also, another Federal Judge ruled that the President needed to move money to fund it all and a decision needs to be made by later today.
- OWF benefits are going out for November
- For Ohio, Governor DeWine made \$7 million available to various food banks and \$18 million to families on OWF. This means in Morgan County, 100 individuals will get a quarter of what they would normally get in OWF additionally each week for November.
- State of Ohio has issued two-week notice of potential furloughs to 9,000 employees including ODJFS, EPA, OOD, Department of Health, Department of Public Safety, and the Ohio National Guard
- Receiving limited funds from the state – holding rent right now and indirect costs

Timesheet

Health Insurance -where are we?

Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am – union negotiations – need 1 Commissioner for all day

Reminder – COG Meeting today

Travel Request – Joe Frazier to Caldwell on 11/3 for COG/WDB meeting

***John Telesz, Engineer***

The rescheduled OPWC meeting was held today, with the following members present: Sheila Welch, Kiley Apperson, Bo Powell, Kevin Cramer, Casey Singree, Scott Webb, Terry McGrath, John Telesz, Steve Hook, Cecil Mayle, Heidi Maxwell, Steve Best See Attachment A for minutes.

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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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***Steve Fate, Medical Mutual***

The current carrier, Medical Mutual (MMO), has proposed a 27% renewal increase, which amounts to a \$626,000 cost increase and is considered unfeasible.

The group expressed strong dissatisfaction, finding the increase inexplicable given a 90% loss ratio, \$500,000 in claims, and a single high-cost claim of \$112,000.

Discrepancies were noted in the census data used for the renewal, with MMO's numbers being lower than the actual enrollment (120 vs. 145 employees).

There was a proposal with a 6.3% increase. This plan uses a Usual, Customary, and Reasonable (UCR) model, not a traditional PPO, allowing employees to go to any provider. It provides tools for employees to shop for services, potentially resulting in zero out-of-pocket costs.

UnitedHealthcare (UHC): Provided a quote with a 14% increase. Mr. Fate strongly advised against UHC due to significant past issues with service and claims processing. The plan would also cause network disruption and introduce a fourth tier for specialty drugs.

Healthy Path (Genesis Program): A Genesis-owned product that came in with a 17% increase. It features a three-tier structure heavily incentivizing the Genesis network (Tier 1: \$0 deductible/copay; Tier 2: \$5,000 deductible; Tier 3: \$10,000 deductible).

Consortium Options: Two options were presented: Jefferson Health Plan (22% increase) and SEPCO (26% increase). The primary advantage is "pooling power" for stability and protection from large future rate hikes (e.g., SEPCO has an 8% renewal cap).

Self-Funding: Explained as an alternative where costs are split between fixed (TPA, stop-loss) and variable (claims) components, with potential savings if claims are low.

Declined Proposals: Four carriers, including Cigna, Optimal, and Clearwater, declined to provide a competitive proposal.

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***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.

Shannon Wells will attend a meeting in Monroe County today at 3pm to discuss transportation contracts with GMN Community Action and Monroe JFS.

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

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

Grant deadlines approaching:

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

ODOT Transit FY2026 – November 14, 2025

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***John Coler; Jim McInturf, McInturf Insurance***

Proposal for New Insurance Brokerage Services

Mr. Coler, a local pharmacy owner, introduced his associate Jim, an insurance broker from McInturf Insurance in Zanesville.

Mr. Coler described a negative experience with the commissioners about prescription services a decade ago but reaffirmed his commitment to the local community.

Proposed Proactive Management Strategy

Mr. McInturf and Mr. Coler advocate a hands-on approach to controlling health insurance costs.

Key strategies discussed include:

Regular claims analysis to pinpoint cost drivers.

Comparing network discounts across carriers.

Exploring plan design changes, such as step therapy for high-cost drugs like GLP-1s.

Considering models like self-insurance or joining purchasing cooperatives with other municipalities.

Mr. McInturf emphasized the need for a direct working relationship among the county, the broker, and the carrier representative.

His primary goal is for the county to hire Jim as their broker, believing Jim can deliver better service and cost savings.

A secondary goal is to eventually shift the county's prescription business from mail-order back to his local pharmacy.

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

**25-551-**Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve payment of bills. \*See attached\*

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

**25-552-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the establishment of new fund 344 SVAA Grant.

This grant has previously put into 345 VOCA Grant in the past, these grants need to be separate.

With the new fund we will need to set up the following inline items,

344-0344-5102.00	Salary
344-0344-5303.00	Supplies
344-0344-5305.00	Telephone
344-0344-5307.00	Travel
344-0344-5309.00	Other
344-0344-5365.00	Insurance
344-0344-5367.00	PERS
344-0344-5368.00	Medicare
344-0344-5369.00	Worker's Compensation
344-0344-4001.00	SVAA Receipts

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

**25-553-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer the following:

Transfer \$500.00 from the 112-0112-5304.00 Sold Maintenance Line Item into 112-0112-5301.00 Federal Asst. Line Item.

Transfer \$5,000.00 from the 112-0112-5371.00 Insurance Line Item into the 112-0112-530.00 Federal Asst. Line Item.

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

**25-554-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to transfer \$250,000.00 from K16-004-0004-5330.00 Road Materials to cover the Chip and Seal Projects we on working on.

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

**25-555-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to recess the commissioners meeting on Monday, November 3, 2025 at 4:00pm.

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

**25-556-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to reconvene the commissioners meeting Thursday November 6, 2025 for Medical Mutal meeting at 2:00pm.

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

**25-557-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to adjourn the commissioners meeting on Thursday November 6, 2025 the Medical Mutual at 3:00pm.

**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**

Attachment A:

# Sign In

Sheila Welch

Sheila Welch

Kiley Apperson

Kiley Apperson

Bo Powell

Bo Powell

Kevin Cramer

Lacey Stogree

Lacey Stogree

Scott Webb

Larry Lane Earl

TERRY MCGRETH

Terry McGreth

John Telesz

John Telesz

Patrick Kidd

Patrick Kidd

Steve Bost

Steve Bost

Cecil Maxwell

Cecil Maxwell

Heidi Maxwell

Heidi L. Maxwell

Steve Bost

Steve Bost

**Morgan County Sub-Committee Meeting**  
**Reicher Building – Commissioner’s Office Rm. 216**  
**155 East Main Street – McConnellsville, Ohio 43787**  
**Minutes for November 3rd, 2025– 10:00 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order by John Telesz, executive committee member. Those County Sub-Committee members present are:

**Sub-Committee Members:** Terry McGrath -Malta Village (Mayoral representative), Cecil Mayle (County Commissioners’ representative), John Telesz (County Engineer representative) and Bo Powell (Township Trustee representative), John McCort (At Large representative).

**Other Attendees:** Steve Best, Heidi Maxwell, Sheila Finley (Clerk). Kiley Apperson (Engineer Administrative Assistant) Patrick Kidd. (See Sign-in Sheet)

**The 1st order of business** John Telesz asked for a motion to rescind the notes and priorities from the October 14th 2025 meeting.

Terry McGrath motioned to rescind.  
Bo Powell 2nd the motion.

**Second order of business** was to assign the County’s priority points to the three (4) submitted projects. John Telesz explained that the purpose of the meeting is to assign County priority points to each of the projects (maximum of 4) submitted by the Morgan County applicants. He then presented the county’s “**4 Projects**” and discussed how the points might be distributed.

The projects are to be assigned priority points as follows: 1st – 100 points, 2nd – 65 points, 3rd – 55 points, 4th – 45 points.

**Project Representatives:**

John Telesz then presented the county’s “**Township and County Co-operative Road Paving Projects**” and then discussed how the County Sub-Committee points might be distributed.

- Morgan County Combo Project (Village & Township Resurfacing) Co-Op - (Includes Village of McConnellsville, Seventh Street and First Street resurfacing; Meigsville Twp- Hart Road resurfacing; Bloom Twp. Rokeby Circle resurfacing; Penn Twp-Lightner Ridge Rd; Homer Twp. Tunnel Rd).
- Morgan County Paving Project #2 – Includes a portion of Morgan County. Rd. #11 (Unionville Rd.-from Unionville to SR 60); County Rd. #14 (Mountville Rd. from C. Beard Ln. to SR 78) and County Rd. #52 (Goshen Run Rd.-from SR 377 to Bridge # 5834481).

- Village of Malta Front Street Reconstruction Project – Includes from Old Iron Bridge south to Village Limits
- Village of Stockport 2026 Roadway improvements.

The sub-committee then discussed the applications and did the following point assignments:

Bo Powell made a motion to award the priority point as follows:

100 pts – Morgan County Combo Project  
Terry McGrath 2nd that motion:

Terry McGrath made a motion to award 2nd priority as follows:

65 pts-Morgan County Paving Project #2  
Bo Powell 2nd that motion.

Cecil Mayle made a motion to award 3rd priority as follows:

55 pts- Village of Malta Front Street Reconstruction Project  
Bo Powell 2nd that motion.

Cecil Mayle made a motion to award 4th priority as follows:

45 pts- Village of Stockport 2026 Roadway Improvements  
Bo Powell 2nd that motion.

With all members voting yeas. Motions passed.

John Telesz explained that there may be some minor discrepancies in the scoring of the projects at other locations. These discrepancies will be discussed at the executive committee meeting on Wednesday December 17, 2025, at the Buckeye Hills Office at 1400 Pike Street, Marietta, Ohio at 10:00am. After this meeting, scores could change a little, which in turn may affect the way the county sub-committee awards its points.

Cecil Mayle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Terry McGrath 2nd that motion and meeting was adjourned.

Minutes were taken by John Telesz, Morgan County Engineer and Executive Board Member & Kiley Apperson Morgan County Engineer's Administrative Assistant.

John Telesz  
Executive Committee Member



