

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, November 17, 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 Maxwell attended a CCAO meeting last Friday.

25-577- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of November 10, 2025.

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

Alan Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance

Ables Heating Cooling has installed a new drip pan for the first floor West side air handler at the Courthouse and looked at the Air Handler on the 2nd floor Westside, find a bad circuit board 11-13-25

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.

Kitchen dishwasher has a drainage problem again. Called Duane King and Apperson's to look at it again. 11-13-25 Problem seems to be in the overflow going out the main Village sewer line.

Jeff Babcock, It Administrator

The IT Director discussed the topic of training on artificial intelligence (AI) with the Treasurer.

The Treasurer mentioned that there is money available for training on the proper use of AI in the public sector. The IT Director discussed this with the Commissioners.

25-578- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to appoint Mr. Steve Williams to the Burr Oak Regional Water District for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2026 through January 1, 2029.

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

25-579- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to reappoint Katelyn Blackburn for a four (4) year term commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2029.

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

Heidi Burns, JFS

Timesheet

25-580- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer between expense line items in the 006 account.

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Account</u>
006-0006-5309.01 (PA Contracts	006-0006-5309.00 (PA Other)	\$100,000.00
006-0006-5345.00 (PA Purchase of Serv.	006-0006-5340.00 (PA Public Asst.)	\$ 50,000.00

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

Steve Redrup, EMA

EMA/ OHS Report to Commissioners

- Working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the third meeting is set for November 18th at 4 pm at the EMA offices
 - Attended meetings for Hyper-Reach and IPaws
 - Provided logistical support for MCSO
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Sophia Wiseman, OSU Extension

Sophia Whisman- 4-H Extension Educator

At the end of October Sophia attended Older Youth in Training and Junior Leader meetings. Sophia also attended on October 22nd the end of year youth celebration for all 4-H youth, funded by the Morgan County 4-H Committee. All youth who registered got pizza and free bowling at the River Valley Social. This event is to reward and recognize youth for all their hard work from the

past year on their 4-H projects. On October 23rd Sophia attended the state camping Inservice and taught her peers how to add natural resource topics to their camps. On November 5th Sophia attended a state Quality Assurance training to get certified to teach QA for the upcoming year. November 6th Sophia attended a state 4-H Professional Inservice to receive statewide updates for the 4-H program. On November 13th Sophia attended a sale committee meeting.

Sophia works on prepping QA, older youth programs and training for new volunteers and returning volunteers at this time.

Pam Montgomery-4-H/FCS Extension Educator and Area Leader

4-H Activities

- Review applications for Camp Counselors and Counselor in-training 2026. Deadline is November 17th.
- Attended the 4-H Healthy Living Design Team face to face meeting on 10/22/25
- Attended the following in-services Camp Director 10/23/25, 4-H Professional Fall Update 11/6/25, and Livestock Quality Assurance training 11/5/25
- Fall Retreat for the statewide group 4-H Master Clothing Educator Volunteers November 7-8, 2025. She planned the event as the Extension Staff in charge of the program.
- Attended the 4-H National Conference in Atlanta Georgia where she received her 25-year award.
- Mentoring a new 4-H Professional in Guernsey County.

FCS Activities

- The final Successful Co-Parenting class for 2025 was offered November 4th.
- Basics to a Household Budget offered to DJFS clientele 11/12/25. This will be offered monthly.
- Meeting with Family and Children First coordinator to discuss programming. 11/12/25
- Attended Morgan County Family and Children First Council 11/14/25

Area Leader Activities

- One-on-one sessions with employees in Area 19 (Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, and Washington Counties) regularly. Currently working on Fall check-ins reviewing both performance and professional development goals for the year.
- Working on onboarding (2) new employees

Betsy Ellingsworth- FCS Extension Educators Coordinator 3

Betsy attended the ONE Extension Orientation/Onboarding Meetings in Columbus with Alivia Mock which concluded on Oct 21.

She has begun a 6 week “Taking Care of Me” Series at Morgan East Elementary, offering the program to kindergarten, first and second grade students.

Betsy met with the teachers at Tabor Ridge Christian School to plan upcoming programming for their students.

She continues to partner with Morgan United Ministries to distribute recipes and healthy eating resources at the monthly food distributions in Malta, Stockport, and Chesterhill which she participated at on November 5 & 12.

At the senior center, Betsy offered a Dementia Friends Training program on November 6. She also led a Wits Workout session there on November 13.

Betsy collaborated with Pam Montgomery to offer a basic financial literacy course at JFS on November 12.

She attended the FCFC meeting with Pam Montgomery on Nov 14.

Jordan Penrose- Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator

In October, Jordan gave his monthly TV interview on WHIZ News, discussing upcoming events, frost, and a general agricultural update for the area. He had a follow up meeting with Robert Moore on farm transition planning on October 16th. He attended an in-person meeting for the beef team. Jordan also attended the Soil and Water ATV Tour. Throughout October he also helped Soil and Water check corn yield across the county for the corn yield contest. In November Jordan attended the Assuring Quality Care for Animals In-Service to be trained to teach Quality Assurance. 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

Alivia Mock- Extension Educator Coordinator

4H – Alivia attended the 2025 Annual Quality Assurance recertification training and the 2025 4H professionals Inservice conference in Columbus.

ANR – Alivia assisted the master gardener volunteers in hosting their second fall talk of the season at the Kate Love Simpson Library. Alivia also attended the monthly master gardener coordinator meeting and the master gardener volunteer meeting. +Alivia will attend a Dairy Calf education zoom on 11/12 and a farmer and farmland tax webinar on 11/14. Alivia will attend the 2025 annual master gardener coordinator conference on 11/21 in Columbus.

FCS – Alivia will attend professional development and training zooms throughout the month on various topics.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

- Shannon Wells applied to ODOT on November 14, 2025 for \$2,089,754 in FY2027 funding for transit in Morgan, Noble and Monroe counties. This request included \$564,284 in replacement vehicles (9 new vehicles), \$1,127,800 in operating funds, \$307,304 in capitalized maintenance funds and \$90,366 in mobility management funds.
- The Village of Malta and the Village of Stockport were both awarded the Neighborhood Revitalization grant from Ohio Department of Development at \$750,000 each. The Morgan County Economic Development submitted these grants earlier this spring. The grants will improve sidewalks, walking paths and streets in the villages.
- OhioSE is wanting to schedule a meeting this week to schedule the new JobsOhio Energy Initiative.
- The Morgan County Land Bank will meet today November 17, 2025 at 4pm in the Economic Development Office.
- The Morgan County Tourism board will meet today November 17, 2025 at 4:30pm in the 3rd floor conference room of the Riecker bldg..

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report
-Full report can be found online at:
https://www.morgancounty-oh.gov/dog_warden_reports.html

Wendy Gorrell, MCDD

Levy Status and Term Details

- The levy was last renewed in 2020.
- References to both five-year and six-year rotations; the 2020 renewal was for six years.
- A 1.97 levy is five-year and expires in 2026.
- Collection occurs in 2026, and both timing options in 2026 are available for ballot placement.

Ballot Timing and Options

- The levy could have been run in November this year and can be run at either available time in 2026.
- There is awareness of potential citizen-led “no property tax” activity in November, which may affect timing considerations.

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

Meeting & Scheduling

- **Meeting Reschedule:** The meeting set for 8:00 AM on December 1 needs to be rescheduled.
 - **Reason:** Key participants will be absent, resulting in no quorum (only three of five attendees available).
 - **Note:** The rescheduled meeting must take place outside the group’s normal meeting times.
- **Safety Council Meeting:** Scheduled for this Monday.
 - **Reason for date change:** Typically held on the fourth Wednesday, moved to the third due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
 - **Topic:** ABC will present on “securing your business.”

AI (Artificial Intelligence)

- **Training Opportunity:** The Treasurer attended a conference that mentioned funding for AI training. It's unclear whether this covers proper use or scam avoidance.

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

25-581- 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

25-582- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the following:

Request a new revenue line item 110-2024-4001.00 Brownfield—2.

Request a new expense line item 110-2024-5001.00 Brown field—2.

Request a new revenue line item 110-2025-4000.00 HB2—Jail Grant.

Request a new expense line item 110-2025-5001.00 HB2—Jail Grant.

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

25-582- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer the following

\$1,064.13 from Advertising and Printing line item 001-0301-5308 to contract services line item 001-0301-5306 for a total of \$1,06413 to be transferred to contract services.

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

25-583 - Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the following name changes, this is to make things clearer in reporting:

304-0304-4002.00 Payments from Escrow to Escrow Transfer

311-0311-4002.00 Payments from Escrow to Escrow Transfer

604-0604-4002.00 Payments from Escrow to Escrow Transfer

611-0611-4002.00 Payments from Escrow to Escrow Transfer

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

25-584- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve a supplemental appropriation \$40,000.00 to expense line 001-1501-5328.00 Public Defenders . This is to keep paying attorneys for indigent cases.

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

25-585- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to request new expense line items for fund 086:

086-0086-5102.01 other salary line item

086-0085-5367-01 PERS line item

086-0086-5367.01 Medicare line item

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

25-586- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to recess the commissioners meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 4:00pm.

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

25-587- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to reconvene the commissioners meeting Monday, November 10, 2025 at 4:00pm for a Land Bank meeting.

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

25-588- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to recess the commissioners meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 5:00pm.

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

25-589- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to reconvene the commissioners meeting November 18, 2025 for a Hazard Mitigation meeting at 4:00pm.

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

25-590- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to recess the commissioners meeting November 18, 2025 for a Hazard Mitigation meeting at 4:00pm.

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

25-591- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to reconvene the commissioners meeting November 21, 2025 for a zoom natural gas meeting at 4:00pm.

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

25-592- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to adjourn the commissioners meeting on November 21, 2025 at 5:00pm.

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

Cecil Mayle, President

Heidi Maxwell, Vice-President

Steven Best, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

