

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday January 5, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 8:30am with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Heidi Maxwell, President
Steve Best, Vice-President
Cecil Mayle, Member

The commissioners did the following over the past week:

No meeting last week.

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

26-001- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the minutes of December 29, 2026

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

2026 Appointments & Hires

26-002- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to appoint Mrs. Maxwell as President of the Board of Commissioners for the calendar year of 2026.

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

26-003 Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Mayle to appoint Mr. Best as Vice-President of the Board of Commissioners for the calendar year of 2026

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

26-004- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

Whereas Article IV, Section 6, of the Code of Regulations of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio requires each member county to, for the purpose of voting of any annual or special meeting of the Association, designate an Official Representative and alternate; and

Whereas, the designation of the Official Representative and Alternate for a county organized under the statutory for of county government shall be by resolution of the board of county commissioners; and

Whereas, is designating the Official Representative and Alternative only a member of the board of county commissioners is eligible to be designated as the Official Representative and Alternate;

Now Therefore Be it Resolved; that Heidi Maxwell, County Commissioner is designated as the Official Voting Representative of Morgan County.

Be it Further Resolved, that Steve Best is designated as the Alternate Voting Representative of Morgan County.

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

26-005- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve the following boards for the calendar year 2026:

Heidi Maxwell: Buckeye Hills Development District Board

Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Executive Committee

Area on Aging

Council on Aging

Steve Best: Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Board

District Advisory Council

Family and Children First Council

EMA Mitigation Planning

Board of Tourism

Board of Revision

Cecil Mayle: Buckeye Joint County Insurance Council

Southeastern Ohio Joint Jail Board

United Way

Worker's Compensation Committee

Washington-Morgan County Community Action Board

LEPC

All three Commissioners serve on the following boards:

EMA Terrorism Committee
Southeast Ohio Solid Waste Committee
Workforce Investment Board, Council of Government
Morgan County Planning Commission

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

26-006 Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve the 2026 holidays:

New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday January 19, 2026
President's Day	Monday February 16, 2026
Memorial Day	Monday May 25, 2026
Juneteenth Day	Friday June 19, 2026
Independence Day	Friday July 3, 2026
Labor Day	Monday September 7, 2026
Columbus Day	Monday October 12, 2026
Veteran's Day	Wednesday November 11, 2026
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday November 26, 2026
Friday after Thanksgiving	Friday November 27, 2026
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24, 2026
Christmas Day	Friday December 25, 2026

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

26-007- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to not accept Jimmy Carter Day as a holiday.

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

26-008- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to reemploy Mrs. Becky Thompson as Dog Warden for the calendar year 2026.

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

26-009- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to reemploy Mrs. Sunny Clay as Pound Keeper for the calendar year 2026.

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

26-010- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to reemploy Mrs. Sheila Welch as Commissioner's Clerk for the calendar year 2026.

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

26-011- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to reemploy Mrs. Shannon Wells Prevailing Wage Officer for the calendar year 2026.

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

26-012- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to reemploy Mr. Alan Eltringham and Mr. Alan Eltringham Jr. as Riecker Maintenance for the calendar year 2026.

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

26-013- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to reemploy Mr. Bryan Sharkey as Courthouse Maintenance for the calendar year 2026.

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

26-014- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve .70 cents per mile reimbursement rate for Morgan County employees using personal vehicles for Morgan County business for the calendar year of 2026.

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

26-015- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to establish office hours for regular session commissioners' meetings for Monday 8:30am to 4:00pm, unless a holiday falls on Monday in which case the commissioners meeting would fall on Tuesday, and they will meet on Thursday 8:30am to 12:00pm as needed.

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

26-016- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to allow Engineer Telez to perform duties over county roads in the calendar year 2026.

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

26-017- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to reemploy Mrs. Amanda Preston as Morgan County Apiary Inspector for the calendar year 2026.

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

26-018- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to reemploy Mr. Steve Redrup as EMA Director for the calendar year 2026.

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

26-019- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to limit public comments to 10 minutes for the calendar year 2026.

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

26-020- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to reemploy Mr. John Wilt as 911 Coordinator for the calendar year 2026.

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

26-021- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to reemploy Mr. David Parrett as coroner for the calendar year 2026.

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

26-022- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to appoint Commissioner Mayle and Commissioner Maxwell to the Land Bank Board for the calendar year 2026.

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

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

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

Heidi Burns, JFS

26-023- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

Whereas, in the matter of travel for the employees of the Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services the Board of County Commissioners of Morgan County Ohio, authorize out of county travel and out of state travel for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 for the following purposes: Employee Training/Development, Workshops, Conferences, Protective Services (Visitation, Child Safety and Well-Being, Investigations), Meeting and Necessary Agency Business. See Attachment A

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

26-024- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve the following:

Whereas, the Child Support Enforcement Agency of Morgan County performs allowable TANF or Income Maintenance activities to assist low-income, non-custodial parents to increase the ability to meet their child support obligations;

Whereas, the Child Support Enforcement Agency of Morgan County goes into excess, there is access to Community and Protective Services allocation from Public Assistance;

Whereas, in order to properly access these funds for this purpose, the funds must be transferred from the Public Assistance Fund (006) in which they are received from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services into the Child Support Enforcement Fund (090) on a quarterly basis.

Therefore, we, the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County do hereby grant to the Director of Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services, the authority to approve the transfer of money from the PA Fund to the CSEA Fund through December 31, 2028. See Attachment B

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

26-025- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

Whereas, the Public Children Services Agency of Morgan County performs allowable PA activities for the purpose of meeting the expenses for providing Children Services per Section 5101.144 of the Revised Code. Funding included is as follows:

1. Child, Family, & Adult Community and Protective Services (OAC 5101:9-5-12.4(D))
2. Title XX Base (OAC 5101:9-6-12; 5101:2-25-01(S); 5101:2-25-02)
3. Title XX TANF Transfer (OAC 5101:9-6-12; 5101:9-6-12.1; 5101:2-25-01(S); 5101:2-25-02)
4. Social Service Operating (OAC 5101:9-6-10(E))
5. TANF Admin (OAC 5101:9-6-08.8(E); PRC Reference Guide)
6. TANF Regular (OAC 5101:9-6-08(G); PRC Reference Guide)

Whereas, in order to properly access these funds for this purpose, the funds must be transferred from the Public Assistance Fund (006) in which they are received from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services into the Public Children Services Fund (050) on a quarterly basis.

Therefore, we, the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County do hereby grant to the Director of Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services, the authority to approve the transfer of money from the PA Fund to the PCSA Fund through December 31, 2025. See Attachment C
Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea, Mr. Mayle yea Motion Carried

Shannon Wells, Development Office

Shannon Wells has been working with Miba Sinter on completing an Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund pre application to help fund the purchase of equipment for an expansion. Shannon Wells has been working with the Economic Development Administration about including water taps in the project on SR60 since the project was under budget.

The buildings in Stockport on Water Street are down and the area is being filled in.

Shannon Wells is working to coordinate a meeting with OhioSE and Future Plans for the industrial dye manufacturing project.

The public notice for accepting demolition projects from the public will be in the Herald and on Facebook this Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Shannon Wells will attend the McConnelsville Aspiring Community board meeting this evening at 5:30pm at Deanos.

Eric Leach

Overview

The consultation was with the Economic Development Director of a county in Southeast Ohio to discuss economic and workforce development challenges. The counties primary pain points are significant limitations due to terrain, a lack of developable land, and insufficient infrastructure, particularly water, sewer, and transportation (no four-lane highways or rail). A major issue discussed was a stalled \$3 million ARC broadband grant project due to a legal disagreement with the provider, Spectrum. Other challenges include workforce availability for major employers like Miba Center, population decline, and a lack of funding for critical projects like a housing feasibility study. The commissioners are looking for a consultant to help resolve current

roadblocks, identify and secure state and federal funding for infrastructure and development projects, and provide strategic guidance on navigating government programs.

Main Points

The biggest hurdles are severe limitations on developable land due to the local terrain and a lack of adequate infrastructure, including water, sewer, and highways. Just a mile north of town, an attractive, privately-owned plot of land lacks public sewer and, until recently, public water. The county also has no four-lane highways or rail access, with the nearest interstate being a 45-minute drive away. This significantly hampers efforts to attract new businesses, as the county often fails to meet site selector requirements.

A major project is stalled due to a legal and contractual impasse. The county was awarded a nearly \$3 million Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant for a fiber broadband project, which was to be matched by Spectrum for a \$5 million total investment. However, Spectrum pulled out of the project because they were unwilling to adhere to the ARC's maximum data speed language in the agreement. This has left the project in limbo, with the funds inaccessible. The commissioner have been waiting on guidance from a consultant and is unsure how to proceed, especially with the BEAD program funding rounds approaching. This failure to move forward is a major disappointment and a significant roadblock to improving connectivity for unserved and underserved residents.

Local employers are struggling with workforce availability, which impacts their ability to expand. Miba Center, a major employer with around 200 employees, was awarded three large contracts and needs to hire numerous engineers and packers to support a \$4 million investment in expansion and equipment. Despite JobsOhio's involvement, filling these roles remains a struggle. The company recently increased its base wages and changed management, which is hoped to improve hiring.

The county faces a significant funding gap for critical feasibility studies and projects. They need to conduct a \$40,000 housing study to attract investment but have only raised \$10,000 from

AEP. Without the study, they lack the formal data needed to demonstrate investment opportunities to developers.

Expectations

The commissioners expects the consultant to provide a clear path forward to resolve the stalled ARC broadband grant project. This includes helping to figure out if another provider can be substituted, how to modify the existing ARC grant, and how to align this project with the upcoming BEAD program funding. The ultimate goal is to get the broadband expansion project, which promised \$5 million in improvements, back on track and implemented.

The commissioners want the consultant to identify and help secure funding for key infrastructure and development projects. This involves finding gap funding for immediate needs, such as the \$30,000 shortfall for the housing study, and securing larger grants for infrastructure work, like the county jail upgrade and potential highway improvements. They expect the consultant to have deep knowledge of state and federal programs (e.g., CDBG, 166 Direct Loans, capital budget earmarks, HUD, USDOT) and to proactively flag opportunities.

The commissioners would expect to receive strategic guidance and ongoing monitoring of state and federal initiatives. This includes being kept up-to-date on relevant activities at the statehouse and federal level, understanding how new legislation or funding programs (like the Next Generation 9-1-1 funds) could benefit the county, and playing "defense" against any critical changes. The goal is to have an expert who can help them navigate complex programs and capitalize on opportunities quickly and effectively.

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

An issue has been discovered with new Dell workstations in that they are unable to download software from the Dell Digital Delivery service (or Dell Optimizer application). Several attempts were made to correct this issue with Dell Support, but they were unable to discover the problem. Troubleshooting is ongoing.

New body cameras were set up and added to the video server at the Sheriff's office. The new cameras are not exactly compatible with the existing software, but were eventually added to the server via the trial and error method.

The wiring closets in the Riecker Building were cleaned of excess wiring and equipment.

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

26-026- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve a blanket travel request for any and all travel related to this office in 2026. See Attachment D

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

26-027- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to request to transfer the following:

\$ 100.00 from Equipment line item 001-0301-5304.00

\$ 50.00 from Repairs line item 001-0301-5305.00

\$1200.00 from Other Expenses line item 001-0301-5309.00

To Contract Services line item 001-0301-5306.00

For a total of \$1,350.00 to be transferred to Contract Services

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

26-028- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve all transfers. See Attachment E

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

26-029- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve payment of bills. *See attached*

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

26-030 Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to recess the commissioners meeting on January 5, 2026 at 4:00pm.

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

26-031- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to reconvene the commissioners meeting on January 7, 2025 at 9:00am until 10:00am for a Land Bank meeting.

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

26-032- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting on January 7, 2026 at 10:00am.

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

Cecil Mayle, President

Heidi Maxwell, Vice-President

Steve Best, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

Approved by Commissioners: May 26, 2026

Attachment A:



**Morgan County
Commissioners**

155 East Main St., Room 216
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756
Phone: 740-962-3183
Fax: 740-962-1341

Cecil Mayle
Heidi Maxwell
Steve Best
Sheila Welch, Clerk

RESOLUTION # 26-023

WHEREAS, in the matter of travel for the employees of the Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services the Board of County Commissioners of Morgan County, Ohio, authorize out of county travel and out of state travel for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 for the following purposes: Employee Training/Development, Workshops, Conferences, Protective Services (Visitation, Child Safety and Well-Being, Investigations), Meetings and Necessary Agency Business

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

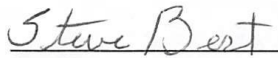
Vote: Cecil Mayle _____; Heidi Maxwell _____; Steve Best _____
Motion Carried



Cecil Mayle



Heidi Maxwell



Steve Best

Attachment B:

RESOLUTION # 26-024

Whereas, the Child Support Enforcement Agency of Morgan County performs allowable TANF or Income Maintenance activities to assist low-income, non-custodial parents to increase the ability to meet their child support obligations;


Whereas, the Child Support Enforcement Agency of Morgan County goes into excess, there is access to Community and Protective Services allocation from Public Assistance;

Whereas, in order to properly access these funds for this purpose, the funds must be transferred from the Public Assistance Fund (006) in which they are received from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services into the Child Support Enforcement Fund (090) on a quarterly basis.

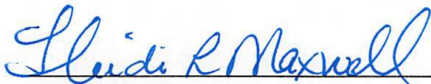
Therefore, we, the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County do hereby grant to the Director of Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services, the authority to approve the transfer of money from the PA Fund to the CSEA Fund through December 31, 2028.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.


Vote: Cecil Mayle _____; Heidi Maxwell _____; Steve Best _____
Motion Carried



Cecil Mayle



Heidi Maxwell



Steve Best

Attachment C:

RESOLUTION # 26-025

Whereas, the Public Children Services Agency of Morgan County performs allowable PA activities for the purpose of meeting the expenses for providing Children Services per Section 5101.144 of the Revised Code. Funding included is as follows:


1. Child, Family, & Adult Community and Protective Services (OAC 5101:9-5-12.4(D))
2. Title XX Base (OAC 5101:9-6-12; 5101:2-25-01(S); 5101:2-25-02)
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4. Social Service Operating (OAC 5101:9-6-10(E))
5. TANF Admin (OAC 5101:9-6-08.8(E); PRC Reference Guide)
6. TANF Regular (OAC 5101:9-6-08(G); PRC Reference Guide)

Whereas, in order to properly access these funds for this purpose, the funds must be transferred from the Public Assistance Fund (006) in which they are received from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services into the Public Children Services Fund (050) on a quarterly basis.

Therefore, we, the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County do hereby grant to the Director of Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services, the authority to approve the transfer of money from the PA Fund to the PCSA Fund through December 31, 2028.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

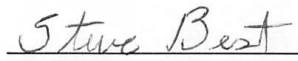
Vote: Cecil Mayle _____; Heidi Maxwell _____; Steve Best _____
Motion Carried



Cecil Mayle



Heidi Maxwell



Steve Best

Attachment D:

Morgan County Court
Michael D. Lowe, Judge
37 E. Main Street
McConnelsville, OH 43756
Telephone (740) 962-4031
Fax (740) 962-2895

January 2, 2026

Morgan County Commissioners
155 Main Street
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756

Dear Gentlemen:

Please approve a blanket travel request for any and all travel related to this office in 2026.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Lowe
Judge

Cmm 1-5-26
HRM 1-5-26
SCB 1-5-26

Attachment E:

MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

155 E. Main St. Rm. 157
McConnelsville, OH 43756

Phone: (740) 962-3116 Fax: (740) 962-3099 Email: morgan@OhioSoS.gov www.morgancountyboardofelections.com

Jerry Lou Matheney, Chairperson Director, Tracie Wagoner Deputy Director, Valerie Mayle
James B. Wilson, Member Judy Ray, Member Cindy Tuttle, Member



January 5, 2026

To County Commissioners:

Please accept this request to transfer the following:

\$100.00 from "Equipment" line item 001-0301-5304
\$50.00 from "Repairs" line item 001-0301-5305
\$1200.00 from "Other Expenses" line item 001-0301-5309

To "Contract Services" line item 001-0301-~~5306~~

For a total of \$1,350.00 to be transferred to Contract Services.

Respectfully,

Tracie Wagoner, Director
Valerie Mayle, Deputy Director
Morgan Co. BOE

HRM 1/5/26
SCB 1/5/26
Cmm 1/5/26

