

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, March 9, 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:

Commissioner Maxwell attended a Buckeye Hills meeting on Friday.

On Wednesday, Commissioner Best met with Judge Wells.

26-117- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the minutes of March 2, 2026

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

Al Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance

The Visitor Parking Signs have been installed for parking spaces along the alley. 3-6-26

Chevrolet Truck has a broken brake line for the rear brakes, truck has been parked in the old garage until lines are replaced 1-7-26

Right side overhead door at the garage won't go up, checked breakers for power. We will need to contact Westfall Doors and Buildings check out the door after the first of the year.

Apperson's replaced all sewer/drain pipes in the basement 3-8-26

Monarch Roofing Re-inspected the lower-level roof again and took a core sample of the roofing insulation under the roofing fabric. 2-13-26 (Core sample was taken 2-16-26)

Installed ^{3rd} and final TV mount and TV for the Sheriff's Office. 3-5-26

Heidi Burns, JFS

Timesheet

John Telez, Engineer

Meeting Notes

□ Topic Title: Current Road and Maintenance Projects

- Description:
 - Crews are patching County Road 61 and doing brush work on 14.
 - Preparing for paving on 14; ditch work on 86.
 - Grading ongoing on 82, 91, 73, and 52.
 - Discussion about paving scope on 52: not all the way to 39; one end nearer 39 is in better shape.
 - A bus reportedly hit a hole; suggestion to check the other end.
- Topic Title: Slip Repair and Funding Strategy (Malta)
 - Description:
 - Working with Malta on a slip estimated around \$1,000,000.
 - Seeking OPWC emergency funding; target 75% coverage.
 - Additional \$800,000 of improvements planned atop the repair.
 - Concern about ability to cover remaining costs.
 - Measured repair extents: 200 ft from existing area; extra 100 ft to reach existing sheet pile; 200 ft to Pirate Pizza's property line.
 - Prior work in the area cost about \$750–\$800.
 - Discussion on causes: ponding due to railroad right-of-way; seepage under old bait shop and road; heavy rain.
 - Conclusion:
 - Apply for OPWC emergency funds; refine scope and cost estimates for full frontage as needed.
- Topic Title: Bridge/Structure Condition and Potential Closure
 - Description:
 - Mayor asked about expected closure; inspection scheduled for summer (likely July), report expected August.
 - Request made for a list of small in-house items to improve conditions before inspection.
 - Conflicting communications noted via email about closure expectations.
 - Conclusion:
 - Wait for summer inspection results; pursue minor in-house maintenance; revisit in fall meetings.
- Topic Title: Planning Commission and Lot Split Process

Steve Redrup, EMA

- Working on a debris management plan for the county, collaborating with several other counties that also must submit a debris management plan to the state
- Attended OH-230 at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. This class was one of the required courses in the Professional Development Series. I only have the OH-205 left to do in the PDS.
- With the federal shutdown, online training and most in person training are cancelled. The Local Volunteer and Donation Management class was cancelled last Friday; I was to attend this later this month.
- Had a meeting with a representative of Pennsville FD
- Multiple meetings with the NWS reference to the weather and possible flooding
- Hosted a meeting with our regional ema state representative, we discussed the upcoming LEPC table top exercise and he provided valuable feedback. The exercise is May 14th. Center Township and Reinersville FD will be the departments hosting the exercise.
- Received notification from AEP of a transformer that leaked oil, the oil was non PCB mineral oil, AEP advised that approximately 12 gallons of oil was spilled when the transformer was damaged in a storm. AEP advised that some of the oil may have made it way into Madison Run Creek due to rain and runoff. The EPA was notified, AEP contained the oil that was on site, and did mitigation to the site including removal and replacement of soil.

John Wilt, 911

CAD System Performance Issues

- The CAD system has been slow and glitchy over the past few days.
- The issue is suspected to be related to recent network work done for the sheriff.

Pager Distribution and Management

- No update on the delivery of new pagers.
 - Approximately 150 people are receiving dispatches across all departments.
 - The dispatch list needs cleanup; many listed individuals should no longer be included.
 - A grant application for additional pagers is pending and may be approved.
-

Steve Fate, Jeff Fleming, Medical Mutual

Overview

The consultation reviewed mid-year health plan performance for a public-sector group with Medical Mutual coverage, comparing August–January results year-over-year. Key topics included claims vs. premium, loss ratio, high-cost claimants, enrollment trends (including the addition of the fire department), medical and pharmacy spend trends for PPO vs. HSA populations, provider utilization concentrations, operational issues with benefits administration recent third-party security incident affecting approximately 17 members, and upcoming consumerism tools.

Prosecutor Welch, Sheriff Fisher, Pam Weaver, Sheriff's Office

26-118- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to enter executive session at 10:00am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

26-119- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to exit executive session at 10:35am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel. *No action taken

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

Prosecutor Welch, Assistant Prosecutor Woodburn, Brad Bond, Investigator. John W. Finley, Mayor

Meeting Notes

- Topic Title: Lease Structure and Pricing Discussion
 - The group discussed a triple net (NNN) commercial lease, which they have used for prior business leases.
 - An attorney was referenced as having drafted similar leases in the past.
 - Standard market input from realtors: ~\$1.00/sq ft, implying ~\$5,200/month.
 - The team prefers \$3,500/month as a fair rate for the entire building.
 - A neighboring front office reportedly rents for \$1,200/month for ~1,000 sq ft (over \$1.00/sq ft).
 - Taxes and insurance responsibilities under NNN were discussed; questions remain on county tax exemption and exact insurance coverage.

□ Topic Title: Building Layout, Space Needs, and Configuration

- The building can be divided into four areas: upstairs apartment, downstairs front office, downstairs back office, and a back garage.
- Current need is approximately 2,500 sq ft.
- They do not want to share the building due to confidentiality and access control.
- Proposed uses:
 - Back garage: large conference room and secure file storage (including basement files).
 - Downstairs front/other offices: admin section, internal offices, investigators, victim advocates.
 - Upstairs: break/kitchen area only; no residential tenants due to confidentiality/noise.
- Walls are thin; sound control and privacy are concerns.

□ Topic Title: Security, File Storage, and Access Control

- Files must be locked and isolated from other areas; ideas include cages or designated secure rooms.
- If other occupants were considered, strict key and access control would be mandatory; preference remains for exclusive occupancy.
- Concern that thin walls could compromise confidential investigations.

□ Topic Title: Interior and Exterior Renovations

- Exterior: owners plan to invest in roofs, paint, and aesthetics (timeline/certainty unclear).
- Interior: potential drywall/studded walls in places; much brown paneling; some plaster walls remain.
- Admin area likely configured first; two big offices may only need paint.
- Large conference room buildout in back is the major expense.
- Phased approach proposed: IT/phones wiring, set up admin section, then attorneys/offices, then conference room.
- No renovation cost estimate yet; unsure if public bid thresholds apply.

□ Topic Title: IT and Infrastructure Assessment

- Need to bring the IT Administrator to assess IT requirements and wiring.
- The IT Administrator is associated with the safety committee and may guide next steps.
- Plan to coordinate a walkthrough with the realtor and the IT Administrator for IT and safety considerations.

□ Topic Title: Courthouse Space Constraints and Relocation Necessity

- Attempts to remain in the courthouse (e.g., entire basement) are insufficient for eight staff and files.

- Internal shuffle options (e.g., moving admin/genealogy room, Brittany's office) are not feasible due to other stakeholders (e.g., "Mike" wants the whole floor for court).

□ Topic Title: Funding and Budget Considerations

- No dedicated funds identified for renovations.
- Discussion about not wanting to trigger public bidding thresholds unless necessary.
- Need to obtain cost estimates for the conference room and broader interior modifications.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

Taft Law will meet with the McConnelsville village administrator March 9, 2026 at 4pm to discuss the sewer project on SR60 North and congressional funding. The village administrator is on the agenda to meet with Morgan Meigsville rural water district on Thursday March 12, 2026.

DLZ has submitted a contract modification for professional services for site survey work. The additional amount is \$8,000.

26-120- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

Authorization to Submit a 2026 Ohio Capital Budget Appropriations Request for Gap Funding of the Morgan County Jail Expansion Project

WHEREAS, the Morgan County Board of Commissioners (hereafter "**Board**") has identified a critical need to expand and modernize the Morgan County Jail located in McConnelsville, Ohio, to meet Ohio Jail Standards, ensure public safety, and provide adequate inmate housing and processing facilities;

WHEREAS, the Board retained DLZ Ohio, Inc. (hereafter "**DLZ**") as the design architect and engineer for the Morgan County Jail Expansion Project (hereafter "**Project**");

WHEREAS, as presented by DLZ, the Project scope includes a building expansion incorporating a vehicle sallyport, intake area, four (4) holding cells, property and issued storage, miscellaneous

interior renovations, and related site improvements, totaling approximately 1,936 gross square feet of new construction (34,848 cubic feet);

WHEREAS, DLZ has prepared a Project design with an estimated total project cost of Two Million Three Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars and No Cents (USD \$2,393,596.00), which includes hard construction costs, general conditions, contractor's overhead and profit, design contingency, and escalation;

WHEREAS, the Board has identified and secured funding for the Project, and has determined that a gap in funding of approximately Eight Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Five Hundred Three Dollars and No Cents (USD \$881,503.00) remains necessary to fully fund the Project;

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio Capital Budget process provides an opportunity for county governments to request state appropriations to assist in funding capital improvement projects that serve the public interest;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that submission of a 2026 Ohio Capital Budget appropriations request in the amount of Eight Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Five Hundred Three Dollars and No Cents (USD \$881,503.00) is necessary and appropriate to bridge the funding gap and enable the Project to proceed to construction; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that proceeding with the Project is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Morgan County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Morgan County Board of Commissioners, that:

Section 1. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Board President, or their designees, to submit a 2026 Ohio Capital Budget appropriation request in the amount of Eight Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Five Hundred Three Dollars and No Cents (USD \$881,503.00) to the State of Ohio for the purpose of providing gap funding for the Morgan County Jail Expansion Project.

Section 2. The Board hereby affirms its commitment to the Morgan County Jail Expansion Project as described in the design presented by DLZ, with a total estimated project cost of Two Million Three Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars and No Cents (USD \$2,393,596.00).

Section 3. The Board President, County Administrator, and their designees are each hereby authorized to take all actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution, including execution of any applications, certifications, assurances, or agreements required by the State of Ohio in connection with the capital budget appropriations request.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption. See Attachment A

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

26-121 Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to untable the transit parking lot bid from February 2, 2026.

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

26-122-Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to award the transit parking lot project to Singree Construction Services in the amount of \$339,067.00.

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

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

One of the County-owned cell phones for the Prosecutor's office arrived this week from Verizon. We are still waiting on three more phones.

The IT Director went to Noble County to fix several IT-related issues at the Buckeye Southeast Transit office in Caldwell. The dispatcher's computer there had several problems, all of which could be attributed to logging onto the computer with a personal Microsoft account verses the work account. Once the person account was disassociated with that computer, Microsoft Office and other applications started behaving normally.

The IT Director powered down the old CourtView 3 servers at the Common Pleas and County Court locations earlier this week, as it was believed that they were no longer needed. Unfortunately, it was quickly discovered that JuryTrac, the software used for calling a jury, was still running on the old servers and was not migrated to the new servers with CourtView. Additionally, County Court has a shared folder on one of the old servers. JuryTrac and the shared data will need to be moved to the new server before the old servers can be decommissioned.

The Recorder's office experienced a strange network anomaly related to the Riecker Building Internet change-over in that they were unable to send email from their server. It was discovered that their server was still using Spectrum-specific DNS entries. Once the DNS settings were updated to the building's internal router with a Google DNS server as backup, the email issue was resolved.

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

26-123- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to request the following supplemental appropriation for fund 110 CDBG. 110-2024-5001-00 Brownfield \$800,000.00

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

26-124 Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to request a supplemental appropriation of \$2,000.00 to be allocated to fund line 064-0064-5309.00 G4 FOOD SERVICE OTHER EXPENSES. This adjustment is requested to cover miscellaneous food related expenses, as the current appropriation was largely utilized for the purchased of food program software.

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

26-125- 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

26-126- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting March 9, 2026 at 5:30pm after attending a CIC meeting.

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

Heidi Maxwell, President

Steve Best, Vice-President

Cecil Mayle, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk



***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

Authorizing Resolution

Resolution # 26-120

Authorization to Submit a 2026 Ohio Capital Budget Appropriations Request for Gap Funding of the Morgan County Jail Expansion Project

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WHEREAS, the Board retained DLZ Ohio, Inc. (hereafter "**DLZ**") as the design architect and engineer for the Morgan County Jail Expansion Project (hereafter "**Project**");

WHEREAS, as presented by DLZ, the Project scope includes a building expansion incorporating a vehicle sallyport, intake area, four (4) holding cells, property and issued storage, miscellaneous interior renovations, and related site improvements, totaling approximately 1,936 gross square feet of new construction (34,848 cubic feet);

WHEREAS, DLZ has prepared a Project design with an estimated total project cost of Two Million Three Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars and No Cents (USD \$2,393,596.00), which includes hard construction costs, general conditions, contractor's overhead and profit, design contingency, and escalation;

WHEREAS, the Board has identified and secured funding for the Project, and has determined that a gap in funding of approximately Eight Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Five Hundred Three Dollars and No Cents (USD \$881,503.00) remains necessary to fully fund the Project;

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio Capital Budget process provides an opportunity for county governments to request state appropriations to assist in funding capital improvement projects that serve the public interest;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that submission of a 2026 Ohio Capital Budget appropriations request in the amount of Eight Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Five Hundred Three Dollars and No Cents (USD \$881,503.00) is necessary and appropriate to bridge the funding gap and enable the Project to proceed to construction; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that proceeding with the Project is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Morgan County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Morgan County Board of Commissioners, that:

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Section 2. The Board hereby affirms its commitment to the Morgan County Jail Expansion Project as described in the design presented by DLZ, with a total estimated project cost of Two Million Three Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars and No Cents (USD \$2,393,596.00).

Section 3. The Board President, County Administrator, and their designees are each hereby authorized to take all actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution, including execution of any applications, certifications, assurances, or agreements required by the State of Ohio in connection with the capital budget appropriations request.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Morgan County Board of Commissioners this 9th day of March, 2026.


Commissioner Cecil Mayle


Commissioner Heidi Maxwell


Commissioner Steve Best

ATTEST:


Morgan County Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

Attachment B:



***Morgan County Commissioners
Development Office***

155 East Main St., Room 135
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756
Phone: 740-962-1322
Fax: 740-962-1341

March 9, 2026

Dear Morgan County Commissioners,

My office is requesting the following supplemental appropriations for fund 110 CDBG.

110-2024-5001-00 Brownfield	\$800,000.00
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Thank you,

Traci Baker

Traci Baker

Hen 3/9/26
Comm 3/9/26
210121



Morgan County Health Department
4275 N St Rt 376 NW
McConnelsville, OH 43756
Phone: 740-962-4572
Fax: 740-962-3271

March 6th, 2026

The Morgan County Commissioners
155 E Main Street
McConnelsville Ohio 43756

We are requesting a supplemental appropriation of **\$2,000** to be allocated to fund line **064-0064-5309.00 G4 FOOD SERVICE OTHER EXPENSES**. This adjustment is requested to cover miscellaneous food-related expenses, as the current appropriation was largely utilized for the purchase of food program software.

Thank you,

Jeff Michaels

HRM 3/9/26
SCB 3/9/26
Cmm 3/9/26

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