

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, March 30, 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:

On Saturday, Commissioner Mayle helped the Stockport Village Council plant 14 trees at Big Bottom Park with 95th District State Rep Ty Moore.

Commissioner Best attended a transit pre-construction meeting on Friday.
All three commissioners attended Discovery Day at the Recker Building.

26-152- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the minutes of March 23, 2026

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

Al Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance

Chevrolet Truck has a broken brake line and needs rear brakes and drums; truck is at Bates' garage to be repaired. 3-16-26

Right side overhead door at the garage won't go up, check breakers for power. We will need to contact Westfall Doors and Buildings and schedule a date and time for repairs.

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)

Advanced Heating and Cooling installed a new Contactor and switch on RTU 3. 3-24-26

Called American Light to get quote for Emergency lights for the building. 3-20-26

We need to contact Jason Pierce to get quote to install Emergency lights installed. 3-20-26

Dog Pound Van is at Bates Garage for brakes and one new caliper, will be finished 4-1-26

Picked up tree limbs and branches at the Grove Park 3-25-26

Purchased a new mower from TSC for the Riecker Building Complex. 3-26-26

Scheduled ABM for a walk through for 4-15-26.

John Telesz, Engineer

Meeting Notes

- OPWC Emergency Funding for East Branch Road
 - Plan to apply to OPWC for emergency funds targeting a “half-million-dollar” fix.
 - Expectation to secure some portion of funding; exact eligibility and process remain unclear.
- Slip Repair Priority vs. Roadway Work
 - Slips must be fixed regardless of roadway scope.
 - Considering whether additional OPWC funds could cover roadway process uncertainty.
- Support for Center Township on USDA/FEMA Legacy Projects
 - Assisting Center Township with Creek Road and Center Bend Road projects tied to a FEMA event about seven years ago (2018/2019).
 - Projects are USDA 90/10; local share is 10%.
 - Each project is “a couple hundred thousand dollars.”
 - Plan to rehire Mr. Hook to provide constant inspections.
- Logger-Related Road Damage and Cost Recovery
 - Logger on Becker property (Zion Ridge) caused minor damage; reached an agreement with township trustees.
 - Logger on Possum Hollow/Possum Ridge caused significant damage; estimated total cost of about \$10,000.
 - Logger is non-responsive; a demand letter was sent.

- Exploring attaching a lien to property he owns (property previously bought from Holmes Township) to recover costs.
- Location references: York and Marion townships; roads intersect with Zion.

□ Bridge Impact on Crews Lane

- Township road with a county-owned bridge was hit; guardrail was damaged but prevented worse damage.
- Bridge sits in a 90-degree turn and has been hit multiple times.
- Goshen Run Surfacing Scope and Budget Constraints
 - Surfacing method: motor paving.
 - Current scope: approximately 1.1 miles starting at State Route 377, stopping near the second Amish house.
 - Discussed extending to Fitch (~0.5 miles more), estimated at ~\$100,000 extra, which would exceed funding.
 - Funding cap: “They give us 400”; any overage is local cost.
 - Asphalt prices are elevated; plan is to shorten scope to avoid overage and delay remaining segments to next year.
 - Pre-paving prep includes culverts and smoothing; may address potholes in the interim.
 - Considering holding paving until 2027 and delivering both sets of projects together.
 - Conclusion: Likely to avoid overage by limiting this year’s paving and deferring remaining sections to the next cycle; 2027 combined scheduling is under consideration.
- Concrete Work at the Sheriff’s Office Entrance
 - Need to repair/replace concrete in the yard at the front entrance.
 - Will talk to the village exploring whether the county can handle demolition and disposal of old concrete.
 - County can demolish and haul; quality of finish may not meet front-entrance aesthetic needs.

- Preference to hire a contractor for forming and finishing; county could perform tear-out and possibly assist.

Heidi Burns, JFS

1. HB730 – SNAP Allocation
 - a. Allocations will be distributed equally to each county, meaning that small counties were all made whole (59 counties) – this is for the federal portion that we are losing in October of this year. This is for one year only. This does not include anything regarding the error rate that could happen in 2027.
2. IT costs through allocation cost plan
3. Schedule

Steve Redrup, EMA

The Discrepancy

- **The Problem:** There is a severe mismatch between the official river gauge readings and observed water levels.
- **The Data:**
 - Currently, the gauge shows 6.8 feet, well below the action stage.
 - On Saturday at 10 AM, the gauge registered 7.4 feet, which is 1.6 feet *under* the action stage.
 - Simultaneously, counties both upstream (Muskingum) and downstream (Washington) were officially *in* action stage.
- **The Ground Truth:** Despite the low official readings, water is already flooding the boat ramp parking lot and other low-lying areas, a condition historically associated with action-stage levels. Multiple citizens, including Mr. Jadwin and John Walter, have independently reported the same discrepancy, noting the gauge is off by approximately two feet.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

There will be a ribbon cutting for the new Habitat home today, March 30, 2026, at 12:00 noon on Bell Ave. This project was a partnership between the Morgan County Land Reutilization Corporation and Habitat for Humanity.

The Morgan County Economic Development office will begin accepting applications for the Community Housing Impact & Preservation (CHIP) grant on April 15, 2026.

Buckeye Southeast Transit will be accepting quotes for van washing services until April 10, 2026. Information for quotes can be found at www.morgancounty-oh.gov.

The deadline for lawncare quotes is today for Buckeye Southeast Transit – Morgan location, the dog pound and the health department.

Shannon Wells and Commissioner Best attended a pre-construction meeting at the transit garage at 900 S. Riverside Dr. on Wednesday, March 25 at 2pm.

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report

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

Tracey Simmons, Visitor's Center

See Attachment A

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

The IT Director attended the Zanesville – Muskingum Chamber of Commerce Safety Council meeting this week. The topic of discussion was electrical safety presented by the AEP. The IT Director also discussed several BWC issues with the area's BWC representative as well as the possibility of a BWC visit to Morgan County.

The x-ray baggage scanner was set up at the Courthouse first floor entrance – soon to be the only public entrance into the Courthouse. The security station in the basement will also need to be moved to the first floor before the entrance can be opened to the public.

Craig Tedrow from iTech came to the Riecker Building to discuss phone systems and other areas that iTech was moving into. One item of interest for the Riecker Building is security cameras.

iTech will return on Tuesday to meet with Facilities to discuss camera locations and remote access to the video recorder.

The IT Director started pulling old equipment out of the Sheriff's office basement now that the transition to iTech as a managed service provider has begun.

The IT Director participated in the JFS Workforce Career Day to discuss the information technologies (IT) industry in general as well as IT careers in Morgan County.

Transfers, Then & Now's, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

None

26-153- 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

26-154- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to recess the commissioners meeting on Monday, March 30, 2026, at 4:00pm.

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

26-155- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to reconvene the commissioners meeting Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 9:00am for a Land Bank meeting.

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

26-156- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting April 1, 2026, at 10:30am after attending the Land Bank meeting.

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

Approved by Commissioners on: August 3, 2026

Heidi Maxwell, President

Steve Best, Vice-President

Cecil Mayle, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

Attachment A:

**Morgan County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Minute Notes
March 26, 2026**

Present: Clint Foreman, Steve Best, Shannon Well, Tim Koenig
Staff: Tracy Simons
Absent: Erica Lindimore

Meeting called to order by Clint Foreman at 4:27 PM

Approval of the February 2, 2026 minutes: Motion to approve by Clint Foreman, motion second by Steve Best. All in favor, minutes approved.

Financial report:

Public account balance: \$177,344.01
Private account balance: \$3,434.74
Total balance: \$180,778.75
February total balance: \$169,352.59
4th Q tax \$20,042.03

Director's Report

Tracy presented the Director's Report

Marketing Budget Update:

NA

New Business/Action Items

Steve Best and Tracy Simons interviewed 2 candidates for the Visitor Services Assistant. Lisa Edwards and Sarah Alfman. Sarah Alfman was the standout meeting qualifications. Motion to hire Sarah Alfman by Clint Foreman, 2nd by Shannon Wells, all in favor.

Tim Koenig was welcomed to the board and will be filling the food service seat for 2026. Conflict of interest policy was signed.

Discover McConnellsville wants to sell t-shirts out of the visitor center. Steve Best asked if they were required to submit sales tax. Tracy will check to see if the organization has received their tax exemption.

Board approved Sarah Alfman to work the Winter Wonderland in the Village event in December.

Election of 2026 officers: Steve Best made the motion to keep officers the same for 2026, 2nd by Clint Foreman, all in favor.

Next meeting TBD

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Steve Best, seconded by Clint Foreman. Meeting Adjourned 5:08 PM

DIRECTOR'S REPORT MARCH 26, 2026

Annual Meeting

We had our annual meeting with the commissioners on 2/23/2026. A few of the local business owners attended.

One of the suggestions was for us to partner with the Morgan County Herald, who puts out an annual business directory. I explained those are 2 very different publications. Upon further research, I found that as a 501 (C)(6) using tax funds, we could not partner with a local private business. See attached Board Memo.

America 250

The 4th of July Fest will be a 250 event.

County Map

Still being worked on. I've sent more tourism information to Marcia.

Rural Business Development Grant (RDBG)

We have our maps and trail guide.

Appalachian Hills Visitor Center

Sneak peak is on April 2nd at 10 a.m., meet at the visitor center lower parking lot.

Grand opening is on April 24th at 10 a.m. at the new visitor center.

Lodging

I will be setting a date for the annual lodging meeting this summer.

I created a lodging letter for those that are not collecting and remitting lodging tax. I sent it over to Rick Welch for approval and to have it put on his letterhead. The letter I sent last year, did not do well in capturing those rentals.

Regional Branding

Still with the marketing company. Logo, name, and tagline are completed. Website, merch, and media kits are in the works. They are planning on rolling it out in May.

2.1.12

Visitor Center

Visitors

January - 25

February - 28

Total - 53

YTD - 53

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