

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, April 20, 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 Best attended a Health Department meeting and talked with Kevin Cramer Thursday.

26-188 Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the minutes of April 13, 2026

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

Al Eltringham, Recker Maintenance

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)

Did walk through of County Buildings for the energy audit with ABM 4-15-26

Contacted Jason Pierce to get quote to install Emergency lights. 4-3-26

Received the Quote for the light post assembly at the Grove Park from the Development office on 4-10-26

All mowing at the Grove Park, Commons, Dirt Pile Lot, EMA Building, Old Transit Garage and Senior Citizen Building completed 4-15-26

Tourism had base board heaters removed from front entry area of the office by Jim Eppley Electric 4-15-26

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

The County's old email and website domain was suspended by HostGator because the service renewal was not paid. The IT Director made several unsuccessful attempts to contact the vendor that managed this service. After lengthy discussions with HostGator, it appears that the next step would be to get a court order to take control of the account and get the bill paid. The IT Director drafted a court order and sent it to the Prosecutor's office for execution.

The IT Director continued to work on a solution for archiving the County's old email. An open-source program called Mail Piler looks like it will solve the County's problem. However, we will need some additional server hardware to implement this solution. It is possible that some of the old Court View servers can be reused once Equitant migrates from JuryTRAC to the new server.

John Telesz, Engineer

26-187- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to participate in the ODOT salt contract for 2026.

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

Old Iron Bridge Annual Inspection and Funding

- The annual inspection for the old iron bridge is estimated at approximately \$50,000 (\$49,049 and change).
- This cost is funded by a \$5 fee levied on license plates in Morgan County, generating about \$70,000 annually.
- There is an option to levy three additional \$5 fees (totaling \$15 more per license plate) to generate additional revenue.
- This revenue could be used to secure more OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) project funding in the future.
- The OPWC match is 26% local and 74% OPWC. An investment of \$140,000 could secure \$400,000 in OPWC funds.
- The bridge inspection will likely occur in July.

Traffic Light Changes at the Iron Bridge

- The village administrator plans to replace the traffic light at the end of the bridge with a temporary flashing red and yellow light until fall.
- A speaker expressed concern that a flashing light at a skewed four-way intersection could be dangerous.
- It was clarified that the change is temporary, possibly related to work being done on or under the bridge, which may require a two-day closure.

Potential Funding and Repairs for the Old Iron Bridge

- A new ODOT funding source called “Local Major Bridge” is available, with a \$20 million annual fund.
- Criteria now include movable bridges, making the old iron bridge eligible. An application will be pursued.
- A key criterion for this funding is that the bridge must remain open.
- A citizen reported a large hole in a steel girder on the bridge, stating it is “completely rotted out.”
- Another report noted that a railing corner’s cement is completely cracked, possibly from being hit.

Heidi Burns, JFS

Timesheet

Discussion about vacation time

Steve Redrup, EMA

Worked on LEPC exercise

Received the EMPG Agreement from OEMA

The FEMA training website was brought back online by the federal government. The EMA offices will be asking for Fire Departments, Law Enforcement, and other Agencies to submit a copy of

their IS100, IS200, IS700, and IS800. If they haven't completed the courses, the EMA is going to ask if they complete the course and submit a copy for our records.

Attended full scale exercises in Noble and Athens Counties as an evaluator.

Discussed with Marietta Health System and Athens County Fire Department the Blu-Med trailer and the move to Chesterhill Fire Department, both agencies thought it was a good idea to move the trailer and have a department that could help set it up in an emergency. They also expressed an interest in helping learn the set-up process.

Discussion was had with Hocking County EMA about the possibility of their amateur radio donating their old radio equipment to Morgan County EMA.

Cheryl Brink, Treasurer

Discussion on General Fund Reinvestment

- The current unencumbered general fund balance is \$1.63 million.
- Projected usage is \$960,000.
- Reinvesting \$1 million would leave a positive cushion of \$670,000.
- Not reinvesting would strain the funds.
- Recommendation: reinvest the funds.

Reinvestment Options and Rates

- One option is a multi-investor borrowing structure, functioning like a loan split among many lenders.
- The interest rate from First National is 2.35%.
- The speaker will contact the bank to manage the reinvestment.
- If immediate reinvestment isn't possible, the plan is to roll the funds into the account, pay interest, and reinvest later.

Sophia Wiseman, OSU Extension

Sophia Wiseman—4—H Extension Educator

At the end of March Sophia attended an Older Youth Training meeting and 4—H committee meeting. On March 30th Sophia met with Pam Montgomery and an audit committee designed by the 4—H committee to perform club audits on the 4—H clubs. April 3rd Sophia held the first Cloverbud STEM Day planned by the OYIT. The theme was an eggplant experience' it was all about eggs. They did an egg drop activity to practice engineering skills and learn about the strength of eggs, a craft with plastic easter eggs to create a bird and learned about what lay eggs and did an egg toss and an egg relay to learn about the shape of eggs. We have five OYIT in attendance and 15 Cloverbuds in attendance. April 10th Sophia taught five seasons of QA to the FFA classes at the high school with Alivia Mock and Jordan Penrose.

Sophia works on prepping QA and Skillathon

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

On March 21st, Pam attended the Ohio 4—H Conference at the Columbus Convention Center and taught three sessions. On March 23rd, she developed the agenda for the 4—H Horse Committee, sent out meeting notices, and facilitated the meeting. On March 24th, she attended the 4—H Advisory Committee meeting. Developed the agenda and sent out the meeting notices. On March 25th, she attended a Healthy Living Design Team meeting. On March 27th, had a Master Clothing Educator Volunteers Executive committee meeting via zoom. In April she attended a monthly Zoom meeting with 4—H Leader for Ohio for all 4-H Professionals. March 30th Make it/Take it with 4—H Fashion Board made polar fleece hats. On March 31st, she participated in 4—H Club audits with a sub-committee from the 4—H Advisory Committee and 3rd, Pam assisted Sophia Wiseman and Older Youth in training with Cloverbud STEM Day and then set up for the Sew Ohio event at the 4—H Center in Columbus, Ohio. On April 4th she had the Sew Ohio Event at the 4—H Center with 112 participants, 21 presenters and 16 no shows. I co-presented a session with 32 participants on patterns. On April 7th she had a 4—H Fashion Board monthly meeting. On April 13th she held a Camp Counselor/CIT Training 4th session.

FCS Activities

March 31st Pam held a Successful Co-Parenting session. On April 3rd, she held a Basics to a Household Budget for DJFS. On April 10th she attended Morgan County Family and Children 1st Council.

Area Leader Activities

- One-on-one sessions with employees in Area 19 (Morgan, Muskingum, Perry and Washington counties) regularly. Beginning to complete Performance Reviews for the past year.
 - Attend Staff meeting and Extension Advisory meeting when needed or requested.
 - Continue onboarding new employees in Washington County.
 - Attend two online monthly Area Leader meetings.
 - 3/31/26 Participated in Jordan Penrose's Master Defense
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- Participating in the online Extension Webinar Series ABCs of Artificial Intelligence
 - Monthly one-on-one meetings with my supervisor

Betsy Ellingsworth—FCS Extension Educators Coordinator 3

Betsy taught the Captain Cash series to teach basic financial literacy to Job Club members at Morgan High School on March 27th and April 17th.

She is currently teaching the 6-week Taking Care of Me series at Morgan West Elementary to all kindergarten—2nd grade students.

On March 19th, Betsy, a financial literacy class focused on grocery budgeting and shopping at the Head Start Parent Night.

She continues to partner with Morgan United Ministries to distribute recipes and healthy eating resources at the monthly food distributions in Malta, Stockport, Chesterhill where she participated at on April 1 & 8.

Betsy is leading Wits Workout sessions at the senior center to promote brain health & socialization. These sessions will be offered throughout the months of April and May.

Betsy continues to seek opportunities to learn and grow in her FCS role. She is currently enrolled in ABCs of AI for Extension Webinar series to be familiarized with these technologies, become more knowledgeable about AI, how to use them to increase efficiency for daily tasks, and to improve communication with clientele.

Jordan Penrose—Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator

In March, Jordan gave his monthly TV interview on WHIZ News, discussing upcoming events, getting ready for gardening, and springtime weed control. Jordan also gave a program talk at the Rotary's Farmers Day on Ohio Ag Month and an update on johnsongrass research. He also gave a program talk at the Zanesville Ag Pro Hay Clinic about weed control in hayfields. In April, Jordan taught a Lawn Care class for the new Master Gardener Class in Fairfield County. He has also helped put on the Pastures Profit program in Washington County. He also assisted Sophia and Alivia in teaching Quality Assurance to the FFA Students at the High School. Jordan also hosted the Morgan County Cattleman's April meeting, where some local veterinarians came out to lead an animal roundtable for the group. Jordan has also continued to participate in various meetings, including the bi-weekly corn calling 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. He has also been writing weekly for the Herald, posting weekly blog posts on the Morgan County ANR Blog, and sending monthly email newsletters.

Alivia Mock—Extension Educator Coordinator

Alivia returned from maternity leave on April 8th. Since her return Alivia has assisted with presenting Quality Assurance education to the Morgan High School FFA program with Sophia and Jordan. Alivia has also completed the required EIN filings for the 4^H clubs 2025 tax year. Alivia also completed her employee review for the 2025 performance review period. Alivia is working to transition back into the point of contact for the Master Gardener Volunteer program as well.

26-189- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to enter executive session at 10:10am with Sheriff Fisher pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

26-190- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to exit executive session at 10:30am with Sheriff Fisher pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

Shannon Wells, Development Office

The Morgan County Economic Development office has received over 40 applications for the Community Housing Impact & Preservation (CHIP) grant since opening applications on April 15, 2026. The application received period will be paused until further into the program period. Shannon Wells submitted the AEP LEAP grant on April 17, 2026, for a signage project at Jesse Owens State Park and Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area for \$40,000.

Shannon Wells and Sheriff Fisher met with Michael Day from DLZ on April 17, 2026, to review design schematics for the jail.

Shannon Wells and Cheryl Brink will attend the Ohio Land Bank conference in Toledo April 22-23.

Shannon Wells discussed CR2 with the Morgan County Engineer to discuss the possibility of that office doing the engineering for the project.

Shannon Wells will attend a board meeting for the Village of McConnelsville An Aspiring Community also known as Discover McConnelsville on April 20, 2026, at 5:30pm.

Shannon Wells requested to approve a housing proposal study from Strategic Development Partners for \$25,000. The Ohio Department of Development would need to approve before a contract could be signed.

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report

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

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

26-191- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to request a supplemental appropriation to account number 001-0601-5304.01 in the amount of \$4,920.25. These funds are necessary to cover costs following Lieutenant West's accident on January 21, 2026. Insurance has provided reimbursement and funds have been deposited into 001-0601-4001-4004.00.

Your consideration and approval of this supplementally request is needed to pay outstanding invoices. The remaining \$3,014.00 will remain in 011-0601-5304.01 until JD Johnson sends a final invoice.

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

26-192- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$40.00 in account 001-0207-5322.00 credit card fees from 001-0207-4004.00 reimbursement other. See Attachment A

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

26-193- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve all supplemental appropriations.

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

26-194- 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

26-195- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to recess the commissioners meeting at 4:00pm.

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

26-196- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to reconvene on April 24, 2026, at 10:00am for a ribbon cutting at the Jessie Owans State Park..

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

26-197- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting April 24, 2026, at 5:00pm.

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

Approved by Commissioners on: August 10, 2026

Heidi Maxwell, President

Steve Best, Vice-President

Cecil Mayle, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

Attachment A:

MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

James R. Fisher, Sheriff
sheriff@morgancountyohio.gov



April 20, 2026

Board of Morgan County Commissioners
155 East Main Street
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756

Subject: Supplementary Appropriation- Insurance Reimbursement

Dear Commissioners,

I respectfully request a supplementary appropriation to account number 001-0601-5304.01 in the amount of \$4,920.25. These funds are necessary to cover costs following Lieutenant West's accident on January 21, 2026. Insurance has provided reimbursement and funds have been deposited into 001-0601-4004.00.

Attached are copies of the check and current invoicing. The final invoice will be billed once a replacement vehicle has been acquired.

Your consideration and approval of this supplementary request is needed to pay outstanding invoices. The remaining \$3,014.00 will remain in 001-0601-5304.01 until JD Johnson sends final invoice.

Thank you for your continued support of the Morgan County Sheriff's Office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela Weaver".

Pamela Weaver
Administrative Assistant
Morgan County Sheriff's Office

SCB 4/20/26

HLM 4/20/26
CMM 4/20/26

☎ (740) 962-4044 ☎ (740) 962-4035

37 E. Main St. • McConnelsville, Ohio 43756

Morgan County Court

Michael D. Lowe, Judge

37 E. Main Street

McConnelsville, OH 43756

Telephone (740) 962-4031

Fax (740) 962-2895

April 14, 2026

Morgan County Commissioners
155 E. Main Street
McConnelsville, OH 43756

Dear Commissioners:

I hereby request a Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$40.00 in account 001-0207-5322.00 credit card fees from 001-0207-4004.00 reimbursement other.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kelly Williams
Clerk

cc: Jessica Junn

HAM 4/20/26
SCB 4/20/26
Cmm 4/20/26

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