

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, April 27, 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:

Thursday, Commissioner Maxwell and Commissioner Best attended a Stakeholder EMA meeting. Commissioner Best also attended a Community Health Rotary Coalition meeting on Thursday as well.

All three commissioners attended a ribbon cutting for Jessie Owens State Park.

26-198- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the minutes of April 20, 2026

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

26-199- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to enter executive session at 8:35am with Heidi Burns pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(2) Confidential Matters.

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

26-200- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to exit executive session at 9:00am with Heidi Burns pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(2) Confidential Matters.

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

Rick Welch, Prosecutor, Sheriff Fisher, Courtney Morrow, Deputy Auditor

26-201- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to enter executive session at 9:00am with Sheriff Fisher pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

26-244- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to exit executive session at 9:17am with Sheriff Fisher pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

26-202- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to draft a resignation/termination letter effective Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

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

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

The court order to HostGator to regain control of the County's old web domain was sent to HostGator and control was transferred to Morgan County. Unfortunately, it turns out the previous manager of this account was still using it and wanted it back. Investigations into how this happened found that emails from HostGator to the previous manager were going into a spam account. Also, the IT Director had outdated contact information for the previous manager. Meeting with the Commissioners and Prosecutor, it was decided to renew the County's old domain and immediately transfer control of the account back to the previous manager.

The IT Director attended the Zanesville – Muskingum Chamber of Commerce Safety Council on 22 April 2026. The topic of discussion was respirator usage and safety.

Work continues with iTech and the Sheriff's office on the migration of their email to their new service.

The IT Director discussed some upcoming dangers to the County's cybersecurity posture from Mythos AI, an AI service that will allow anyone to develop programs. Mythos AI is good at finding vulnerabilities in software and could be used by anyone to exploit flaws in software or hardware.

Steve Redrup, EMA

Worked on upcoming LEPC exercise

Submitted the EMPG Agreement from OEMA

Host a meeting with the NWS, USGS, ODNR, Army Corps of Engineers, USACE, and Morgan County stakeholders to reference the Muskingum River Gage and the reading it is provided.

NOAA is gathering data for the new dam. The action stage is currently set at 9 feet; it is anticipated that the new action stage will be 2.5 less, so 6.5 to 7 feet. The minor flood stage will also change and should change a similar amount.

Attended the part of the OEMA Spring Conference

Attended OH-606 Recovery from a Disaster

Attended the Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area dedication

John Telesz, Engineer

Project Updates and Funding

- Roadway vs. Landslide Project:
 - An agreement is needed with a client experiencing issues with their consultants.
 - Plan: combine the landslide and roadway projects and bill the client for the equivalent of one consultant's fee.
 - OPWC emergency funding of approximately \$900,000 has been secured for a wall.
 - This supplements the existing \$850,000 for the roadway project.
 - Estimated completion by next spring.
- County Road 15 Slip:
 - Sunday Creek Road project addressing slip washing into the creek.
 - Received \$400,000–\$500,000 in OPWC emergency funding.
- Paving Project:
 - Includes County Road 14, County Road 15, and portions of County Road 52.
 - Funding: \$140,000 in internal funds plus a \$180,000 OPWC loan.
- CEAO Projects:
 - Paving on County Road 4 from the county line to Elliot's Crossing funded by the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO).
 - A separate CEAO project will install guardrails on newly paved roads to improve safety.
- USDA Projects in Center Township:
 - Two projects underway, one for the township and one for the county.
 - The Center Bend Road bridge project (from the 2019 flood) was delayed due to federal processes.
 - \$20,000 allocated to cover an inspector's involvement.
- Bridge Painting:
 - Four or five bridges will be blasted and painted.
 - Includes minor work
 - Total estimated cost: \$100,000 (\$20,000 per bridge), funded internally.

Upcoming Plans and Agreements

- Front Street Project:
 - Meeting with the village on May 7 to finalize a deal for this major project.
 - Seeking funding, including a Partners in Watershed grant due in September.
 - Staffing:
 - A candidate who could perform concrete work has been identified but has not confirmed interest in the job.
 - Malta Project:
 - Large \$1.8 million project combining multiple funding sources.
 - Temporary work will begin soon: install piles and guardrail to secure a curve.
 - Permanent repairs will involve drilling into rock, scheduled to start in early May.
 - License Plate Fee Proposal:
 - Proposal to increase the license plate fee by \$15 could generate \$540,000.
 - If dedicated to paving, this could expand projects through OPWC.
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Mary Pat Hanson, Concerned Citizen

- Topic Title: Monument Project Status and Logistics
 - The monument stone has arrived.
 - Transport is delayed because Jim does not have the equipment for the heavy load.
 - A transportation solution is being arranged.
 - Topic Title: Fundraising Thermometer Signage
 - A new thermometer-style progress sign will be created to track donations.
 - Current funding is a little over one-third of the total needed.
 - Estimated total cost referenced as close to 35,000.
 - New posters will position the monitors off to the side, so progress can be painted as funds come in.
 - Topic Title: Courthouse Display Placement
 - A request made to place an additional thermometer sign on the courthouse lawn.
 - It should be in front of the courthouse, not in front of the sheriff's office.
 - Working in front of the sheriff's office may risk damage to a sign.
 - Topic Title: Outreach and Advertising
 - Plan to approach the Opera House to include fundraising ads before movies.
 - Disappointment expressed about lower-than-expected business support.
 - A focus group is planned to explore other fundraising strategies.
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Shannon Wells, Development Office

Shannon Wells and Sheriff Fisher will meet with Michael Day from DLZ on April 27, 2026, at 1pm to review design schematics for the jail.

Shannon Wells and Cheryl Brink attended the Ohio Land Bank conference in Toledo April 22-23. Shannon Wells attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Appalachian Hills Visitor Center on April 24, 2026.

Shannon Wells and John Telesz met with Mayor McGrath to discuss the possibility of that office doing the engineering for the CR2 project.

Marietta College, Center for Appalachian Innovation, is interested in doing a housing study for Morgan County. They are preparing a proposal to submit this week.

The excavation project at the transit facility at 900 S. Riverside Dr. is starting this week.

Prosecutor Welch, Jeff Babcock, David Hoskinson

Unauthorized Access to HostGator Account

- The Morgan County .net domain expired, causing loss of email access starting the week of April 20, 2026.
- IT Director Jeff Babcock has outdated contact information for account owner Dave Hoskinson.
- To regain access, Mr. Babcock obtained a court order transferring the HostGator account to Morgan County IT.
- After access was gained, Mr. Babcock found the account hosted additional client domains and stopped further action.
- HostGator notified Mr. Hoskinson on April 24, 2026, of unauthorized username and password changes.
- Mr. Hoskinson, owner of DJH Computers, raised concerns that his account—also hosting other clients was compromised.

Communication Breakdown and Payment Issues

- Mr. Hoskinson stated he was not contacted before the court order, despite his current contact details being in a 2023 letter.
- Mr. Hoskinson's letter dated July 9, 2023, outlined three years of delinquent county payments for domain hosting.
- The letter warned that unresolved payments could result in data loss by 2026 and included up-to-date contact information.
- The county IT director believed Mr. Hoskinson was unreachable and viewed the court order as the only way to recover the expired domain.
- The county confirmed a payment was sent; Mr. Hoskinson was unsure it was received but noted this is a secondary issue.

Resolution and Path Forward

- It was clarified that the HostGator account is a parent account hosting multiple, separate client domains.
 - Mr. Hoskinson requires restoration of full administrative control to fulfill obligations to other clients.
 - Mr. Babcock agreed to reverse the ownership change and restore Mr. Hoskinson's full control.
 - Both parties will collaborate to transfer only the Morgan County domain to a county-owned account.
 - Mr. Babcock will add the county credit card to Mr. Hoskinson's account to renew the domain before the transfer.
 - Mr. Hoskinson confirmed that the paid subscription time will carry over with the domain to the county's new account.
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Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report

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

John Walter Finley, Ed Haines, John Wilt, Randy Williams Prosecutor Welch, EMS

□ Topic Title: EMS Operational Metrics and Performance

- Description:
 - Staffing was above minimum 97% of the time during the first three months.
 - Response times are below rural averages; currently around 14.5 minutes.
 - Average response time dropped below 8 minutes in February and March.
 - "Shoot times" mentioned as below the 2.5-year mark
- Conclusion:
 - Performance is trending positively; continued work is needed.
- Topic Title: Equipment Issues and Costs
 - Description:
 - One squad has been out of service for over three weeks due to an electrical back-end failure.
 - Multiple circuit boards needed; one board costs 3,800; another approximately 2,000 plus labor.
 - Out of warranty; costs not covered.
 - Tires wear out quickly (under 10,000 miles) due to road conditions and operational demands.

- New squad originally due in October; delivery may slip to February/March next year; cost ~370,000.
 - The last new squad is not fully paid off yet.
- Conclusion:
 - Significant unplanned maintenance and capital delays add to budget pressures.
- Topic Title: Staffing Structure and Challenges
 - Description:
 - Full-time EMTs/medics are full staff; four per shift; two positions are backfilled by part-time staff daily.
 - Difficulty fully staffing the county due to part-time sign-ups, especially on weekends and holidays.
 - Ideal “full staff” is six people plus a dispatcher.
 - Desire for more full-time staff, but costs are prohibitive.
 - Minimum work requirements for part-time staff exist; some only meet the bare minimum (one weekend shift per month).
 - Loss of part-time personnel if minimums are not met; considering adjusting minimum hours.
 - Conclusion:
 - Reliance on part-time staffing continues; increasing full-time positions is not currently affordable.
- Topic Title: Training, Certifications, and Costs
 - Description:
 - Use of online training modules (40–70 minutes each) with tests; April compliance noted.
 - In-person training is still required; paid attendance increases costs.
 - One paramedic sent for instructor certification; costs around 3,000–3,600 (figures vary in the transcript).
 - EMT training costs have increased (~6,000–7,000); paramedic training mentioned as ~13,000.
 - Nex (medical advisory group) costs ~10,000/year for protocols and training support.
 - Conclusion:
 - Training investments are ongoing and costly; a mix of online and in-person approaches is used.
- Topic Title: Protocol Updates and Clinical Initiatives
 - Description:
 - Participation in a three-month trial of pre-hospital ventilators with four departments; used a few times.
 - Goal: precise ventilation to avoid excessive oxygen/pressure; potential patient benefit if adopted.
 - Submission to the Lieutenant Governor for a blood products pilot program spanning urban, suburban, and rural departments.
 - Field blood products intended for trauma, gunshot wounds, car crashes, pulmonary issues, and sepsis.

- Only two agencies in the state currently use blood; both urban; aim to be the first in rural/southeast Ohio.
- Conclusion:
 - Awaiting responses on the blood pilot; ventilator trial is ongoing and promising.
- Topic Title: Dispatching Responsibilities, Levies, and Reimbursement Debate
 - Description:
 - Transition to county 911 dispatch is ongoing; current gap requires the fire department to perform EMS dispatch functions.
 - EMS levy historically used for ambulance service; not specific to dispatching.
 - New 911 levy intended for the Emergency Operations Center and dispatching.
 - The fire department seeks reimbursement for dispatching costs from the time 911 dispatchers started until full transition.
 - Year 2025 gross earnings for dispatching roles presented; 2026 YTD through April 18 subtotal: 2,711.82 (dispatch-related light duty among several staff).
 - Legal counsel notes levy language vagueness; contract says M&M Fire is responsible for EMS operations but not explicit on dispatch.
 - As of October 2024, the county is one PSAP; the fire department is not a PSAP per state; the sheriff's office is supervising 911 operations.
 - Sheriff indicates process improvements no longer transfer without collecting initial info; dispatchers now take info, dispatch, then continue with the caller.
 - Technical gaps remain cannot yet tone county fire departments or activate pagers/sirens; pagers received but not activatable; awaiting MARCS tower and programming.
 - Mixed views on reimbursement feasibility and appropriateness; prosecutor to provide a legal opinion; commissioners and sheriff's input requested.
 - Conclusion:
 - No final decision; legal review is pending; parties agree to continue cooperation during the transition.
- Topic Title: Recruitment, Education, and Community Engagement
 - Description:
 - Three new EMT applications; interviews planned this week.
 - Discussion of junior fire programs at local high schools; potential EMT classes to boost the volunteer pipeline.
 - Consideration of scholarships (e.g., \$500 healthcare scholarships; idea for an EMT/paramedic-specific scholarship at Morgan High).
 - Suggestion to coordinate with probation for community service tasks (equipment cleaning) during normal hours.
 - Conclusion:
 - Multiple initiatives are being considered to strengthen recruiting and volunteer engagement.

26-203- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the change order to a septic at transit in the amount of \$17,220.

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

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

26-204- 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

26-205- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to request a supplemental appropriation to account number 092-0092-5304.00 in the amount of \$45,948.73. These funds were deposited into 092-0092-4004.00 following accidents that occurred in 2025 and 2026.

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

26-206- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$400.00 in account 001-0207-5322.00 credit card fees from 001-0207-4004.00 reimbursement other.

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

26-207- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to supplementally appropriate funds into expense line 001-1401-5364.00 Property/Building Liability Insurance line in the amount of \$11,303.00.

Please adjust purchase order 2026-00244

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

26-208- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve all supplemental appropriations. See Attachment A

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

26-209- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve the following budget transfer. This is to transfer money from the Development Office line to pay for Taft lobbying services.

Transfer \$25,000.00 from 001-1501-5322.00 Development Office to 001-1501-5309.00 Misc. Other Expenses.

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

26-210- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve all transfers. See Attachment B

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

26-211- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting April 27, 2026 at 4:00pm.

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 27, 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 092-0092-5304.00 in the amount of \$45,948.73. These funds were deposited into 092-0092-4004.00 following accidents that occurred in 2025 and 2026.

Attached are copies of the pay ins made to reflect the total being requested.

Your consideration and approval of this supplementary request is necessary in preparation of purchasing a new vehicle to replace the Durango totaled on January 21, 2026.

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

HAM 4/27/26
SCB 4/27/26
Cmm 4/27/26

☎ (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 21, 2026

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

To whom it may concern:

I hereby request a Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$400.00 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

HRM 4/27/26
SCB 4/27/26
CMM 4/27/26



RANDY WILLIAMS
MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR

155 E. Main St. • Room 217
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756
740-962-4475



Deputy Auditors:	Jenny Cordray	Jessica Junn	Courtney Morrow	Maddy Mummey	Nathan Bowen
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April 27, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

Please Supplementally appropriate additional funds into expense line 001-1401-5364.00
Property/ Building Liability Insurance line in the amount of \$11,303.00

Please adjust purchase order 2026-00244

Sincerely,

Courtney Morrow
Chief Deputy Auditor

HRM 4/27/26
SCB 4/27/26
Cmm 4/27/26

Attachment B:



RANDY WILLIAMS
MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR

155 E. Main St. · Room 217
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756
740-962-4475



Deputy Auditors:	Jenny Cordray	Jessica Junn	Courtney Morrow	Nathan Bowen	Madison Mummy
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4/27/2026

Dear Commissioners,

Please approve the following budget transfer. This is to transfer money from the Development Office line to pay for Taft lobbying services.

Transfer \$25,000.00 from 001-1501-5322.00 Development Office to 001-1501-5309.00 Misc Other Expenses

Thank you,

Jessica Junn
Deputy Auditor

HARM 4/27/26
SCB 4/27/26
Cmm 4/27/26

Posted 4.27.2026
A handwritten signature, likely of the auditor, written over the date.

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