

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, June 29, 2026.

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

The commissioners did the following over the past week:

Commissioner Best attended AI training on Tuesday.
On Wednesday, he had a Board of Revisions meeting.
On Friday, Commissioner Best met with Eric Leach from Taft Law via Zoom.

26-312- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the minutes of June 22, 2026.

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

Alan Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance

26-313- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to enter executive session at 8:31am with Alan Eltringham pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

26-314- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to exit executive session at 8:46am with Alan Eltringham pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel. *No action taken*

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

John Telesz, Engineer

- Topic Title: Bridge Maintenance and Painting Program
 - A bridge in Center Township was closed to remove the deck.
 - Plan to paint about four to five bridges this year to extend lifespan.
 - The estimated cost per bridge is about 1 million, even for small bridges.
 - Work includes repainting and redecking to save on replacement costs.

- Conclusion: Ongoing seasonal maintenance; bridge program proceeding.
- Topic Title: Solid Waste/Landfill Scheduling
 - Solid waste area/landfill work targeted for the second week of July.
- Topic Title: AI Training Sessions
 - Positive feedback on AI training; interest in conducting one more session.
 - Mention of secretaries attending.
 - Conclusion: Plan to run one more AI training session; timing not specified.
 - Conclusion: Team expects to be on-site in the second week of July.

Melissa Fisher, JFS

Timesheet

Morgan Local Schools renewal contract for Lice prevention services for \$15,000 for 26-27 school year

Heidi will update her schedule on Monday July 6th – she will be in the office

Tracy Simons, Visitor's Center

. DIRECTOR'S REPORT JUNE 22, 2026

OWR Update

Ohio's Winding Road will be moving out, and we need to have a vendor license and our own Square by January 1, 2027. Until then, they will continue as is.

Courthouse Lights

We were looking into permanent lights for the courthouse to be used throughout the year. We thought we may be able to receive assistance through the state for \$5,000 from the America 250 and have them by July. I spoke with Guernsey County, and we wouldn't be able to get lights until fall if we are lucky, and the cost is more than we anticipated (hundreds of dollars for one light). They have a network system to operate their lights which is also expensive. Christmas in the Village is still working on it, but we won't be able to have it included as an America 250 event.

County Map

Still being worked on. The engineer's office has everything and is currently working to get the map design complete and printed.

Regional Branding & ORCA

ORCA may have lost their operating budget, so we don't know how that is going to affect the organization and the Ohio's Rolling Hills regional branding.

They are asking Governor Dewine to veto the reallocation of funds.

Appalachian Hills Visitor Center

The visitor center is doing well. We've had several visitors that have given positive reviews.

Visitor Guide

We are selling ads until June 30th. We are at approximately \$7,000 in sales.

Visitor Center

We now have a rack card for distribution until our guides are complete. These will also be good for local areas or smaller distribution areas.

I went to the commissioners regarding storage in the room across the hall. Sarah and I went through our guides etc. We have put anything we don't need daily on a rolling shelf, including Christmas Decorations, boxes of guides, brochures etc. This way we will not take up floor space in the room except for the tree boxes and ladder that can't go on the shelf.

We will be rearranging the retail space. We just received the new t-shirt/retail cubby. I'm working on new t-shirt designs.

Inquires

We have received 75 website inquiries this year. 54 of the 75 requested visitor guides and information.

21 from spam and general inquires

21 from web search

16 from Facebook

17 from other

We received 78 inquires total for 2025.

Visitor Center

Visitors

March – 37

April –54

May – 88

YTD - 179

Morgan County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Minute Notes

June 22, 2026

Present: Steve Best, Shannon Well, Tim Koenig

Staff: Tracy Simons

Absent: Erica Lindimore, Clint Foreman

Meeting called to order by Steve Best at 4:37 PM

Approval of the March 26, 2026, minutes: Motion to approve by Shannon Wells, motion second by Tim Koenig. All in favor, minutes are approved.

Financial report:

Public account balance: \$164,053.41

Private account balance: \$3,438.63

Total balance: \$167,492.04

February total balance: \$180,778.75

Waiting on Q1 lodging tax. The auditor is in the process of auditing.

Motion for approval of the financial report Shannon Wells, second by Tim Koenig, all in favor, financial report accepted.

Director's Report

Tracy presented the Director's Report

Marketing Budget Update:

NA

New Business/Action Items

- Sign project for Jesse Owens and Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area. Project is to include three 4'x8' signs at Miner's Memorial, New Visitor Center, and New Campground. Quote from Kessler signs is \$17,000 installed for 3, \$12,000 for 2, and \$6,300 for 1. Final sign design will need ODNR approval. This is to drive visitor traffic to McConnelsville and other parts of Morgan County. Most visitor traffic to the park comes from state route 83 and bypasses McConnelsville etc.
- Interactive Discovery Station for the visitor center. Tracy would like to put a Morgan County Discovery Station into the visitor center, so visitors will have an interactive learning experience. The display case is \$1,451.42. This is the main piece. Tracy will contact Kessler for design regarding the signage detail for the display.
- Tracy contacted Huntington Billboards regarding billboard space on St. Rt. 33 in Hocking County in the Hocking Hills Region. They have 1 static board on SR 33 and 2 on SR 664 as well as a digital board across from the welcome center. For the SR 33, the cost would be \$7,800 and \$576 for vinyl, design, and install for a total of \$8,376.
- Sarah Alfman, the new assistant, has been doing an amazing job and is a great help. Tracy would like to extend her position to permanent PT. This would be an additional 8 weeks for a total of \$2,340. This will allow us to provide photo ops for Christmas, as well as prepare the retail for takeover from OWR January 1st. We will have to set up our own Square, acquire a vendor's license, and rearrange the retail space in the visitor center by January 1st. Sarah has experience with the set-up of square and retail. She's also been instrumental in helping with our social media, sending out info packets, selling ads for the visitor guide, and getting material sent to designers as a guide.
- T-shirts for retail. \$3,375. Total of 250, 4 designs.

Motion to approve all the above Shannon Wells, Second Steve Best, all in favor, motion approved.

Next meeting TBD

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Steve Best, seconded by Shannon Wells. Meeting Adjourned 6:00 PM

Steve Redrup, EMA

Data Center Research for Emergency Management Plan (EMP) Update

- Ongoing research on the impact of data centers on rural counties to inform the EMP update.
- County managers in Texas reported positive emergency management-related feedback regarding Cypher.
- The objective is to collect sufficient information to build an effective response plan.

Public Safety Meeting Outcomes and SOP Development

- A public safety meeting yielded positive outcomes.
- An SOP/SOG for 911 dispatching is being developed in collaboration with John.
- Initiating development of a countywide SOP/SOG for fire and EMS response.
- Many fire departments currently lack SOPs or have outdated versions.
- The countywide SOP proposal received encouraging feedback; fire departments indicated willingness to adopt it.
- The EMA will draft the SOP, solicit feedback, finalize it, and integrate it into the county's EOP.

AI Training and Usage

- Attended AI training and gained substantial knowledge from the class.
 - The training promoted AI adoption, aligning with ongoing personal learning efforts.
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Shannon Wells, Development Office

A conference call was held with the following people present Commissioner Cecil Mayle, Commissioner Steve Best, Treasurer Cheryl Brink, Shannon Wells, Steve Herron and Scott Eichelberger.

Proposed Donation of Property at 690 Main Street, Malta

- Steve Herron from Park National Bank proposed donating a property at 690 Main Street, Malta, to the Morgan County Land Bank. The property is a little over an acre.
- The property has environmental issues and comes with an environmental covenant from the Ohio EPA that would run with the land.
- The covenant includes use of limitations, restricting the property to commercial or industrial use only, and includes testing restrictions.
- The bank is willing to donate the property, not sell it.

Land Bank's Initial Position and Concerns

- The Land Bank had previously discussed the property and determined it was not a good fit for the village to take.
- The village's legal counsel had advised against taking the property.
- The Land Bank is concerned about environmental restrictions and potential maintenance costs, as the bank currently maintains the property.
- There is concern about losing \$350 in annual tax revenue the county currently receives. The property is in the floodplain, which could prevent development.

Legal Review and Next Steps

- The group agreed that the Land Bank's legal counsel, Rich Ross, should speak with the bank's counsel, Scott Eichelberger, before the next Land Bank meeting.
- Scott Eichelberger will contact Rich Ross to discuss the environmental covenant and legal implications.
- The topic will be brought before the Land Bank at their meeting on July 2, 2026, for further discussion after the legal review.

Brownfield Projects and Potential Contamination

- The initial interest in the Malta property was part of a broader search for county Brownfield projects.
 - A similar assessment is being conducted on the CIC property (Gould/Nico), where the county owns the land, but the company remains responsible for cleanup.
 - It was noted that Pennzoil might be the responsible party for the Malta property's contamination and is still in business, which could affect Brownfield assistance eligibility.
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Angela Drake, Farm Bureau

Concerns and Resources Regarding a New Data Center

- The arrival of a new data center in the county is accepted as inevitable.
- The focus is on ensuring the county takes proper steps to protect citizens and capital.
- Olivia Roberts, the new OD for the Ohio Farm Bureau, and others met with officials to offer resources.
- They introduced a gentleman from the Ohio Farm Bureau, Dale Arnold, who specializes in utilities and local government relations, as a resource.

Offer of Assistance from the Ohio Farm Bureau

- Dale, the Director of Energy, Utilities, and Local Government for the Farm Bureau, is willing to meet with county officials.
 - His goal is to provide knowledge and guidance, not to dictate actions. He has experience from Licking County, which was significantly impacted by data centers.
 - He can help navigate complexities between company NDAs and Sunshine Laws to prevent legal issues for officials.
 - Dale can also provide insight into using the Ohio Power Siting Board.
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Amber Wilson, Senior Citizen Director

Meeting Notes

- National Senior Citizens Day planning
 - A planning meeting is needed for National Senior Citizens Day.
 - The event is scheduled for August.
 - The team was asked to “come up with something” for the event.
 - No specific agenda or assignments were provided.
 - Conclusion: Agreed to plan something for August, but no concrete plan was established.
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Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

On June 24, 2026, the IT Director attended the Zanesville – Muskingum Chamber of Commerce Safety Council meeting in Zanesville. The topic of discussion was accounting for people with disabilities in evacuation and disaster planning. One new point that was brought up was the effect of fire drills and shelter-in-place exercises on those that suffer from anxiety or PTSD.

The IT Director attended the first round of AI Training on Tuesday, June 23, 2026. The class was presented by AI Owl and was geared around effectively using AI tools and getting the most out of those tools.

More cabling was ran between the server room at the Sheriff’s office and the dispatch area for the installation of the head units for the new radios. The transmitting portion of the radios were installed in the Courthouse attic so that the antenna can be placed in a more elevated location, thus improving the signal quality.

Riecker Building AC unit RTU-1 was repaired this week. While checking over the other units, RTU-2 failed. Advanced Heating and Cooling will return to fix this issue.

The ePay system in Court View has been set up and tested for County Court. County Court is now live with Public Search, eFile, and ePay.

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

26-315- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to request the FY27 FC&C account funded by the Ohio Department of Youth Services for the Morgan County Juvenile Court; the

Court requests that Receipt Account #023-2027-4001.00 be established to receive deposits beginning July 2026.

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

26-316- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve all Fiscal Year 2027 Felony Care & Custody attachments. See Attachment A

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

26-317- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve expense accounts for FY 2027 Felony Care & Custody funded by the Ohio Dept. of Youth Services Subsidy/Reclaim Grant for the Morgan County Juvenile Court; the following are the appropriations requested for the corresponding expense account line items:

Line Items	Acct. Number	Amount
Salary, Probation Officers	023-2027-5102.02	\$37,063.00
Salary, Program Admin.	023-2027-5102.00	\$47,840.00
PERS, Probation Officers	023-2027-5367.02	\$ 6,700.00
PERS, Program Admin.	023-2027-5367.0	\$ 6,700.00
Medicare, Probation Officers	023-2027-5368.02	\$ 550.00
Line Items	Acct. Number	Amount
Medicare, Program Admin.	023-2027-5368.00	\$ 700.00
Worker's Comp., Probation Officers	023-2027-5369.02	\$ 1,200.00
Worker's Comp., Program Admin.	023-2027-5369.00	\$ 1,450.00
Monitoring & Surveillance	023-2027-5301.00	\$ 2,000.00
Miscellaneous Exp.	023-2027-5307.00	\$15,000.00
Drug Testing	023-2027-5308.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total		\$121,203.00

The early estimated grant award for FY27 is \$117,000.00, and the carryover balance from FY26 funds is estimated to be \$20,000.00 for total available funds of \$137,000.00. The actual carryover figure will be available after the Final Expenditure report is complete in October, so beginning balances will be amended later in the year.

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

26-318- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve all Fiscal Year 2027 Felony Care & Custody attachments. See Attachment A

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

26-319- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the following transfer for the purchase of 18 vests in the amount of \$25,000.00

From	To
Rotary Salary 092-0092-5102.00	Rotary Equipment 092-0092-5304.00 [OBJ]

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

26-320- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve all transfers. See Attachment B

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

26-321- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve payment of bills. *See attached*

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

26-322- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting Monday, June 22, 2026, at 4:00pm.

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

Approved by Commissioners on:

Heidi Maxwell, President

Steve Best, Vice-President

Cecil Mayle, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

Attachment A:

June 1, 2026

Morgan County Commissioners
155 East Main Street
McConnellsville OH 43756

RE: Fiscal Year 2027 Felony Care & Custody

Commissioners:

Concerning the FY27 FC&C account funded by the Ohio Department of Youth Services for the Morgan County Juvenile Court; the Court requests that Receipt Account #023-2027-4001.00 be established to receive deposits beginning July 2026.

Respectfully,

Trina Webb, Grant Administrator
Morgan County Common Pleas Court

tw

SCB 6/29/26
HMM 6/29/26
CMM 6/29/26

June 1, 2026

Morgan County Commissioners
155 East Main Street
McConnelsville OH 43756

RE: Fiscal Year 2027 Felony Care & Custody Appropriations, July 1, 2026 thru June 30, 2027

Commissioners:

Concerning the expense accounts for Fiscal Year 2027 Felony Care & Custody funded by the Ohio Department of Youth Services Subsidy/Reclaim Grant for the Morgan County Juvenile Court; the following are the appropriations requested for the corresponding expense account line items:

<u>Line Items</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary, Probation Officers	023-2027-5102.02	\$37,063.00
Salary, Program Administrators	023-2027-5102.00	\$47,840.00
PERS, Probation Officers	023-2027-5367.02	\$ 6700.00
PERS, Program Administrators	023-2027-5367.00	\$ 6700.00
Medicare, Probation Officers	023-2027-5368.02	\$ 550.00
Medicare, Program Administrators	023-2027-5368.00	\$ 700.00
Worker's Comp., Probation Officers	023-2027-5369.02	\$ 1200.00
Worker's Comp., Program Administrators	023-2027-5369.00	\$ 1450.00
Monitoring & Surveillance	023-2027-5301.00	\$ 2000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	023-2027-5307.00	\$15,000.00
Drug Testing	023-2027-5308.00	<u>\$ 2000.00</u>

Total Appropriations **\$121,203.00**

The early estimated grant award for FY27 is \$117,000.00 and the carryover balance from FY26 funds is estimated to be \$20,000.00 for total available funds of \$137,000.00. The actual carryover figure will be available after the Final Expenditure report is complete in October so all beginning balances will be amended later in the year.

Respectfully,

Trina Webb, Program Administrator
Morgan County Juvenile Court

He m 6/29/26
Chloe

SCB 6/29/26

Attachment B:

MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

James R. Fisher, Sheriff

sheriff@mcs058.us



June 25, 2026

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

Subject: Budget Transfer Request

Dear Commissioners,

Please approve the following transfer for the purchase of 18 vests.

\$25,000.00

From 092-0092-5102.00 Rotary Salary

To 092-0092-5304.00 Rotary Equipment

Following this request please adjust PO 144 accordingly.

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

Respectfully,

Pamela Weaver

Pamela Weaver
Sheriff's Office Administrative Assistant

SCB 6/29/26

HLM 6/29/26

Comm 6/29/26

(740) 962-4044 (740) 962-4035 morgansheriff.com

37 E. Main St. • McConnelsville, Ohio 43756

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