**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
**RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, July 20, 2026.

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

The commissioners did the following over the past week:

Commissioner Best attended a meeting at the Health Department on Thursday.

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**26-351-** Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the minutes of July 20, 2026.
**Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea, Mr. Mayle yea Motion Carried**

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***Alan Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance***

Monarch Roofing re-inspected the lower-level roof with insurance adjuster 5-11-26

Called Shane Hildebrand about installing a railing in the attic of the Courthouse 6-2-26

Compressor 1 on RTU 1 is inoperable. Needs replaced 6-23-26

Modern Glass adjusted and reset timing on the rear inside glass door 7-6-26. The door was still having issues after adjustments. Returned on 7-7-26 to replace motor assembly

Advanced H/C completed full services on all RTUs and conducted a deep clean on RTU 1. Compressor 2 on RTU 1 is reconnected to contactor and is operational. 7-9-26

ABM Water Conservation Personnel visiting on 7-14-26

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***Sophia Wiseman, OSU Extension***

Sophia Wiseman—4-H Extension Educator
June 16th, Sopia attended staff, Junior Fair Board and Senior Fair Board meetings. June 26th Sophia attended a director's update and leaders of extension. On July 9th, Sophia held a project judging where nine judges volunteered and judged 92 youth projects for 2026. July 10th Sophia had an appointment for makeup judging a had a one on one with her supervisor. July 12th Sophia moved into 4-H camp to serve as the assistant camp director, dean of women and lead nature rotations. 4-H camp is July 13th-17th.
Pam Montgomery 4-H/FCS Extension Educator and Area Leader

4-H Activities
On June 30th, Pam held One on One instruction for a Horse Parent. On July 12th, Pam moved into a 4-H camp to serve as the camp director. 4-H camp is July 13-17th.
FCS Activities
Talking with staff in the office to finalize a plan for who is picking up FCS programming with my new position.
Area Leader Activities and Transition to District Director (started new position June 29th)
One-on-one sessions with employees in District 10 (Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, Vinton and Washington Counties) working to get a regular system and timeline for the new counties. Attend staff meeting and Extension Advisory meeting when needed or requested. Continue onboarding new employees in Washington County. Onboarding new employees in Hocking County. Attend weekly District Director meetings.
Other
Monthly one-on-one meetings with my supervisor. Continues to work with Morgan County Staff to transition programming. Some responsibilities will not transition right away.
Betsy Ellingsworth-FCS Extension Educators Coordinator 3
Betsy has worked with preschool, horse camp, and judged food projects at product judging. Betsy is currently taking some personal time.
Jordan Penrose—Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator
In June, Jordan gave his monthly TV interview on WHIZ News, discussing upcoming events, hay testing and hay outlook. He spoke at a couple of programs. One was for the local Rotary Club about ticks, and the other was at the Joint Soil and Water Conservation District and Extension meeting about stockpiling forages. Jorgan also attended the Farm Bureau policy luncheon. In July, Jordan gathered some follow up data on his johnsongrass research. He also had a meeting with the committee work group for Cattleman's. Jordan also attended the annual NACAA AM/PIC in Denver. He was the author of two posters at the conference. He has also continued pest monitoring for the Lep Monitoring Network, working with five farms across the county to track corn earworm and western bean cutworm. Jordan has also continued to participate in various meetings, including bi-weekly corn call meetings, 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 co-workers around the state. He has also been writing weekly for the Herald, posting weekly blog posts on Morgan County ANR Blog, and sending monthly email newsletters.
Alivia Mock Extension Educator Coordinator
4-H—Alivia provided training on identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect during the Camp Counselor Camp on 6/3/26. Alivia assisted with QA FOR 4-H kids on 6/9/26 with Sophia and Jordan Alivia assisted with Cloverbud STEAM Day on 6/12/26 with Sophia and Pam.
ANR—Alivia attended each farmers market on Thursdays 11-1. Alivia attended the Farm Bureau Policy Luncheon on 6/15/26. Alivia assisted in hosting the Master Gardener Volunteer monthly meeting on 6/24/26.
FCS—Alivia's role in FCS has been decreased to allow for more coverage in 4-H with Pam being promoted to District Director and phasing out of her 4-H roles. Alivia will still be available for FCS programming and coaching as needed.

***John Telesz, Engineer***

**26-352-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the following:

Ohio Public Works Commission Round #40 HMA Paving

Homer Township Tunnel Road #27 Bloom Township Rokeby Circle Road #113 Penn Township Lighter Ridge Road #22 Meigsville Township Hart Road #860 McConnelsville Village 1st Steet 7th Steet and Corydon Drive.

Approve these plans and specifications and certify that the right of way necessary for this improvement is available and declare that the making of this improvement is necessary and in public interest.

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

**26-353-** Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

Ohio Public Works Commission Round #40 Motor Paving

CR #11—Unionville Road, CR #14—Mountville Road CR #52 Goshen Run Road

Approve these plans and specifications and certify that the right of way necessary for this improvement is available and declare that the making of this improvement is necessary and in public interest.

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

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***Steve Redrup, EMA***

- The FY27 SERC Grant Award was announced. The LEPC was awarded $11,973
- The Ohio EMA released the SHSP grant awards. Morgan County's grant application was not funded. The EMA and 911 will reapply for this funding again in the next grant year.
- The EMA is working with the State Hazard Mitigation Planner to close out our HMP. I will be attending council meetings and township meetings to get resolutions to adopt the mitigation plan.
- The EMA was contacted with reference to a fuel leak from a boat at Burr Oak. The EMA messaged Chief Smedley requesting information about the incident.

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***Heidi Burns, JFS***

**26-354--** Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to reappoint Mel Bragg of a Private Business.

Whereas the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires the establishment of local workforce development boards to carry out workforce development activities; and

Whereas the Area 15 Workforce Development Board serves as the local workforce development board for this region and requires appointed members to fulfill its statutory obligations; and

Whereas it is necessary to appoint and reappoint qualified individuals to serve on the Area 15 Workforce Development Board;

Now Therefore, be it Resolved by the Morgan County Commissioners that the following individuals are hereby appointed or reappointed to serve on the Area 15 Workforce Development Board: Mel Bragg See Attachment A

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

OMJ – positions filled
Reminder: July 20th at 12 OMJ Stakeholder Meeting in Morgan County
Notes from SNAP CCAO virtual meeting held last week

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***Dale Arnold, Farm Bureau***

- A proposed data center in Center Township with uncertain acreage (references to one hundred and fifteen acres and hundred to three acres), a stated 200 MW electric demand, and a reported $8 million AEP substation investment nearby; only one property transfer reportedly completed.
- Regulatory landscape:
    - OPSB jurisdiction covers power plants transmission, pipelines and certain distribution upgrades that county and township officials have automatic intervention rights.
    - HB 15 allows on-site power generation on company-controlled property. Confidentiality provisions restrict what officials can disclose.
    - A regulatory gap persists for 4.9–49.9 MW a community scale, generation outside OPSB; HB 501 routes some siting to zoning appeals boards, but many jurisdictions lack zoning.

    - Ohio EPA oversees utility development; municipalities with home rule may submit plans or rely on EPA staff review.
- Comparative case: Licking County (Intel area) saw three natural gas turbine stations, 60+ miles of pipeline, and extensive grid upgrades—illustrating secondary infrastructure impacts.
- Public process: Mr. Arnold emphasizes Ohio Open Meetings Law compliance, transparent sessions, and early public Q&A.

**Main Points**

- Uncertain developer seriousness and scope: Only about one and a half out of five developers tend to be committed. Due to unclear acreage, timelines, and infrastructure plans complicate resource allocation and public messaging. Claims of having permits often refer only to building permits, not OPSB-governed energy assets.
- Limited local authority via building permits vs. OPSB leverage: Major impacts stem from energy generation and grid infrastructure under OPSB. Without engaging OPSB, local leverage to secure protections diminishes.
- Confidentiality and communication constraints: State law limits what can be discussed publicly, creating perceptions of secrecy and eroding trust despite officials' efforts to comply with Open Meetings Law.
- Infrastructure and community impacts: Potential on-site generation pipelines, transmission/distribution upgrades, road degradation, noise, and aesthetic effects. OPSB allows negotiation of mitigation, including noise limits and visual screening.
- Water resource uncertainty: Unknown local aquifer capacity and recharge rates relative to potential industrial demand. Licking County underscores risks and the need for hydrologic due diligence.
- Regulatory gap for 4.9–49.9 MW projects: Ambiguity in approvals and oversight for mid-scale generation can invite developer pressure and under-specified local decisions, especially in non-zoned jurisdictions.
- Capacity and expertise gaps for OPSB proceedings: Specialized legal and technical support is needed to navigate adjudicatory processes, craft enforceable conditions, and assess developer studies.

**Expectations**

- Secure party-of-record status and negotiate protections: Formally intervene in OPSB cases to negotiate enforceable community conditions on noise, aesthetics, road use and maintenance, pipeline/transmission routing, archaeological surveys and community benefits.
- Clarify project scope and infrastructure needs: Obtain written details on acreage, footprint, timelines, power draw, water usage, and substation plans.
- Establish a practical governance framework without zoning: Create an interim local review protocol for power-related proposals (documentation, safety diagrams for fire departments, decommissioning deposits for on-site systems) and readiness to intervene with OPSB.
- Assess and prepare for infrastructure impacts: Conduct baseline road condition inventories, draft template Road Use Maintenance Agreements (ROMAs), identify potential pipeline/transmission corridors and sensitivities, and coordinate with utilities.
- Water resource assessment and planning: Collaborate with SWCD and Ohio EPA on hydrologic studies.
- Improve transparency within legal limits: Develop public-facing materials explaining statutory constraints, OPSB processes, and how residents can submit docket comments; maintain compliant meeting notices and Q&A opportunities.
- Preparedness to intervene in OPSB and related proceedings: Monitor dockets, subscribe to notifications, and use standardized templates to file timely interventions and secure negotiated mitigations.

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***Shannon Wells, Development***

Marietta College has prepared a housing survey that will be distributed and collected over the next month. The results will be included in the housing study.

Vero Networks has asked for contact at ODNR to discuss deploying fiber to Jesse Owens State Park and wildlife area to help with increased communications. Tracy Simons sent an email to try to find a contact to help move this forward.

Shannon Wells and Citizens National Bank will be meeting this afternoon with APG Architects from Zanesville to discuss the elevator project in the Stanbury Building.
Shannon Wells is requesting a meeting with Morgan County Veterans Services Board President Jeff Bragg to discuss out of county transportation for veterans.
Shannon Wells met with DLZ and Pam Weaver on Friday, July 17, 2026, to discuss updates to the jail renovation project.
Taft Law is working to prepare the RFP for the sewer study for SR60 north and other areas. It should be completed this week. Taft should also be scheduling additional meetings related to the tax increment of financing and the data center.
Shannon Wells will be attending a meeting of the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA) on Friday, July 24, 2026, at 10am at the Lafayette Hotel in Marietta.
The Governor's office announced the latest round of demo funds that were awarded to the Morgan County Land Bank last week. Morgan County was awarded $186,000 but applied for $230,000. There are two remaining properties that need final approval to receive the full award.

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***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator***

Advanced Heating and Cooling returned to the Riecker Building to clean and repair RTU-1. RTU-1 services the older side of the Riecker Building and kept tripping breakers when all the compressors came on. Advanced Heating and Cooling also repaired a contactor switch on RTU-3. RTU-3 services the kitchen and community room.

The IT Director followed up with the Commissioners on the use of the new Sharepoint site for editing and approving Commissioners Meeting Minutes prior to signing and uploading them.

## ***Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Application***

**26-355**- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to rename line 001-0101-4004.00 from Bldgs.' Ground Leases O to Oil Royalties. This will allow better tracking and ease of understanding of the revenue line.

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

**26-356** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve all renaming of lines. See Attachment B

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

**26-357-** Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer $225.25 from 200-0200-5301.00 into line 011-0602-4002.00 for 2nd Quarter 2026 Housing Trust Fund Admin Fees. See Attachment C

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

**26-358-** 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**

**26-359-** Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting Monday, July 13, 2026, at 4:00pm.

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

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Approved by Commissioners on:

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**Heidi Maxwell, President**

**Steve Best, Vice-President**

**Cecil Mayle, Member**

**Sheila Welch, Clerk**

Attachment A:

**RESOLUTION NO.** 26-354

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF** Morgan **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPOINTING AND REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE AREA 15 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**WHEREAS,** the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires the establishment of local workforce development boards to carry out workforce development activities; and

**WHEREAS,** the Area 15 Workforce Development Board serves as the local workforce development board for this region and requires appointed members to fulfill its statutory obligations; and

**WHEREAS,** it is necessary to appoint and reappoint qualified individuals to serve on the Area 15 Workforce Development Board to ensure continued effective governance and operations; and

**WHEREAS,** the individuals named herein meet the qualifications and requirements for service on the Area 15 Workforce Development Board;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Morgan County Commissioners that the following individuals are hereby appointed and reappointed to serve on the Area 15 Workforce Development Board:

**APPOINTMENTS (New Members)**

**Term:** _____ **to** _____

- _____, representing _____
- _____, representing _____
- _____, representing _____

**REAPPOINTMENTS (Continuing Members)**

**Term:** 07/01/26 **to** 06/30/28

- _____, representing _____
- Mel Bragg, representing Private Business
- _____, representing _____

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these appointments and reappointments shall be effective immediately and shall continue for the terms specified above, unless sooner terminated by resignation, removal, or other action by this Board.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 20 day of July, 2026.

Morgan **COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Heidi L Maxwell

Commissioner Steve Burt

Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

County Clerk

**(SEAL)**

**Certificate of Adoption**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Morgan County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held on July 20, 2026, by the following vote:

**AYES:** ____
**NOES:** ____
**ABSENT:** ____

Sheila Welch

County Clerk

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 Mummey

7/15/2026

Dear Commissioners,

Please rename revenue line 001-0101-4004.00 from Bldgs Ground Leases O to Oil Royalties. This is to allow better tracking and ease of understanding of the revenue line.

Thank you,

Jessica Junn
Deputy Auditor

HFM 7/20/26
SCB 7/20/26
CMM 7/20/26

Attachment C

RANDY D. WILLIAMS
MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR
155 E. Main St. · Room 217
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756
740-962-4475



Deputy Auditors: Jenny Cordray Nathen Bowen Jessica Junn Courtney Parmiter Maddy Mummey

7/20/2026

Dear Commissioners,

Please Approve a transfer of $225.25 from 200-0200-5301-00 into line 001-0602-4002-00 for 2nd Quarter 2026 Housing Trust Fund Admin Fees.

Thank you,

Courtney Parmiter

DRM 7/20/26
SCB 7/20/26
CMM 7/20/26

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