

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, September 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:30am with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Cecil Mayle, President  
Adam Shriver, Vice-President  
Richard Welsh, Member

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**24-463-** Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the minutes of September 9, 2024.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

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The commissioners did the following over the past week:

Commissioner Shriver participated in an online drought discussion sponsored by Senator Brown's office on Thursday from noon to 2:00pm.

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***Al Eltringham, Alen Eltringham Riecker Maintenance***

Mention of selling items like a drum and snowblower on GovDeals. Suggestion to wait until December to sell the snowblower for a better price.

Mowing will be rescheduled for Thursday each week.

Preparing the old Cub Cadet mower and Snow blower to be declared excess to put on Gov Deals.

8-1-24

Jason Pierce looked at the motor switches for the Courthouse Clock. Both motor switches need replaced and rewired. He is also writing a quote to replace all 4 breaker boxes at the Courthouse and LED lighting to replace old T-12 bulbs for second floor and the Court Room. 5-28-24

Maintenance Van is down and needs to be taken to shop to be looked at. Engine is sounding bad.

8-1-24 Van dropped off at the Transit Garage 8-6-24 Exhaust gasket blown out and new has been ordered 8-7-24

Advance H/C found that RTU 3 K-11 compressor 1 has a shorted-out thermostat winding. The compressor will need to be replaced, Advanced will be sending a quote. 8-6-24.

Hauled 3 tractor Buckets of dirt from the cemetery to Grove Park and filled sunken trenches and holes also picked up all the large river gravel and put it in the parking lot by the Athletic Field. 9-12-24

Cleaned up all tree limbs at the Grove Park and dumped at the yard waste site, the brush at the site is backed up to the top of the hill as you enter the site. 9-12-24

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***Seve Hook, Engineer; John Telez, Deputy Engineer***

Discussion of the job description for a combined EMA and floodplain position. It was suggested changing the educational requirement from 'required' to 'preferred.' The focus is on addressing the floodplain backlog before incorporating emergency management duties.

The job description will be adjusted, and the position will be posted to Job and Family Services and local universities.

The commissioners were provided updates on road maintenance projects, including paving and patching work. The discussion highlighted the rising costs of materials and the challenges in funding road projects.

Noted the potential delay in Issue 1 funding, which affects asphalt funding. The scoring system requires taking loans to achieve higher scores for funding.

There is hope that changes will be made to the scoring system, but no immediate solution is provided.

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***Randy Williams, Auditor***

Discussion concerning the use of credit cards for emergency children services, travel, and electronics. There is a clarification on whether the new policy is more restrictive than the Ohio revised code and if department heads can issue cards to their supervisors.

The policy is not more restrictive than the Ohio revised code, and department heads can issue cards as long as they follow the policy.

Concerns were raised about credit limits when booking hotels for conferences and the possibility of increasing these limits. The discussion also touched on the benefits of using Huntington cards for county benefits.

The credit limit may be adjusted, and using Huntington cards could benefit the county's general fund.

There was a discussion on who should hold the cards within departments and the potential liability if cards are misused. The conversation also covered the benefits of having separate cards for different agencies.

Departments can decide who holds the cards, and separate cards for different agencies are advisable.

The conversation included the challenges of making local purchases due to credit card restrictions and the use of tax exemption forms for purchases.

Using Huntington cards might ease local purchases, and tax exemption forms are used for purchases.

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***Heidi Burns, JFS***

-contract (subgrant) with Big Brothers Big Sisters for 24-25 year

-Mandated share for September \$3,278.83

-credit card policy

-Meeting with MHS regarding counseling

-marijuana

-PACT

Discussion on the potential of growing and selling marijuana, considering federal funding restrictions and drought conditions. The agency must maintain a zero-tolerance policy due to federal illegality.

The agency cannot approve marijuana-related activities due to federal restrictions.

The agency has stopped pre-drug screenings as the county does not require them. Screenings are only conducted under reasonable suspicion or after accidents involving injuries.

Pre-drug screenings are not conducted unless county policy changes.

The agency is funding a \$41,000 expansion of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program to increase volunteer participation and community outreach, focusing on lunchtime activities on Mondays. Efforts are being made to expand the program community-wide and increase volunteer involvement.

Discussion on setting up a new counseling program at the high school, involving mental health counselors to address truancy and other issues. Previous attempts were unsuccessful due to lack of support from school administration.

The agency is exploring ways to support the high school's new counseling initiative.

The agency is piloting the PACT program to improve relationships between Children's Services and families, involving feedback from families and foster parents.

The first PACT meeting is scheduled, aiming to enhance service relationships.

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### ***Misty Long, Pound Keeper***

Announced to the commissioners a contest for dog enthusiasts where participants guess movie scenes portrayed by skeletons. Participants can visit the pound, walk a dog, and enter to win gift certificates. Engaging with the post on social media also provides entry into another draw.

Mentioned the pound is overcrowded, with dogs in kennels on the floor. Efforts are being made to attract more visitors to the pound to alleviate the situation.

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### ***Sophia Wiseman, OSU Extension***

#### **Sophia Whisman- 4-H Extension Educator**

August 20th Sophia attended the last senior fair board meeting before the fair. August 22nd Sophia held makeup Skillathon judging for youth who could not attend Skillathon day. This year we only had one who needed this option. September 2nd-7th Sophia was at the Morgan County Fair, Sophia runs the Junior fair shows and staffs them and is at every show to ensure they run smoothly. The entire office was there to assist and help. September 12th Sophia attended the Junior Fair Wrap-up meeting with all committees to discuss positive and negative things about the fair.

#### **Pam Montgomery-4-H/FCS Extension Educator and Area Leader**

### Pam Montgomery 4-H Activities

Pam organized the Junior Fair 4-H Booth display assignments and set up the 4-H Cloverbud booth display area with the help of 4-H volunteers. She assisted where needed when Sophia Whisman identified a need for Junior Fair Livestock shows and worked with the 4-H Advisory Committee's Horse sub-committee members at the Junior Fair Horse show on Wednesday, September 4th. She notes, it is exciting to see the 4-H Horse program grow. She enjoyed showing animals during the livestock judging contest Friday, September 5th with co-workers Jordan and Sophia. It was wonderful to have 4-H members helping her learn to show their animals.

### **Family and Consumer Sciences Activities**

Pam is excited to report that 2 new Extension Public Health AmeriCORP members have started in Morgan County. They will serve now until June 30, 2025. She attended their onboarding training September 11th. She identified a few upcoming programs. A six-week series Active Parenting of Teens starts October 22nd and the deadline to register is October 15th. Successful Co-Parenting is scheduled for October 10th from 6:30-9 PM and the deadline to register is October 7th. Pam is currently working on developing a household budget program and hopes to get it started in October or November.

### Area Leader Activities

Pam has ongoing one-on-one meetings with staff in all 4 counties she supervises and attends staff meetings and advisory council meetings.

### **Kristina Moore- SNAP-Ed Coordinator/Educator**

August 23<sup>rd</sup> Kristina participated in the Lutheran Social Services food distribution and later met with Sam Roberts at the Chesterhill Community Garden. On August 27<sup>th</sup> there was a McConnelsville Community Garden meeting. Discussion included our next location for another Community Garden, more partnerships, and that to date approximately 150 pounds of zucchini, 70 pounds of tomatoes and counting, three (3) pounds of peppers, 36.8 pounds of potatoes and 16 pumpkins have been donated to the JFS table and given away. On August 29<sup>th</sup> Kristina continued her budgeting series at the Senior Center and on September 3<sup>rd</sup> Kristina concluded the Breakfast in a Mug series at McConnel Manor. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of September Kristina helped with the Morgan County United Ministries food distribution in Stockport and Chesterhill and passed out handouts and recipes with a focus on grains and with a reach of approximately 88 families. On September 5<sup>th</sup> Kristina spent the day at the Morgan County Fair for kids' day and provided

healthy snack bag options as well as a hydration station and nutrition information. September 9<sup>th</sup> Kristina teamed up with the Kate Love Simpson Library yet again and this time for a four week no cook series. Kristina also attended the SNAP-Ed SE Regional monthly meeting. On September 11<sup>th</sup> Kristina assisted Morgan County United Ministries with food distribution in Malta. Kristina passed out Fall Chop magazines that contain a wealth of information and the reach was 125 families. September 12<sup>th</sup> Kristina was at Morgan West Elementary to present SNAP-Ed to the school and sign-up classrooms for instruction. Kristina also wrapped up the budgeting series with the Senior Center and will begin a soup series in coming weeks. Lastly, on September 13<sup>th</sup> Kristina attended the Family and Children First Council meeting.

### **Jordan Penrose- Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator**

In August, Jordan Penrose provided his monthly TV interview on WHIZ news, talking about upcoming events and providing information about the drought conditions that are being seen in southeastern Ohio. The farmer's market is still going on until the end of October, with participation from both vendors and supporters showing up weekly. The farmers will continue with its weekly schedule, every Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm. Jordan has also continued participating with now 2 different farms as part of the LEP Monitoring Network, done by the Agronomic Crops Team. He has been tracking for corn earworm in corn fields. The corn earworm traps were completed at the end of August catching very low totals in the traps throughout the twelve weeks that they were out.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August Jordan went and cotaught with fellow educators in Jackson at the Jackson Agricultural Research Station for Beef and Forage Field Night. Jordan and the Master Gardener Volunteers had their monthly meeting at the fairgrounds, where the Master Gardeners cleaned up flower beds before the fair. Jordan has also been involved with Soil and Water on providing information to the farmers about the drought in southeastern Ohio.

Jordan has participated in various meetings like the weekly corn call meeting to share updates about crops and drought conditions in Morgan County with his coworkers around the state. He also is a part of the beef and forage teams in which they share updates related to beef and forage, and the beef team worked a day up at the state fair at the steak barn. Jordan is also conducting different studies, one in the county on mechanical control of johnson grass, and a couple of

different studies at the Jackson Agriculture Research Station, with studies on hay growth and hay storage.

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***Shannon Wells, Development Office***

**24-464-** Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to untable the bids for the Chesterhill Park Improvement Project.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

Singree Construction Services LLC was the only bidder at \$82,342.00.

**24-465-** Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to award the bid was reviewed and approved by DLZ Engineering in the amount of \$82,342.00 and a bid bond was received.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

Shannon Wells is planning to submit a nomination form to the EPA for funding for the Household Sewage Treatment Systems program for FY2025 FOR \$150,000.

A meeting to further review alternatives to the flood mitigation study will be September 9, 2024 at 10:00am in the economic development conference room.

Commissioner Shriver and Commissioner Mayle along with Shannon Wells attended a meeting of the Morgan County land bank on September 11, 2024.

Shannon Wells, Tracey Simons and Tim Louis Village Administrator for McConnelsville met with Frances Hamilton from Heritage Ohio regarding an Aspiring Membership for the Village of McConnelsville.

Shannon Wells applied for a permit to ODOT for the sign installation on SR60 north.

A simi-annual report has be prepared for the Morgan County Revolving Loan Fund. The balance as of June 30, 2024 was \$79,604.97.

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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](https://www.morgancounty-oh.gov/dog_warden_reports.html)

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***Kenny White, Soil & Soil***

The meeting discussed the severe shortage of hay and water affecting local farmers, with reports of high prices and a significant sell-off of livestock. The shortage is attributed to drought conditions, and there is concern about the long-term impact on the supply chain.

Efforts are being made to secure state and federal assistance, but progress is slow.

There was a discussion about the lack of state funds for emergency relief, with federal funds only covering transportation costs. The group is pushing for state involvement similar to past relief efforts.

The group aims to secure local and state funds to support farmers.

Concerns were raised about the Farm Bureau's representation, with claims that it favors large corporate farms over small farmers. There is a push for the Farm Bureau to advocate more effectively for small farmers.

Local efforts are being made to push Farm Bureau lobbyists to represent small farmers better.

The drought is expanding westward, affecting more agricultural areas. The impact on crop and livestock production is significant, with small farmers feeling the brunt of the effects.

There is hope that as the drought affects larger agricultural areas, more attention and resources will be allocated.

The focus of the conversation was on the community support among farmers, with many attending meetings to support each other despite not being directly affected by the drought.

Community solidarity is strong, with farmers supporting each other in times of crisis.

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***Amber Wilson, Senior Citizen Director***



Mentioned that Southeastern Legal Services will be providing child attorney and estate planning services in the future. The commissioners inquired if they had reached out directly, and Ms. Wilson confirmed they had.

Explained that the number for Senior Legal Aid is given to seniors, but they don't have detailed feedback on its effectiveness. It was also mentioned that people have complained about not receiving help.

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***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator***

Discussed the challenges faced while applying for the Ohio Persistent Cybersecurity Initiative (PCI) grant. The application process required detailed responses, which [Speaker 1] found cumbersome as they only wanted to install Bitdefender on computers. They also applied for an Economic Hardship Waiver to facilitate matching funds.

A Safety Committee meeting was scheduled for September 17, 2024, with several attendees confirmed. The location was flexible depending on the number of participants.

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**24-466-** Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to enter into the Ables contract beginning August 1, 2024 running through July 31, 2025.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

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***Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications***

**24-467-** Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to grant permission to MMRWD to bore under CR 36, located in Township of Windsor, Morgan County, Ohio

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

**24-468-** Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to grant permission to Goshen Run Farms LLC to bore under County Road 79, located in the Township of Marion Section No. 18, Morgan County, Ohio.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

**24-469-** Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the following supplemental appropriations for fund 099 Grant Administration Fund:

Salary	099-0099-5102-00	\$36,000.00
Other Salary	099-0099-5102-01	\$42,000.00
Workforce Salary	099-0099-5102-02	\$ 2,289.00
Supplies	099-0099-5103-00	\$ 3,000.00

Please add \$3,000 to Purchase Order 2024-30175

Contract Administration	099-0099-5306-00	\$13,200.00
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Please add \$13,200 to Purchase Order 2024-30176

Miscellaneous Expense	099-0099-5309-00	\$25,000.00
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Please add \$25,000.00 to Purchase Order 2024-301-73

Other PERS	099-0099-5367.01	\$ 6,500.00
Workforce PERS	099-0099-5367.02	\$ 285.17
Other Medicare	099-0099-5368-01	\$ 750.00
Workforce Medicare	099-0099-5368-02	\$ 33.18
Other Insurance	099-0099-5370.01	\$21,000.00

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

**24-470** Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to request a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$6,327.00 from the Clerk of Courts Computerization Fund. I would like it applied to my current blanket purchase order #24-30354, so that my office's portion of the attached invoice my be paid.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

**24-471-** Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to request a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$28,000.00 to line item #001-0301-5306 (contract services) which is the cost of the unexpected invoice from ES&S for voting equipment software, license and maintenance fees for 7/1/2024-6/30/2025.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

**24-472-** Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to transfer \$600.00 for the 086-0086-5303-00 office supply line item into the 086-0086-5308-00 advertising line item.

Please add this transfer to PO 24-30191

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

24-473- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to remove line item 004-004-4009.00 loan proceeds revenue accounts. This is not an account the Engineer's Office often uses.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

24-474-Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve payment of bills. \*See attached\*

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

24-475- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to recess the commissioners meeting on Monday, September 16, 2024 at 4:00pm.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver yea, Mr. Welsh yea Motion Carried**

24-476- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Mayle to reconvene the commissioners meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 10:00am.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver, Mr. Welsh absent Motion Carried**

24-477- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Mayle to adjourn the commissioners meeting Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 11:05am.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mr. Shriver, Mr. Welsh absent Motion Carried**

**Cecil Mayle, President**

**Adam Shriver, Vice-President**

**Richard Welsh, Member**

**Sheila Welch, Clerk**

