

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, September 30, 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

24-486- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the minutes of September 23, 2024.

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

The commissioners did the following over the past week:

Commissioner Shriver attended a senior council on aging meeting on Tuesday morning at 9:30.

He also attended a special drought webinar for West Virginia and Ohio on Friday at 11.

Commissioner Mayle had lunch with Rebecca Safco in Noble County to discuss and sign bank papers at noon on the 26th, for Council of Government (COG).

Al Eltringham, Alen Eltringham Riecker Maintenance

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 rewired the electrical switches and motors for the clock at the Courthouse and repaired an electrical problem in the Maintenance office in the basement. 9-26-24

Replaced all old NO SMOKING SIGNS with new (No Smoking/No Vaping) signs 9-23-24

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.

Discussed the issue with the light timer on the town clock not working properly and mentioned checking the time and light switch.

Seve Hook, Engineer; John Telez, Deputy Engineer

Discussed the progress on County Road 2, mentioning a pour happening today and tomorrow.

Flood Wall Construction

Expressed concerns about the potential washout of the area between two dams due to higher water levels. They are pushing for the construction of a flood wall and plan to discuss it in the next project meeting.

Issue 1 Re-up

Mentioned the need to re-up Issue 1 to secure funding. It was confirmed that there is enough money to proceed quickly if needed.

Heidi Burns, JFS

Agency Credit Card Policy

Travel Request

- Heidi Burns to Holmes County for JFS District Meeting on 10/1/24
 - Heidi Burns to Columbus for PCSAO Board Meeting on 10/2/24
 - Kim Forman & Tina Cooper to Marietta for VIOA peer review on 9/26/26
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Misty Long, Pound Keeper

Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

https://www.morgancounty-oh.gov/dog_warden_reports.html

Dog Adoption and Paperwork Issues

Discussed confusion regarding dogs that were allegedly adopted out to individuals without proper paperwork. They mention receiving complaints and trying to sort through the paperwork to verify the claims.

Owner Abandoned Dogs

Talked about receiving three owner-abandoned dogs and Ms. Long asked about the legal

requirements for holding them. The commissioners advised her if there is paperwork showing they were owner-abandoned to follow normal procedures set forth in the policy.

Getting Dogs Fixed

Expressed difficulty in getting dogs fixed due to a lack of available spots at the clinic. They discussed alternative options and the importance of getting dogs fixed before adoption.

Handling of a Deceased Dog

Asked about the responsibility for disposing of a deceased dog brought to the pound. Suggested finding out why the dog was brought to them.

Grant Applications

Planned to go through various grant applications to find funding opportunities. Advised on eligibility criteria, particularly the difference between government entities and 501c3 organizations.

Mark Howdyshell, Prosecutor

Employee Time Reporting

Prosecutor Howdyshell raised the issue of how the subpoenaed employees should report their time away from their desks on their timesheets.

Fairness to Employees

The commissioners and Prosecutor Howdyshell expressed concern about the fairness of requiring employees to take vacation or unpaid leave for the time they were subpoenaed.

John Wilt, EMA; 911

Budget for Dispatchers

discussed the current budget issues related to hiring additional dispatchers. The Sheriff's Office has been using road deputy funds to pay dispatchers, but this money has run out. They need to hire three more dispatchers to reach a total of 12, but there is no budget for this.

The Wireless Government Assistance Fund can be used as a short-term solution for the rest of the year.

Future Budget Planning

Mentioned that next year's budget will be discussed soon. They need to decide whether dispatchers will remain under the Sheriff's Office or move to a separate 9-1-1 budget.

Curt Johnson, Airport Authority; Shannon Wells, Development Office

Airport Authority's Financial Challenges

Discussed the financial limitations of the Airport Authority, including limited revenue sources such as hangar rents and a lease from MedFlight of Ohio. The challenges in qualifying for FAA funding due to insufficient airplane numbers and the competition for ODOT aviation grants was also mentioned.

Runway Condition and Maintenance

Described the poor condition of the runway, including significant cracks and loose aggregate, which pose safety risks. Temporary measures have been taken to mitigate these issues, but a more permanent solution is needed.

Runway Lighting Grant

Explained the process of securing a \$500,000 grant from ODOT Aviation for runway lighting refurbishment. The grant requires a 5% community match, which amounts to approximately \$25,000.

Grant Timeline and Budgeting

Discussed the timeline for the grant, with work expected to commence by fiscal year 2026. They also talked about budgeting for the community match over the next few years to ensure the funds are available when needed.

Coordination with County Commissioners

Discussed the need for coordination with the county commissioners to ensure the grant funds and community match are properly managed. The possibility of running the funds through the county's accounts was mentioned as well.

Becky Thompson; Dog Warden

Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

https://www.morgancounty-oh.gov/dog_warden_reports.html

The commissioners discussed the positions of the Dog Warden, Pound Keeper and Humane Agent

Richard Myron, Concerned Citizen

Fire Safety Regulations for Junkyards and Recycle Centers

Raised concerns about fire safety at junkyards and recycle centers, questioning if there are any fire codes or regulations in place. The commissioners discussed the roles of fire marshals and fire chiefs, and the need for fire extinguishers at such sites.

Authority and Responsibility

The discussion touched on who has the authority to enforce fire safety regulations. The commissioners mentioned that the township already has the authority to push for ordinances. It was also noted that fire chiefs have limited control over private property unless it affects neighboring properties.

EPA Compliance

The commissioners mentioned that the junkyard in question is compliant with EPA regulations, but Mr. Myron argued that fire safety measures like fire extinguishers should also be mandated.

Township and State Involvement

Mr. Myron suggested that the township should be more proactive in enforcing fire safety regulations and mentioned speaking to a township trustee who was trying to get in touch with the prosecutor.

Susie Alderman, Concerned Citizen

Noise and Disturbance from Dogs

Ms. Alderman highlighted the constant noise from barking dogs, which is exacerbated when people visit the shelter. The commissioners acknowledged the issue and mentioned efforts to mitigate it.

Shelter Location and Building Plans

The commissioners mentioned past efforts to find space at the county highway garage and plans

for a new building, which were substantial but might be revisited due to potentially lower costs now.

Dog Intake Policy

Ms. Alderman inquired about the shelter's current policy on taking in dogs. The commissioners clarified that they are not taking owner-released dogs at this time.

Past Management of the Shelter

Ms. Alderman recounted a past experience with a manager at the dog pound, who managed to keep the dogs quiet by playing music, which significantly reduced the noise.

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

Dog Incident

The commissioners questioned Mrs. Thompson about a dog that was hit while in possession of a person who claimed to have no record or paperwork of the dog being a foster dog. There were conflicting statements about the dog's status.

Deputies Involvement

Mrs. Thompson mentioned two deputies who heard that the dog was a foster dog. There was also a mention of a deputy from a different county hitting the dog.

Paperwork and Communication

Discussion about the lack of paperwork and communication regarding the dog. One person texted the other about the incident, but there was still confusion.

Owner Abandonment

Discussion about three cases of owner abandonment. One specific case involved a person trying to abandon a dog by leaving it in the back of a truck.

John Wilt, EMA; 911

24-487- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to approve the following:

Be it Resolved by Board of Commissioners of Morgan County, Ohio that John C. Wilt, Director of Emergency Management is hereby authorized to execute for and in behalf of Morgan County, Ohio, a public entity established under the laws of the State of Ohio this application and to file it

in the appropriate State office for the purpose of obtaining certain Federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 288, 23rd Congress) or otherwise available from the President's Disaster Relief Fund.

That Morgan County, Ohio, a public entity established under the laws of the State of Ohio, hereby authorized its agent to provide to the State and to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all matter pertaining to such Federal disaster assistance the assurances and agreement as listed in the Grant Agreement.

See Attachment A for full signed document.

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

Mark Howdyshell, Prosecutor

24-488- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the following:

Any employee who is called to testify through subpoena during normal work hours, as the result of their employment by Morgan County, shall not be considered absent and shall be compensated accordingly.

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

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

The IT Director attended the Zanesville – Muskingum Chamber of Commerce Safety Council meeting on 25 Sept. 2024. The topic of discussion was defensive driving.

As a follow up to last week's discussion on the Dog Pound's Facebook page, the IT Director brought up the possibility of changing the name of the page from Morgan County Ohio Dog Warden and Dog Pound to simply Morgan County Ohio Dog Pound. This would eliminate some confusion as to whom the page belongs.

An upgrade to the operating system of the IT Director's workstation caused an unrecoverable failure. The workstation was rebuilt and files were restored from backup with no further issues encountered. These errors occur from time to time as a result of the exotic combination of hardware used on the IT Director's workstation. These failures are a good chance to rebuild the workstation from scratch and test the

integrity of the IT backups.

Dell is finally sending a box to return the failed computer from Noble County Public Transit to their repair center. The troubleshooting/repair process has been going on for over three weeks.

New workstations were installed in the Treasurer's office.

The IT Director started building new remote access workstations to replace the existing Windows 10 workstations. Windows 10 reaches its end-of-life date in October of 2025. All Windows 10 workstations will need to be replaced prior to that date.

The CORSA training class on Thursday, 3 Oct. 2024, has sixteen people signed up to attend. It was decided to ask JFS to use their meeting room to host the class.

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

24-489- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to grant permission to MMRWD to bore under CR 6, located in the Township of Winsor Morgan County, Ohio

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

24-490- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the following:

Transfer \$37,000.00.00 from the 113-0113-5102.01 Driver Salary Line Item the 113-0113-5102.03 Noble County Driver Salary Line Item.

Transfer \$15,000.00 from 113-0113-5102.01 Driver Salary Line Item into the 113-0113-5102.04 Dispatcher Salary Line Item.

Transfer \$10,000.00 from the 113-0113-5102.01 Driver Salary Line Item into the 113-113-0113-5311.00 Leasing Line Item. Please add PO 2024-30179.

Transfer \$4,000.00 from the from the 113-0113-5102.01 Driver Salary Line Item into the 13-0113-5303.00 Supplies Line Item Please add PO 2024-30183.

Transfer \$2,000.00 from the 113-0113-5102.01 Driver Salary Line Item into the 113-0113-5308.00 Advertising Line Item. Please add PO 2024-30182.

Transfer \$10,000.00 from the 113-0113-5102.01 Driver Salary Line Item into the 113-0113-5315.00 Utilities Line Item Please add PO 2024-30181.

Transfer \$2,844.21 from the 113-0113-5369.00 Worker's Compensation Line Item into the 113-011-5367.03 Noble County Driver PERS.

Transfer \$2,233.16 from the 113-0113-5369.02 Dispatcher Worker's Compensation Line Item into the 113-0113-5309.00 Miscellaneous Expense Item. Please add PO 2024-30180.

Transfer \$56,000.00 from the 113-0113-5371.00 Insurance Line Item into 113-0113-5371.01 Driver Insurance Line Item.

Transfer \$27,100.00 from the 113-0113-531.00 Insurance Line Item into the 113-0113-5371.02 Dispatcher Line Item.

Transfer \$14,009.18 from the 113-0113-5369.01 Driver's Workers Compensation Line Item the 113-0113-5309.00 Miscellaneous Expense Line Item. Please add to PO 2024-30180.

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

24-491- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to transfer the following:

Transfer \$3,000.00 from the 085-0085-5102.00 Salary Line Item into the 085-0085-5309.00 Other Expense Line Item. Please add to PO 2024-30194.

Transfer \$10.32 from the 085-0085-5368.00 Medicare Line Item into the 085-0085-5369.00 Workers Compensation Line Item.

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

24-492 Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the following supplemental appropriation request. These are to increase the salary line that had summer help employees through JFS program.

Supplementally Appropriate \$27,015.30 to 001-1501-5102.00 IT Salaries

Supplementally Appropriate \$23,400.00 to 001-0402-5102.00 Salaries

Supplementally Appropriate \$13,000.00 to 005-0005-5102.01 Salaries

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

24-493-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

24-494- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Mayle to recess the commissioners meeting until Wednesday October 2, 2024 @9:00am for the Land Bank meeting.

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

24-495- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Mayle to reconvene the commissioners meeting Wednesday October 2, 2024 @9:00am for the Land Bank meeting.

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

24-496-Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Shriver to adjourn the commissioners meeting Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 10:15am.

Cecil Mayle, President

Adam Shriver, Vice-President

Richard Welsh, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

Attachment A:

DESIGNATION OF APPLICANT'S AGENT

RESOLUTION

24-487

BE IT RESOLVED BY Board of Commissioners OF Morgan County, Ohio
(Governing Body) (Public Entity)

THAT John C. Wilt, Director of Emergency Management
(Name of Incumbent) (Official Position)

is hereby authorized to execute for and in behalf of Morgan County, Ohio,

a public entity established under the laws of the State of Ohio this application and to file it in the appropriate State office for the purpose of obtaining certain Federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 288, 23rd Congress) or otherwise available from the President's Disaster Relief Fund.

THAT Morgan County, Ohio, a public entity established under the laws of the State of Ohio, hereby authorized its agent to provide to the State and to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all matters pertaining to such Federal disaster assistance the assurances and agreements as listed in the Grant Agreement.

Passed and approved this Thirtieth day of September, 20 24.

Cecil Mark President
(Name and Title)

Ada Shuman Vice President
(Name and Title)

R. P. [Signature] Commissioner
(Name and Title)

CERTIFICATION

I, Sheila Welch, duly appointed and Clerk of Commissioners
(Title)

, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed and approved by the Commissioners of Morgan County, Ohio
(Governing Body) (Public Entity)

on the Thirtieth day of September, 20 24.

Date: 9/30/24
Commissioner's Clerk
(Official Position)

Sheila Welch
(Signature)

*Name of Incumbent need not be provided in those cases where the governing body of the public entity desires to authorize any incumbent of the designated official position to represent it.

