

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, November 4, 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

24-553- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the minutes of October 28, 2024.

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

The commissioners did the following over the past week:

Commissioner Shriver and Commissioner Mayle attended a breakfast meeting with CCAO on Tuesday morning.

Commissioner Shriver attended the Buckeye Hills Regional Advisory Council on Wednesday morning, as well as the Executive Council on Friday morning in Marietta.

Al Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance

Preparing the old Cub Cadet mower and Snow blower to be declared excess to put on Gov Deals.
8-1-24

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.

Apperson's still working the Warranty issue to replace hot water tank for the kitchen.

Able's Heating and Cooling will schedule element replacement for the unit at the Courthouse Westside 2nd floor

Parts have been ordered for the John Deere tractor for the Safety Recall (Brake Rod Bell Crank)
10-28-24

Steve Hook, Engineer; John Telez, Deputy Engineer

Bridge Maintenance and Options

Discussion on the old iron bridge's condition and potential options for its future, including doing nothing, closing to vehicular traffic, converting to a pedestrian bridge, or full rehabilitation.

The commissioners are to review the draft report and provide comments within two weeks for a final report.

Bridge Painting Costs

The cost of painting the bridge is a significant concern, with estimates at \$4.5 million, up from \$2.6 million ten years ago.

The decision on the future of the old iron bridge requires further discussion and input from stakeholders. This is crucial to determine the next steps for the bridge's maintenance or replacement.

The high cost of bridge painting poses a financial challenge that needs addressing. This issue could impact the budget and timeline of the bridge maintenance project.

-The full report is available upon request to the Commissioner's Office or Engineer's Office.

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

The Board of Elections (BOE) received a public records request for video of the ballot drop-box from the time that early voting began on Oct. 8 until the BOE collected the last ballots from the box on election day. The process of downloading the files from the video recorder takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour per day of video. The BOE replied to the company that put in the request informing them that they would need to provide some kind of storage drive for the video files and a postage-paid return envelope.

Dan Ray, Meigsville Waterboard

60 Project

The 60 project involves economic development and has met the submission deadline. There were issues with easements and landing on the McConnellsville side, but these have been resolved. The project awaits approval. The project has met the deadline and is awaiting approval.

Property Sign-ups

There is a discussion about a property owner who has not signed up for the project. Despite being given paperwork, the owner has not submitted it, causing delays.

Future Projects

There are plans for more projects, but completion of the 60 project is prioritized due to financial commitments.

Mystie Long, Pound Keeper

Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

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

Dog Tags and Foster Dog

Ms. Long discussed resolving issues with dog tags, except for three, and mentioned a tag given to a foster dog. They speculated that a tag on a beagle that was hit might be one of the missing ones.

Heidi Burns, JFS

Timesheet

A OPWC meeting was held in the Commissioner's Office this morning. In attendance was Steve Hook, John Telez, Sheila Welch, Richard Welsh, Cecil Mayle, Adam Shriver, John McCort, Bo Powell, Terry McGrath, John Wilt, Heidi Maxwell. See Attachment A

John Wilt, EMA; 911

Ohio Emergency Operations Center coordination calls monthly on 3rd Thursdays at 1300 hours
Continuous review and revision of Emergency Operations Plans.

Completed MARC Radio test

Participated in Floodplain Manager interviews.

Attended OEMA Fall Conference on 11/1.

Submitted FY22 EMPG Q8 cash request to State in amount of \$19,562.24.

9-1-1 Report to Commissioners, 11/4/2024

Continuing to work with Interaction Insight, Sundance and ComTech on technical issues with integration.

Weekly Readiness Call with ComTech 10/26 – rollout now back to December.

Working with APCO for Intellicomm implementation, guidecard review, training, etc. Will begin regular implementation calls every other Tuesday

Communicated with Sheriff regarding salary expenses and radio replacement – email attached/See Attachment B

Met with Penn Twp and Chesterhill FD regarding future plans and implementation.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

Ohio Department of Development has announced Morgan County will receive \$300,000.00 in Brownfield funds to assess a property owned by the Morgan County Improvement Corporation on SR60 for possible environmental contamination. Morgan County will also receive \$410,350.00 for the demolition of nine properties throughout the county.

Shannon Wells will attend the Village of McConnelsville council meeting on November 5, 2024 to discuss property the village owns on Parmiter Road and the qualification of the land for the brownfield grant to assess for contamination. Another project to be discussed is a pedestrian and bicycle grant open by ODOT. The complete active transportation plan will allow the village to apply for a project documented in the plan a 100% reimbursement.

Shannon Wells sent a bid notice for the shipping container at the Morgan County Public Transit Building to the Morgan County Herald. It will advertise November 6 & 13. Bids will be due December 2, 2024 at 10am.

Shannon Wells met with Randy Cochrane, Director of Community Relations from Genesis Healthcare on October 29, 2024. A report was discussed with Mr. Cochrane that showed Morgan Transit had provided nearly 1,000 trips in the last years for clients to a Genesis medical

facility. Mr. Cochrane asked if we would like to expand the transit health fair we did last spring to make it available to all county employees.

A similar meeting for transportation was also held with Rick Fulkerson, Transportation Director for Muskingum Valley Health Center. Morgan Transit provided over 750 trips to MVHC facilities during the last two months.

Tracy Simons, Development Office

Christmas Light Display

The Christmas light display will start on November 29th and run through January 5th. The town has been added to the Ohio Holiday Lights Trail, and there are plans to increase sponsor trees to 100. Volunteers are scheduled to help set up on November 10th.

Town Tree and Sponsorship

A company has shown interest in sponsoring the town tree, and thousands of dollars have already been committed. The goal is to attract more visitors to the town.

Old Bridge Light Display

There is a desire to create a walk-through light display on the Old Bridge to attract more visitors, as no other town in Ohio has such a feature.

Santa House and Kiwanis Involvement

The Santa house will have three days scheduled for Santa this year. There is a discussion about moving the Santa house to a new location and coordinating with Kiwanis.

Coordination with Other Events

There is a need to coordinate with other events like Christmas in the Village to avoid conflicts and ensure smooth operations.

Becky Thompson; Dog Warden

Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

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

The center turn lane on SR60 North opened on October 25, 2024.

Amber Wilson, Senior Citizen Director

Resource Management

Discussion on managing old computers and other items by declaring them as excess and deciding on their disposal. Emphasis on documenting the items and their specifications for proper handling.

Items will be documented and declared as excess for disposal.

Community Support for Seniors

Exploration of funding opportunities for agencies to provide services for seniors. Discussion on finding an agency to handle tasks and the possibility of using community funds to support these services.

Need to have a conversation about setting aside funds and finding an agency to provide services for seniors.

Financial Advisory Services

Discussion about the opening of new financial advisory services in the area, including the presence of multiple firms and their offerings.

John W. Finley; Homer Weekly; Jake Woodward; Randy Williams; Drew Blackburn; Ed Haines, M+M Fire Department

Financial and Operational Challenges in Emergency Services

Financial Challenges

The organization is facing financial difficulties, with an average annual deficit of \$57,000 over the past five years. A recent sale of a squad unit provided temporary relief but is not a sustainable solution. The organization is struggling with loans and the need to replace aging equipment.

Squad Unit Sale

A squad unit was sold to Wesley County for \$179,900. This sale was necessary due to financial constraints, despite the unit being rebuilt and intended for future use. The sale was not a true profit as it was used to pay down other debts.

Insurance and Income Sources

Income primarily comes from insurance payments and a county tax levy. However, insurance reimbursements are limited to loaded miles, affecting income from rural areas. The organization writes off a significant amount due to uncollectible payments.

Operational Challenges

The organization faces challenges with aging equipment, high mileage on vehicles, and the need for replacements. Additionally, there are issues with response times and coverage in rural areas, leading to complaints.

Staffing and Payroll

The organization struggles to pay competitive wages, leading to staff turnover. They have not been able to give raises for over a year and are losing staff to better-paying opportunities.

Medical Supplies and Costs

Medical supply costs are rising, with some items doubling in price. Expired drugs need to be replaced, adding to expenses. The organization cannot bill for these costs, impacting their budget.

Conclusion

The organization needs to increase income or decrease expenses to avoid running out of money.

The sale was a financial necessity, not a profit-generating activity.

Income is variable and heavily reliant on insurance and county support.

Operational challenges are ongoing, with no immediate solutions.

Staff retention is a challenge due to financial constraints.

Rising medical supply costs are a financial burden.

Financial and Operational Challenges in EMS Services

Financial Status and Challenges

The meeting discussed the financial challenges faced by the squad, including the depletion of the SEMA account from \$191,000 to \$80,000, ongoing loan payments, and increased costs for vehicles and insurance. The squad relies on grants, such as a \$325,000 grant for new cots, to manage expenses.

Funding and Grants

The squad received a one-time grant of \$325,000 from the state, facilitated by Senator Chavez, to

purchase new cots and stair chairs for vehicles. The importance of lobbying for more resources and funding was emphasized.

Staffing and Volunteer Challenges

There is a shortage of EMTs and volunteers, with only a few remaining in the county. The squad struggles to provide adequate service due to financial constraints and low wages, which are below the living wage in Morgan County.

Wages and Employment

EMTs and medics are paid below the living wage, leading to staff leaving for higher-paying jobs, particularly in nursing. The squad has not given raises in over a year and a half, despite increased workload and costs.

Operational Statistics

The squad completed 159 runs last month, with McConnelsville being the busiest area. The average response time was 6 minutes and 30 seconds, better than the national average of 8 minutes.

Dispatch and Response Times

Paid dispatchers have improved response times, but the squad has spent \$53,000 on dispatch services, which could have been used for pay raises.

Conclusion

The squad secured a grant for equipment but needs ongoing funding solutions.

EMS operational challenges and financial constraints

Uncovered EMS Hours

The discussion focused on the 953 EMS hours that were not covered due to lack of volunteers. The organization does not enforce mandatory overtime, which contributes to the uncovered hours.

Cost of Additional EMS Crew

The cost of adding a fourth EMS crew was discussed, with salaries alone estimated at \$281,108.40, excluding benefits and other expenses. The total cost for four crews would be around \$900,000.

Quality Assurance and Training

The agency conducts 100% quality assurance on runs and plans to implement quarterly competencies to ensure medics maintain their skills.

Employee Benefits and Costs

The discussion covered the costs of employee benefits, including health insurance and retirement contributions, highlighting the financial constraints faced by the organization.

Public Demand and Financial Challenges

The conversation addressed the public's demand for services and the financial challenges of meeting these demands, including operating at a loss and potential tax increases.

Impact of 9-1-1 Levy

Concerns were raised about the potential impact of the 9-1-1 levy on future fire and EMS levies, fearing it might hinder their approval.

Fiscal Year Reporting

There was a discussion on the reporting periods used for fiscal year data and the need for consistency in reporting.

Dispatching and 9-1-1 Center

The challenges of dispatching and the need for a 9-1-1 center were discussed, including the reliance on volunteers and the financial burden of dispatching.

Challenges in EMS operations and contract compliance due to outdated equipment, budget constraints, and staffing issues.

Communication and Equipment Issues

Discussion on outdated communication technology and equipment issues affecting radio transmissions and phone lines, particularly in Center Townships.

Contract Compliance and Budget Constraints

Challenges in meeting the terms of the contract due to budget constraints, including the inability to maintain four crews and the need for meetings with other fire chiefs.

Monthly Meetings with Fire Chiefs

Debate over the necessity of monthly meetings with fire chiefs, with some suggesting quarterly meetings instead.

EMS System Changes

Discussion on exploring changes to the EMS system, including the possibility of a county-operated EMS system and related costs and logistics.

Service Area and Coverage

Clarification on the EMS service area and coverage, including contracts with other townships and the approach to covering Morton County.

Staffing and Crew Requirements

Issues with staffing and maintaining the required number of advanced life support crews, and the challenges of meeting contract terms.

Transfers, Then & Now, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

24-547- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to approve the following supplemental appropriations requested for the corresponding expense account line items:

Line Items	Account Number	Adj. by
Salary, Program Administrators	023-2025-5102.00	+3,952.00
PERS, Program Administrators	023-2025-5367.00	+ 554.00
Medicare, Program Administrators	023-2025-5368.00	+ 60.00
Worker’s Comp., Probation Officers	023-2025-5369.00	+ 218.00
Worker’s Comp., Program Admin.	023-2025-5369.00	- 100.00

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

24-548- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to request a transfer from the following fund:

Fund: DETC Fund From: 060-0060-5304.00 Equip. To: 060-0060-5309.00 Other Exp. Amt: \$2,000.00

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

24-549- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to grant permission to Osmose Utilities Services, Inc to span over CR 7, located in the Township of Marion, Section No. 3, Morgan County, Ohio.

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

24-550- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to request a supplemental appropriation of \$30,000 for the expense line 001-1501-5328.00 Indigent Defense. This is to continue paying Indigent defense attorneys for 2024.

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

24-551- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to request a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$20,942.63 into Sheriff's salaries employees 001-06011-5102.00.

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

24-554- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to transfer \$201.72 from 200-0200-5301.00 into line 001-0602-4002-00 for 3rd quarter 2024 Housing Trust Fund Admin. Fees.

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

24-555- 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

24-556- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to adjourn the commissioners meeting Monday, November 4, 2024 at 4:00pm.

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

Cecil Mayle, President

Adam Shriver, Vice-President

Richard Welsh, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

See Attachment A:

Morgan County Sub-Committee Meeting
Reicher Building – Commissioner’s Office Rm. 216
155 East Main Street – McConnelsville, Ohio 43787
Minutes for November 4, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Stevan Hook, executive committee member. Those County Sub-Committee members present are:

Sub-Committee Members: Terry McGrath–Malta Village, Cecil Mayle (County Commissioners’ representative), Stevan Hook (County Engineer representative) and Bo Powell (Township Trustee representative), John McCort (At Large representative).

Other Attendees: Richard Welch (County Commissioner), Sheila Welch (Clerk), Adam Shriver (County Commissioner), John Telesz, John Wilt (EMA Director), Heidi Schaad. (See Sign-in Sheet)

The 1st order of business - was to assign the County’s priority points to the three (3) submitted projects. Stevan Hook explained that the purpose of the meeting is to assign County priority points to each of the projects (maximum of 3) submitted by the Morgan County applicants. He then presented the county’s “**3 Projects**” and discussed how the points might be distributed.

The projects are to be assigned priority points as follows: 1st – 75 points, 2nd – 65 points, 3rd – 55 points, 4th – 45points.

Project Representatives:

Stevan Hook then presented the county’s “**Township and Village Co-operative Road Paving Projects**” and then discussed how the County Sub-Committee points might be distributed.

- **Morgan County Paving Project #1** - Morgan County Road #98 (Cordray Rd.) from SR #78 north to SR #37 and CR #101 Miller Rd. from State Rt. 555 west to State Rt. 78.
- **Morgan County Co-operative Paving Project #1** – Includes McConnelsville Village part of Bell Ave., 1.0 mile of Finkle Hill Rd. in Center Twp., 2.306 miles of CR #38, 0.97 miles CR #14, and 1.254 miles of CR #62.
- **Village of McConnelsville Phase-I Emergency Sanitary Sewer Project.** (See synopsis)

The sub-committee then discussed the applications and did the following point assignments:

Bo Powell made a motion to award the priority point as follows:

75 pts – Morgan County Paving Project #1

65 pts – Morgan County Cooperative Paving Project #2

55pts - Village of McConnellsville Phase-I Emergency Sanitary Sewer Project.

Terry McGrath seconded the motion: **With all 5 members voting yeas.** Motion passed.

Stevan Hook explained that there may be some minor discrepancies in the scoring of the projects at other locations. These discrepancies will be discussed at the executive committee meeting on Wednesday December 19, 2024 at the Buckeye Hills Office at 1400 Pike Street, Marietta, Ohio at 10:00am. After this meeting, scoring could change a little, which in turn may affect the way the county sub-committee awards it points.

John McCort made a motion to adjourn. **Bo Powell** seconded the motion. All members voted yea, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes were taken by John Telesz, Ass't Morgan County Engineer.



Stevan Hook
Executive Committee Member

See Attachment B:

911coordinator@morgancounty-oh.gov

From: 911coordinator@morgancounty-oh.gov
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 3:29 PM
To: 'Doug McGrath'
Subject: RE:

From a budgetary standpoint these should not be issues, and I have no objections. The radio should be paid from fund 10, and the staff costs should be from fund 100. It will be up to the Commissioners to decide how these transactions occur!

John C. Wilt
Morgan County 9-1-1 Coordinator
60 South Fourth Street
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756
Office: 740.962.3900
Mobile: 740.651.8610

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From: Doug McGrath <sheriff.mcgrath@morgancounty-oh.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 4:25 PM
To: 911coordinator@morgancounty-oh.gov
Cc: Adam Shriver <adam.shriver@morgancounty-oh.gov>; Cecil Mayle <cecil.mayle@morgancounty-oh.gov>; Richard Welsh <richard.welsh@morgancounty-oh.gov>
Subject:

John,

As you know, we have had previous discussions between ourselves and in front of the County Commissioners in reference to the expanding/restructuring of the current Dispatch Center into a 911 Center. With this expansion comes the need to hire additional employees. We have made our way to 7 -911 Dispatchers. The projected needed total number is 12 employees with a breakdown being 10 Dispatchers and 2- Supervisors. At the present time I have selected 2 persons that I wish to hire, bringing our number to 9. These 2 will have a start date of November 30, 2024. This would require them to be on the payroll for the last 2 paychecks of the year. It is imperative to get these 2 hired at this date as their "required training" thru APCO starts Dec. 9, 2024. This training is limited in the number of times it is given each year. With that said, it only makes sense to get them hired and enrolled in the classes so that they may be "certified" to be in operation of the 911 equipment.

At present, I am on target, with NO leeway in my budget. Would it be a possibility to have the 911 funds pay the wages of these 2 new employees for the last 2 pays of the year? I have the funding to afford the required training for them if they were to be hired.

With that said, It has also been brought to my attention that one radio that operates our main communication channel is unable to be upgraded into the new configuration, so as of July 2025 it will no longer work. I have obtained a quote from JD Johnson LLC for a new radio to replace this defunct one. The cost is \$3168.00, this is an unexpected purchase that I am unable to be fill with my budget this year. I think its important to not take a chance on this radio not performing as it should, it would be good policy to just replace it so that the switch over of the radio system here in a few months is smooth and uninterrupted. Would 911 funding be something that could afford this radio as it is necessary equipment for the operation of the 911 center?

Thank You in advance for any assistance or cooperation that you can provide in this matter.

DOUGLAS J. MCGRATH
MORGAN CO. SHERIFF

37 East Main Street
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756
Office # 740-962-4044
Fax # 740-962-4035
Voicemail # 740-962-1366



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