

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, November 18, 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 (absent beginning 11:00am)
Richard Welsh, Member

24-565- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the minutes of November 12, 2024.

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

The commissioners did the following over the past week:

Commissioner Mayle attended a jail-board meeting on November 13, 2024.

Commissioner Mayle and Commissioner Welsh attended a library meeting on November 14, 2024.

Steve Hook, Engineer

Floodplain Management

Discussed options for managing a wellhead that needs to be above flood level elevation. The options include building a structure around it, relocating dirt, or annexing the area. The commissioners mentioned the possibility of obtaining a grant to cover costs.

Grant and Budget Considerations

Mentioned writing an official letter and estimated a budget of 50,000, which aligns with a grant offer. The commissioners inquired about staffing needs for the project.

The decision on how to manage the wellhead above flood level elevation remains unresolved. Options include building a structure, relocating dirt, or annexing the area, but a final decision is needed to proceed.

The project may face budget constraints, as the estimated cost is 50 grand, which matches the grant offer. Further financial planning and resource allocation are necessary to ensure the project's viability.

The Engineer plans to write an official letter regarding the project, but the specifics on the content and recipients are not provided, requiring further clarification to ensure effective communication.

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 Plumbing Installed the new hot water tank for the kitchen. 11-12-24

Able's Heating and Cooling Installed new heating element for the unit at the Courthouse Westside 2nd floor 11-12-24

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

Heidi Burns, JFS

Met with Morgan Community Fund regarding Christmas for families in need.

Metal Detectors being quoted and met with Sheriff's Office regarding safety issue.

Met with Roger Birch Muskingum Area Mental Health and Recovery Services to discuss cluster funds for Children Services.

Legal service RFP is due today.

Meeting with Amy Dobina (Peoples Bank) to discuss Financial Literacy Training for customers

Angel tree is going up next Monday

24-566- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to enter executive session with Heidi Burns at 9:15am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

24-567- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to exit executive session with Heidi Burns at 9:25am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

Timesheet

John Telez, Deputy Engineer

Discussed the need for updates to the draft report, specifically mentioning changes related to pedestrian and vehicle sections. Mr. Telez invited input from others for any additional changes or edits.

The final report is expected by the end of the year.

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
- Attended Mitigation grant meeting in Athens. We have received \$28,517.00 in Federal BRIC grant funding for mitigation plan. There is a local match of \$9,505.67 which will be met with in-kind payment (personnel costs for persons involved in planning process calculated at an assumed rate \$61.37 per hour). Will contact contractor this week to get this started. Our current mitigation plan runs to April 2026, but it is a lengthy process to complete the planning/approval process. An approved mitigation plan is required for communities to receive Federal mitigation funding. Townships are included with county approval, but each village must adopt the plan through a resolution to be included. This grant is paid out upon completion of deliverables and all funds must be kept in a separate fund for mitigation grant.
- Received reimbursement of \$8,379.38 for FY23 EMPG Q8. This is 50% of the reported expenses as this is a 50% reimbursement grant.

9-1-1 Report to Commissioners, 11/18/2024

- Continuing to work with Interaction Insight, Sundance and ComTech on technical issues with integration.
- Weekly Readiness Call with ComTech 11/5 and 11/12 – We have requested a delay in implementation due to Sheriff attending Sheriff’s school first two weeks of December, Should have firm date by tomorrow afternoon.

- Working with APCO for Intellicomm implementation, guidecard review, training, etc. Began regular implementation calls every other Tuesday on 11/5. CH. Deputy Fisher, Captain Woodward and myself are working through the guidecard.
- The 9-1-1 levy passed by 90 votes with 8 of the 13 precincts supporting the levy. Part of the levy proceeds are earmarked to pay telecommunicator salaries and how this will work will need to be worked out as the telecommunicators are employees of the Sheriff.

Mitigation Plan and Funding

Discussion on the local match for the mitigation plan, contractor selection, and the approval process for federal funding. The plan runs until April 2026 and requires public meetings and research.

9-1-1 Readiness and Implementation

Updates on the 9-1-1 readiness calls, implementation delays due to the sheriff's schedule, and coordination with APCO for telecom implementation. Discussion on guide cards for different scenarios.

9-1-1 Levy and Telecommunicator Salaries

If the 9-1-1 levy does not pass, affecting telecommunicator salaries. Discussion on how to manage salaries currently paid from the sheriff's budget and future plans with levy funds.

Employment and Union Issues

Discussion on the employment status of telecommunicators, their union membership, and potential changes in employment under the commissioners instead of the sheriff.

9-1-1 Facility and Organizational Structure

Discussion on the organization of the 9-1-1 facility, including supervision and the potential separation from the sheriff's department. Examples from other counties were mentioned.

Sophia Wiseman, OSU Extension

Sophia Whisman- 4-H Extension Educator

October 22nd Sophia, Pam, Amy, Kristina and Jordan all had a staff meeting directly followed by a meeting to put together the 4-H calendar for 2025. October 24th Sophia attended a camp director Inservice. October 28th Sophia and Pam held a youth award ceremony. This was fully paid for and planned by the 4-H committee, we announced our still project award winners, state fair participants and gave a shout out to all older youth who served through 4-H in any of our older youth program It was at the River Valley Social and we had pizza, bowling, and virtual golf. October 31st Sophia attended a workshop with other 4-H educators in our area to work at inputting data into our new

reporting data entry system for the university. In October Sophia attended Extension Advisory, and Older Youth in Training meetings. November 4th Sophia attended a volunteer competency training zoom meeting, this is a training for all educators who manage volunteers. November 6th Sophia attended an AQCA Inservice this is to get certified to teach QA to our county. November 12th-13th was a 4-H retreat. This is for all 4-H educators in Ohio to come together for a retreat and update on 4-H for the following year. Sophia attended on the 13th. November 18th older youth applications are due for our county and the process of getting those groups organized and set up for 2025 will begin. SO far this month Sophia has attended a Sale Committee meeting.

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

Pam Montgomery attended the 4-H Camp Director In-service, Quality Assurance In-service, and 4-H Retreat to get all the updates to prepare for the start of the new 4-H year. She worked with Amy Kirkbride and Sophia Whisman to put together the 4-H Calendar for 2025. She is currently reviewing camp counselor applications for 2025, and interviews are being scheduled for November 21. The final 4-H Committee and 4-H Horse Committee meetings for 2024 is scheduled for November 25.

Pam Montgomery is working on the scheduling the following Family and Consumer Sciences program for 2025 Successful Co-Parenting, Active Parenting for children 5 to 12 years old, Active Parenting for Teens, and a Basic budgeting class. The final Successful Co-Parenting for 2024 was scheduled for today.

Pam Montgomery continues to attend staff meeting in the Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, and Washington Counties and hold one-on-one sessions with the staff members in the counties.

Kristina Moore- SNAP-Ed Coordinator/Educator

On October 21, 2024, Moore continued programming at Morgan West Elementary School teaching grades PreK, kindergarten and two second grade classrooms. On October 22, 2024, Moore participated in the monthly Ohio State Extension staff meeting. On October 23, 2024, Moore continued programming at Morgan West Elementary School teaching a second kindergarten class and two first grades classes. October 25th of 2024 Moore participated in the Lutheran Social Services food distribution that reached 95 families. On October 28, 2024, and November 4 and 6, 2024, Moore continued programming at Morgan West Elementary School. On November 7, 2024, Moore attended a SE Ohio food pantry meeting. On November 12, 2024, Moore was teaching programming at the Head Start Play and Learn in Malta and joined forces with SE Ohio Food Banks to provide food distribution at McConnell Manor.

Jordan Penrose- Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator

In October, Jordan gave his monthly TV interview on WHIZ News, discussing upcoming events and providing information about frost and some causes that can happen from frost. He also talked about unwanted pests that may start showing up in the home because of the colder weather, so you may want to take precautions. The farmer's market wrapped up at the end of October with a great turnout from vendors and customers throughout the whole season, the

farmer's market will return next year running from the last Thursday in May to the last Thursday in October. Jordan and the Master Gardener Volunteers partnered with Kate Love Simpson Library to provide three different Fall Talk Series programs in October with topics of Birds of Prey, Growing Garlic, and Medicinal Herbs. Jordan also attended the Morgan Soil and Water ATV Ride and gave a talk on hay sampling.

In November, Jordan filled in a spot for a TV interview on WHIZ News, discussing different things like garden clean-up and the benefits of doing so, talked more about unwanted pests, provided a little regional update, and some of the upcoming events. On November 14th Morgan and Washington counties hosted a program Wild Woods – Managing Your Woodland for Wildlife and Woods, based around Wildlife and Woods to meet what your goals are with your woods. Jordan also wrote an article for Farm and Dairy on what to do with pastures and hayfields with the damage from the drought.

Jordan has participated in various meetings like the weekly corn call meeting, monthly beef team meeting, and monthly forage team meeting to share updates about crops, forages, livestock, and drought conditions in Morgan County with his coworkers around the state. Jordan also attended the Assuring Quality Care for Animals In-service in Columbus to get updates from ODA, Animal Science department, and different ways to teach hands-on to youth who are taking Quality Assurance. Jordan has also continued working on different studies of mechanical control of johnsongrass, hay growth, and hay storage.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

Shannon Wells and Traci Baker met with ODOT and received permission to advertise for engineering services for capital projects at 900 S. Riverside Dr. McConnelsville. Projects to include parking lot expansion, roof, replacements or pole buildings and exterior security lighting. The request for proposals advertisement will run November 20, and 27 with a due date of submission December 12, 2024

Shannon Wells worked on the transit grant last week for FY2026 for Morgan, Noble and Monroe counties. The grant is due December 31, 2024.

The management staff for transit and mobility management will attend the Public Transit Administration conference in Columbus on November 19 and 20. The Economic Development office will be closed for those two days.

Shannon Wells and Traci Baker met with Genesis workforce wellness on November 15 to get further details about a health and wellness event for county employees.

Shannon Wells had conversations with OhioSE about JobsOhio support for an ongoing gas supply issue for a local manufacturer.

Shannon Wells was able to work with the Village of McConnelsville solicitor who drafted an ordinance for council meeting on November 19, 2024. The ordinance discusses transitioning property to the land bank for Brownfield program eligibility. The draft ordinance was needed by November 15, to secure the Brownfield grant funding.

24-568- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to enter executive session with Shannon Wells at 10:30am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

24-569- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to exit executive session with Shannon Wells at 10:35am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

Cindy Mansfield; Lynn Smith, Concerned Citizens

Animal Welfare and Management Issues at the Pound

Dog Care and Management

Concerns were raised about the care and management of dogs at the pound, including feeding schedules, and the number of dogs present. There were discussions about the need for better communication and management to prevent overcrowding and ensure proper care.

Parvo Testing and Prevention

The discussion highlighted the issue of Parvo outbreaks among dogs at the pound. It was suggested that Parvo test kits from Amazon could be used to test dogs upon intake to prevent the spread of the disease.

Dog Adoption and Public Awareness

The lack of updates on the pound's page since October 15th was discussed, affecting public awareness and adoption rates. It was suggested that regular updates are necessary to facilitate dog adoptions.

Humane Cases and Legal Delays

There was a discussion about the delays in processing humane cases, which result in dogs occupying space for extended periods. The need for quicker legal processing was emphasized.

Deceased Dog Incident

An incident involving a deceased dog left in a truck for two weeks was discussed, highlighting the need for clear policies on handling such situations to prevent similar occurrences.

Management and operational challenges at the dog pound, including policy, facility maintenance, funding, communication, and staffing issues.

Policy and Management Issues

Discussion on the need for a policy regarding euthanizing dogs and the management of the dog pound, including issues with Mrs. Thompson and the need for a new hire.

Facility Maintenance

Concerns about the unhooked washer due to drain issues, leading to inefficient laundry practices and potential health hazards.

Medical Fund for Dogs

The need for a dedicated medical fund for dogs requiring treatment, as current funds are insufficient and rely on personal donations.

Grant Opportunities

Exploration of potential grants for the dog pound, with challenges due to its government status.

Communication and Accessibility

Issues with contacting Mrs. Thompson due to limited phone access and the need for better communication channels.

Volunteer and Public Access

Concerns about limited access to the dog pound for volunteers and the public, affecting dog care and adoption opportunities.

Staffing and Accountability

Discussion on hiring new staff and holding Mrs. Thompson accountable for her actions and management style.

Facility Improvements

Acknowledgment of improvements like air conditioning and the need for further enhancement

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.

Sheriff McGrath; Prosecutor Howdysshell, Sheriff-Elect Jim Fisher; Randy Williams

Transition of Sheriff Position

The discussion revolves around the transition of the sheriff position from Doug, who plans to retire on December 31, 2024, to Jimmy, who will take office on January 5, 2025. The commissioners can appoint Jimmy as interim sheriff until his official term begins.

Jim Fisher will be appointed as interim sheriff by the commissioners until his official term starts.

Brian King, Ahmad Khan, Jim Locke. Sky Solar Energy

Economic Development through Airport Transformation

The discussion focused on transforming Appalachian airports into economic hubs by installing solar panels and attracting logistics and data center operations. This initiative aims to reduce county financial burdens and improve community services.

Drone Delivery and Logistics

The plan includes using drones for same-day logistics, enhancing delivery speed for medical supplies and local products. This would serve a 12.5 nautical mile radius, improving local economic dynamics.

Grant Application and Support

The team seeks support for grant applications to fund the project, requiring a non-binding letter of intent from local authorities to proceed with engineering studies and design work.

Infrastructure and Modernization

The discussion highlighted the need for incremental modernization of airfields, including lighting and radio upgrades, to support increased aircraft service and safety.

Educational Opportunities

The project aims to create educational opportunities in aviation maintenance and operations, addressing workforce shortages and providing career paths for local students.

Darrell Wallace, Crooksville Fire Chief

Funding and Tax Levies

The discussion focused on the need to increase fees for medic runs and update outdated tax levies to provide competitive wages and maintain services. Challenges include failed levies in various townships and the financial strain on residents.

Staffing and Resource Allocation

The conversation highlighted staffing issues, with current wages being uncompetitive and a lack of personnel to cover all necessary runs. The goal is to eventually add a second crew to improve service response times.

Operational Challenges

Operational difficulties include missed runs due to limited crew availability and the need for better maintenance of vehicles. Rising costs of diesel and vehicle upkeep were also discussed.

Amber Wilson, Senior Citizen Director

County-wide Senior Holiday Dinner

The meeting discussed the upcoming county-wide senior holiday dinner scheduled for December 11th at 12:00pm in the Reicker Building community room. The event typically hosts around 100 attendees, and volunteers are encouraged to help serve.

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

The County's phone list was updated this past week. While sending this list out to all employees, it was discovered that there are several e-mail addresses on the mail server that are no longer in use as well. The pruning process for e-mail addresses is ongoing.

The failed computer from Noble County Transit finally made its way back from Dell. The computer was sent away for repair several months prior, but was delayed

due to parts not being in stock. The hard drive in the computer is the same as it was when it was sent away, so no new configuration was necessary. The computer was sent back to the Caldwell office.

The IT Director is awaiting the issuance of the government credit cards to purchase hosting for the County's web and mail new domain.

John Wilt, EMA, 911

9-1-1 Property Tax Levy and Access Line Charge

Discussion on the historical context and current status of the 9-1-1 property tax levy and the \$0.50 telephone access line charge. The levy failed in 1998, but the access charge was implemented. The revenue from this charge has decreased significantly due to fewer landlines and the state's additional charges.

Consideration of Repealing the Access Line Charge

The speaker suggests considering the repeal of the \$0.50 access line charge due to its decreasing revenue and the state's additional charges. The speaker is not advocating for or against the repeal but believes it should be brought to the commission's attention.

Transfers, Then & Now, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

24-570- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Welsh to supplemental appropriate in the WIOA Account of \$10,000.00.

Account	Code	Current Budget	Additions	Total
WIOA Youth	349-0339-5302.00		\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

Please increase the following purchase order PO#24-30227 (WIOA Youth 349-0349-5302.00 \$10,0000

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

24-571- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Mayle to request a transfer \$2233.38 from sheriffs' gasoline 001-0601-5303.01

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

24-572- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Welsh to approve the following supplemental appropriations

To	Amount
026-0026-5306.00 law library contracts	\$1000.00
001-0206-5306.00 Coroner Contract Services	\$4990.00

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

24-573- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Mayle to request a transfer in the amount \$1500.00 from the Juvenile Court Detention line item 001-0203-5310.00

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

24-574- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Mayle to transfer funds from:

062-0062-5365.00	\$38.87
081-2024-5365.00	\$2216.08
083-2024-5365.00	\$38.87
084-2024-5365.00	\$189.50

Back into general health fund 063-0063-4007.00 to reimburse for insurance payments for September 2024 and October 2024.

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

24-575- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Welsh to supplementally appropriate money for the 063 general fund

063-0063-5102.00 salaries	\$90,000
063-0063-5310.00 COVID DISDRIBUTION	\$2,000
063-0063-5365.00 E12A INSURANCE	\$12,000

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

24-576- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve the following budget transfers

\$4948.00 from workers comp 00101025369.00 to salaries employees 0010102-5102.00

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

24-577- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Welsh to request the following supplemental Appropriation requests:

\$15500 to real estate salaries	014-0014-5102.00
\$280.00 to Medicare	014-0014-5368.00
\$22066.24 to PERS	014-0014-5367.00

Also please approve the following budget transfer

\$603.79 from worker's comp 014-0014-5369.00 to PERS 014-0014-5367.00

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

24-578- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Mayle to transfer funds within the dog and kennel budget.

From	To	Amount
005-0005-5369.00 worker's comp	005-0005-5367.01 PERS	\$500.00
005-0005-5369.00 worker's comp	005-0005-5368.00 Medicare	\$363.900

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

24-579- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mr. Welsh to approve the following supplemental appropriations for the dog and kennel expense to continue to pay bills for 2024

To	Amount
005-0005-5309.00 other expenses	\$5000.00
005-0005-5102.01salaries employees	\$2000.00

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

24-580-Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve payment of bills. *See attached*

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

24-581- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Mayle to adjourn the commissioners meeting Monday, November 18, 2024 at 4:00pm.

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

Cecil Mayle, President

Adam Shriver, Vice-President

Richard Welsh, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

