

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, December 9, 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

24-608- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the minutes of December 2, 2024.

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

The commissioners did the following over the past week:

Commissioner Mayle attended budget meetings on Wednesday, the 4th, from 11:00am until 2:00pm. Budget meetings we also held on Thursday from 9:00am to 1:00pm, and Friday from 9:00am until 11:00am.

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 Awaiting equipment to be listed on GOV Deals.

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.

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

Trombold Equipment replaced the Grinder pump discharge pipes. 12-6-24

Able's H/C called to repair the air handler at the Courthouse 2nd floor West side the unit won't turn on. Call made to Able's 12-4-24 Scheduled for 12-5-24

Advance H/C Scheduled for (12-9-24) to do the fall services on RTU's 1,2&3. They will be bringing filters and extra belts for all 3 units in case 1 breaks through the Winter

All filters have been changed and belts checked and should be replaced. 12-4-24 Replaced supply fan belt on RTU 2 on 12-3-24

Heidi Burns, JFS

Heidi Timesheet

OVER Networking: Joint GOG/WDB Meeting and Elected Official reception—need RSVP from Heidi and Steve

Out Thurs, Fri, this week in Columbus

Bill is being moved regarding educational requirements for Children Services caseworkers, already went through House—being voted on t Senate this week

Contracts

- Morgan County Office on Aging \$20,000 for Home-Based Services
 - Morgan County Health Department \$75,000 for Home-Based Services
 - Community Action \$75,00 for Home Delivery Meals for Seniors
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John Wilt, EMA/911

Truck Numbering and Communication Protocols

The discussion focused on updating truck numbering to a two-digit system and improving communication protocols during fire incidents. The aim is to ensure clarity and efficiency, especially when neighboring departments are involved.

The commissioners agreed to implement two-digit numbering and improve communication protocols.

Staffing and Department Coordination

The meeting addressed staffing challenges, particularly during daytime, and the need for better coordination among departments. It was suggested to send three departments for structure fires due to staffing issues.

The commissioners decided to request three departments for structure fires.

Radio and Communication Systems

There was a discussion on upgrading radio consoles and ensuring effective communication

through e-dispatches. The need for a centralized system to improve signal reception was highlighted.

Training and Equipment Updates

Training schedules for January were discussed, focusing on new systems and telecommunicator training. Equipment updates for the sheriff's department were also mentioned.

Julie Gridley, Pound Keeper

-Attachment A

Jeff Drake, M.C. S&W Board; Jencel-Rodviguez-Cruz, NRCS; Cody Pletcher, M.C. S&W Board Chair; Lori Ryan Griffin, NRCS District Conservationist; Trista Nelson, M.C. S&W District Administrator; Kenny White, M.C. S&W District Tech See Attachment B

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

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

Shannon Wells, Development Office

The two remaining brownfields for Pennsville gas station cleanup (\$200,00) and Parmiter Road landfill assessment (\$300,000) were announced last week by the Governor's office and were fully funded.

Shannon Wells will meet with the Manager from Aspire Energy about the gas expansion in Morgan County.

Engineering proposals are due December 12, 2024 for the parking lot improvement project at transit.

Shannon Wells met with the property owner for the transit office in Noble County on December 3, 2024 to discuss renovations for expansion into the remainder of the building.

Shannon Wells attended the December 3, 2024 land bank meeting. Habitat for Humanity proposed working together on the Welcome Home Program and is planning to send a memorandum of understanding for approval.

OhioSE/JobsOhio will sponsor a luncheon for commissioners and CIC December 16th for an economic development update and get to know OhioSE/JobsOhio session.

A sheriff sale will be held on December 13, 2024 and December 20, 2024 for various property.

24-609- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to enter executive session with Mark Howdyshell at 10:20am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

24-610- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to exit executive session with Mark Howdyshell at 10:25am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

Amber Wilson, Senior Citizens Director

Holiday Dinner will be held December 11, 2024 at 12:00pm.

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

On the afternoon of December 2, 2024, the supply fan on the Riecker Building's RTU-2 HVAC unit failed. Power was reset to the RTU and the fan seemed to start working again. However, a loud noise was heard in the building under the unit. It was discovered that the belt for the supply fan had many broken teeth and was slipping. The belt was replaced and the unit was returned to normal operating status. Advanced Heating and Cooling was contacted to perform their fall service of all RTUs at the Riecker Building, which was conducted on December 9, 2024.

Two new hard drives were added to the Prosecutor's file server in a mirrored configuration. The backup prior to this hardware change took longer than expected. The configuration of the new shared volume for the Prosecutor's office is ongoing.

Work is progressing on the Engineer's web server. The Engineer's office wants to put their GIS and survey data on their own web server and share that through ArcGIS.

However, hosting for the new domain will need to be set up prior to the web server becoming operational.

The Auditor's office provided the IT Director with the Commissioners' office credit card. The IT Director discussed the purchase of hosting for the County's new domain, morgancountyohio.gov, through HostGator. The initial cost of hosting is at a discounted rate, approximately \$135 for three years. The renewal cost will be \$396 for three years in 2027. The Commissioners approved the purchase of hosting for three years.

The printer from the IT Director's office was moved to the Commissioners office and placed online. The Clerk can currently print to this printer, but print queues will need to be set up on all the Commissioners' laptops before they can print. A scanner was also added to the Clerk's computer to make it easier to scan items into the computer for inclusion into the meeting minutes.

The laptop that is currently in use at the Dog Pound is running slow and should be replaced. Even if it was not running slow, it would need to be replaced in the next year as it uses Windows 10 and cannot be upgraded to Windows 11. The Commissioners approved the purchase of a new laptop for the Dog Pound.

The IT Director inquired about creating separate pages for the Dog Pound and the Dog Warden for the uploading of their respective reports. The Commissioners felt that it would be fine to leave the reports combined as people are usually looking for both reports, not individual ones.

24-611- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to enter executive session with Brian Sharkey at 3:00pm pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

24-612- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to exit executive session with Brian Sharkey at 3:05pm pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

24-613- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to approve the following:

Upon transition from public employment with Morgan County to full time elected Morgan County office holder, the public employee may request to be paid for all leave accumulated under Section 124.13 R.C. (vacation leave) which shall be paid from the general fund of the

county and not charged to budget allocated to the elected office for the year the payment is requested.

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

24-614- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to enter into an agreement with M&M Fire Department/EMS service for the year 2025 and allow Commissioner Cecil Mayle to sign all documents. Contract is available upon request in the Commissioner's Office.

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

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

24-615- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to grant permission to Osmose Utilities Services Inc. to span over CR 74, located in the Township of Deerfield, Section No. 22 Morgan County, Ohio.

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

24-616 Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to grant permission to Osmose Utilities Services Inc. to span over CR 66, located in the Township of Windsor, Section No. 1113, Morgan County Ohio.

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

24-617- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to approve the following transfers: Transfer \$5,390.44 for the 113-0113-5310.00 leasing line item into the 113-0113-5309.00 miscellaneous line item. Please add to PO 2024-30180.

Transfer \$21,000.00 from the 113-0113-5307.00 travel line item into the 113-0113-5309.00 miscellaneous line item. Please add to PO 2024-30180.

Transfer \$8,500.00 from the 113-0113-5307.00 travel line item to 113-0113-5102.01 driver salary line item.

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

24-618- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to transfer the following: \$744.00 from services account number 001-0602-5306.00 to employee salaries account 001-0602-5102.00.

\$231.00 from services account number 001-0602-5306.00 to PERS account number 001-0602-5367.00.

\$25.00 from services account number 001-0602-5306.00 to Medicare account number 001-0602-5368.00.

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

24-619- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to approve the following transfers:

062-0062-5365.00 \$ 782.87

081-2024-5365.00 \$3,295.54

083-2024-5365.00 \$ 53.45

084-2024-5365.00 \$ 189.50

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

24-620- Motion by Mr. Shriver and seconded by Mr. Welsh to transfer funds from:

063-0063-5102.00 to 063-0063-5309.00 in the amount of \$5,000.00 for other expenses. Please adjust PO#2024-30348.

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

24-621- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to request a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$902.00 as follows:

\$902.00 employees salaries 001-0602-5102.00

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

24-622- 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

24-623- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to recess the commissioners meeting December 9, 2024 at 4:00pm

24-624- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to reconvene for budget hearings Wednesday December 11, 2024 at 9:00am.

24-625- Motion by Mr. Welsh and seconded by Mr. Shriver to adjourn the commissioners meeting from budget hearings Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 11:00am.

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

Cecil Mayle, President

Adam Shriver, Vice-President

Richard Welsh, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

Attachment A:

**Morgan County Dog Pound Minutes
Monday December 2nd to Sunday December 8th**

We are so excited to be partnering with Troy Leople's office. His office is going to be providing volunteers that will help with walking the dogs, as well as helping keep the grounds clean, mowed and weed eating.

Huge Thank you to Lisa and her Husband Ronnie who came and clipped toe nails at the pound on Tuesday, December 3rd. They did this out of the kindness of their hearts. Thank you so much.

Thank you again Lynn and Cindy for coming out on Monday and Wednesday to walk the dogs. You two are so much appreciated. The dogs look forward to you both coming on Monday's and Wednesdays. They also love the treats you both bring. I also want to thank you both for your continued dedication to the pound.

Reese the chocolate lab was adopted on Thursday, December 5th.

Huge thank you to Jason and Jared for all your hard work including walking the dogs. Today, Friday December 6th. Both donated 4 hours each today.

Huge thank you to Lynn Smith for donating a 44 pound bag of Pedigree dog food. Your donation is so much appreciated.

Can we ask employee's if they would be willing to donate to the pound? I know we used to ask for the United Way? It was payroll deducted. They can either choose \$5.00, \$10.00 or other amount.

In addition, can I send out letters requesting businesses becoming Kennel Sponsors?

i.e.

Gold Level: \$200.00

Silver Level: \$100.00

Bronze: \$75.00

For their contributions, they will have their company logo on our web page and Facebook page.

Can I have the art class come out and paint the building with paw prints or something dog related? Would improve the look of the building. Instead of it looking like a garage. I will donate the paint. Have them do this during warm weather.

Huge thank you to Will, Joseph and James for coming out to walk, feed and water the dogs on Saturday.

Huge Thank you to Will and Jason for taking the dogs outside today with me to let the get some exercise and all your hard work cleaning the pound on Sunday.

2024 Commissioners Meeting

2025 Goals

- Our main goal is to have 2 full time employees with insurance benefits: At this time, we currently have one 40 hour a week and one 35 hour a week employee with no insurance benefits.
- Continue to put conservation on the land
- Continue to provide a district office for the citizens of Morgan County to visit for their NRCS and SWCD needs.
- Provide educational outreach field days to our Morgan County Schools and the community.
- Office upgrades (Bathroom, etc.)
- Continued maintenance on the SWCD office building.

Daily Operations

- **NRCS Program Assistance:** The office provides space for a NRCS employee so that producers may sign up in the county for federal programs, such as EQIP, resulting in federal dollars being implemented into the county. Our District Technician assists Dee Wiseman, NRCS, in the field and within the office.
- **EQIP:** see attached sheet- Zanesville Service Center- NRCS
- **Cover Crop Program:** Provides assistance in obtaining a cost-share rate for sewing cover crops to improve soil health. Morgan County producers have shown increased interest in this program. In 2024, 840 acres were approved to be planted.
- **Muskingum Watershed Livestock Exclusion & Stream Protection Fencing:** We continue to assist producers in getting cost-share funding from this program.
- **CAUV:** We continue to provide our assistance to the Auditor with CAUV applications. In 2024 we did 67 CAUV site visits for new applications.
- **Equipment Rental:** We currently keep a Brillion Seeder, No-Till Drill and a John Deere 825 Gator with sprayer available for our producers to rent throughout the year to plant their crops and spray their fields. This service comes in handy to the producers within the county who don't have the funds to purchase their own equipment. Maintenance and upkeep on the equipment is all done by the office, sometimes it can become costly.
- **Partnerships:** Due to our successful partnerships with OSU Extension throughout 2024, the OSU and SWCD staff are planning outreach educational activities for 2025.
- **Newsletter:** The office does a bi-monthly newsletter that goes out to over 850 landowners that provides them with information on upcoming programs and events.
- **Plat Book Sales:** We currently are still selling the 2022 version of the plat book, but have started the process for the 2025 plat book, with production in the next 6 months.

- **Geotex Filter Fabric Sales:** We continue to keep a supply of filter fabric available for purchase. This is a popular item for those within the county and in the surrounding counties.

Education and Outreach

Conservation education helps people of all ages understand and appreciate our county's natural resources, and learn how to conserve those resources for future generations. Our educational programs target both adults and children through the following:

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| *4 th Grade Field Day | *Annual Tree Sale |
| *Annual ATV Farm Tour | *Annual Fish Sale |
| *District Newsletters | *Pond Clinic |
| *Morgan County Cattlemen's Meeting | *Educational Articles |
| *Morgan County Fair Booth | *Find Kenny Contest |
| *Chore Time Rodeo | *Corn Yield Contest |
| *Annual Meeting | *Bus Tour |
| *Corn Contest | |

Support

- **Affiliate Membership:** The community continues to support our Affiliate Membership program. In 2024 our office received \$8644.77 in donations from 70 local producers, proving the importance of our footprint within the community.
- **Annual Meeting Auction:** At our yearly annual meeting, producers donate and bid on auction items to help offset the cost of the annual meeting and support the upkeep of our office. This year the auction totaled \$1,200.00.

