

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, January 13, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 8:30am with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Cecil Mayle, President  
Heidi Maxwell, Vice-President  
Steve Best, Member

---

The commissioners did the following over the past week:

All three commissioners attended the Landbank meeting and the LEPC Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

On Thursday, January 9, 2025 the Farm Bureau meeting was attended by all commissioners.

Commissioner Best attended a Family and Children First meeting on Friday, January 10, 2025.

Commissioner Maxwell attended a Buckeye Hills meeting on January 10, 2025.

---

**25-037-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of January 7, 2025.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

---

***Al Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance***

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

RTU 1 Belts are on Backorder and will be replaced once Advanced receives them. 12-9-24

Bragg's started installing new carpet and as of Friday 12-27-24 the conference rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors and the Treasurer's office are completed. They are moving to the Recorder's office 12-30-24 Commissioner's finished 1-2-25 Recorders Office is finished 1-10-25

We need to purchase a couple cases of ceiling tiles to replace the bad tiles on the first-floor area

Health Department has received the final paperwork for the Back Flow systems and the Courthouse water will not be shut off. 1-2-25

Able's H/C working on Furnace in the Basement at the Courthouse, unknown problem 1-9-25

---

---

***Pam Montgomery, OSU Extension***

**Memorandum of Understanding**

Discussion on the memorandum of understanding to use up to \$100,000 of levy funds for renovating the third-floor space, agreed upon by previous commissioners and needing current approval.

If agreed upon, OSU will sign off and proceed with renovations.

**Levy and Budget Savings**

Explanation of reduced millage on the levy due to increased funds from a pipeline and savings from a delayed replacement of a retired employee, leading to accrued funds for renovations.

---

---

***Cheryl Brink, Treasurer***

**Investment Policy Update**

Mrs. Brink discussed the need to update the county's investment policy and hire Red Tree Investment Advisory Firm for this purpose. Ryan Nelson from the firm will speak to the commissioners on January 27, 2025.

**Bank Accounts and Positive Pay**

Mrs. Brink explained the current status of the county's bank accounts, including issues with First National Bank and the implementation of positive pay at North Valley and First National.

**Bank Account Bidding**

Mrs. Brink mentioned that bank accounts are up for renewal in August, and there is a need to involve Ryan or Red Tree in the bidding process to ensure the best return on investments.

**25-038-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

Be it Resolved by the Morgan County Commissioners of Morgan County Ohio:

That the Morgan County Investment Advisory Committee retains RedTree Investment Group to provide advice and supervision of the County's investment.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

---

---

---

---

**Heidi Burns, Job & Family Services**

Council of Government (GOG) meeting agenda for 1/23 to review

Travel Requests

- Heidi Burns to Marietta on 1/22/25 & 1/23/25 for quarterly COG meeting
- Heidi Burns and Kari Schaad to Athans on 1/27/25 for quarterly Southeast CPS
- Joe Frazier to Lewis Center on 10/26-10/28 for HR orientation
- Joe Frazier to Columbus on 5/7-5/9 for JFS Conference
- Joe Frazier Marietta on 1/15 for COAD/JFS Child Care meeting
- Amy Moore & Devan Vincent to Marietta on 1/22 for Area 15 Award Ceremony
- Joe Frazier to Marietta on 1/22-1/23 for Area COG/WDB meeting.

**25-039-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to allow access to Public Child Support Assistance Funds when performing allowable activities:

Whereas, the Child Support Enforcement Agency of Morgan County performs allowable TANF or Income Maintenance activities to assist low-income, non-custodial parents to increase the ability to meet their child support obligations;

Whereas, the Child Support Enforcement Agency of Morgan County goes into excess, there is access to Community and Protective Services allocation from Public Assistance;

Whereas, in order to properly access these funds for this purpose, the funds must be transferred from the Public Assistance Fund (006) in which they are received from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services into the Child Support Enforcement Fund (090) on a quarterly basis.

Therefore, we, the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County do hereby grant to the Director of Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services, the authority to approve the transfer of money from the PA Fund to the CSEA Fund through December 31, 2025. See Attachment A

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

**25-040-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to allow access to Public Children’s Services Public Assistance Funds when performing allowable activities:

---

Whereas, the Public Children Services Agency of Morgan County performs allowable PA activities for the purpose of meeting the expenses for providing Children Services per Section 5101.144 of the Revised Code. Funding included is as follows:

1. Child, Family, & Adult Community and Protective Services (OAC 5101:9-5-12.4(D))
2. Title XX Base (OAC 5101:9-6-12; 5101:2-25-01(S); 5101:2-25-02)
3. Title XX TANF Transfer (OAC 5101:9-6-12; 5101:9-6-12.1; 5101:2-25-01(S); 5101:2-25-02)
4. Social Service Operating (OAC 5101:9-6-10(E))
5. TANF Admin (OAC 5101:9-6-08.8(E); PRC Reference Guide)
6. TANF Regular (OAC 5101:9-6-08(G); PRC Reference Guide)

Whereas, in order to properly access these funds for this purpose, the funds must be transferred from the Public Assistance Fund (006) in which they are received from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services into the Public Children Services Fund (050) on a quarterly basis.

Therefore, we, the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County do hereby grant to the Director of Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services, the authority to approve the transfer of money from the PA Fund to the PCSA Fund through December 31, 2025. See Attachment B

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

**25-041-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best allowing Director to be authorized designee to sign/approve inter-county adjustment of allocations:

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners do hereby resolve that: Pursuant to 5101:9-6-82 (Inter-County Adjustment of Allocations) of the Administrative Code publicized by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Director of Morgan County DJFS/PCSA/CSEA (CFSA) is the authorized designee to sign/approve the inter-county adjustment of allocations on behalf of the county. This agreement is in effect through December 31, 2027. See Attachment C

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

**25-042-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to enter executive session with Heidi Burns at 9:14am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

**25-043** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to exit executive session with Heidi Burns at 9:27am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

---

---

***Julie Gridley, Pound Keeper***

We are currently at seven (7) dogs. It has been a great week. The dogs have got to play in the snow and they love it!

One tag was sold.

Been working on cleaning & organizing the pound.

Shoutout to Johnny who came in and clipped the dogs claws at no charge.

Shoutout to Johnny & Kirk for coming up the last two days and helping with everything.

We currently have four (4) dogs at the pound. Three (3) are ready for adoption. These guys are looking for their forever home.

Again, we want to thank the local businesses, volunteers of Morgan County for all year support. We couldn't have done it without you.

Huge thank you to Mrs. Jadwin's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class for the wheel barrow, food, toys and snacks.

We are looking forward to a great 2025!

---

---

***John Wilt, EMA/911***

- Ohio Emergency Operations Center coordination calls monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 1300 hours
- Continuous review and revision of Emergency Operations Plans.
- Working with Buckeye Hills on regional mitigation planning.
- LEPC met, approved contract with EMA for management @ \$10,000 for 2025, approved SERC grant application, membership will remain the same except for Sheriff James

Fisher replacing Sheriff Doug McGrath, Elaine Shuster retired, Lt. Coy Lehman replacing Lt. Chris Chesar.

### **9-1-1 Report to Commissioners, 1/13/2025**

- Continuing to work with Interaction Insight, Sundance and ComTech on technical issues with integration.
- John Telesz inspected the old Transit building for suitability for the Emergency Communications Center and found that the structure was essentially sound,
- Weekly Readiness Call with ComTech 12/31 and 1/7/25 – Training and deployment schedule remains the same: Admin training for Sheriff, Coordinator and lead dispatcher 1/14/25, Call-taker training 1/15/25 and 1/16/25. ATP testing 1/20/25, 1/24/25 and 1/31/25. Deployment/migration 2/4/25. ComTech (Jason Seth) was in to set up stations for training and the rack at the Sheriff’s Office.
- Continue working with APCO for Intellicomm implementation, guidecard review, training, etc. Implementation call cancelled due to my absence. Held status call on 12/30/24 @ 14:30 hrs.
- Tested 3 dispatcher applicants on 1/10/2025.
- SO now has 13 FT telecommunicators. Training schedule established for APCO training. Set up a keyboarding program to evaluate and develop keyboarding skills for all dispatchers.
- Met with County Fire Chiefs, EMS Captain and the Sheriff regarding variety of issues related to 9-1-1 and dispatching. We will continue to meet on a monthly basis for the time being. Discussed eDispatches transition to 9-1-1, run assignments, radio procedure, etc.

---

A Board of Revision was held in the Commissioner’s Office.

---

***Valarie Mayle, BOE***

**25-044-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve Attachment D.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

## **Election Fund Management**

The discussion focused on the management of funds related to elections, including the allocation of filing fees and chargebacks. 20% of chargebacks go to a specific line item for election-related expenses, while the rest goes to the general fund. The fund is used for purchasing election equipment.

## **Use of Election Funds**

The funds accrued are intended for purchasing tabulation and voting equipment. Current needs include new ballot printers and laptops, with a quote of \$7,500. The fund will continue to accrue money until used.

## **Approval Process for Spending**

Any expenditure over a certain amount requires board approval. The board must vote on purchases exceeding \$100 to balance the budget.

---

---

## ***Shannon Wells, Development Office***

Shannon Wells and Brad Peoples, OhioSE will attend a meeting with Jamie Lang at EZG Manufacturing at 1pm today. A tour of the plant will follow for any new local leaders if interested. A meeting of the CIC will be in the economic development conference room today at 4pm.

The land bank met January 8, 2025 at 10am. Those in attendance included Shannon Wells, Commissioner Mayle, Commissioner Maxwell and Commissioner Best.

Shannon Wells met with OhioSE on January 9, 2025 to review the study prepared for AEP property on SR607.

Shannon Wells attended a virtual orientation on January 10, 2025 for the Genesis Quality of Care Committee.

A pre-construction meeting will be held on January 15, 2025 at 2:30pm in Stockport for the sanitary sewer project.

---

---

## ***Steve Fate, Jeff Fleming, Medical Mutual***

## **Open Enrollment and Claims Management**

The meeting discussed the management of open enrollment and claims issues, with Mr. Fate emphasizing their role as the first point of contact for various benefits. Mr. Fleming highlighted the history with Medical Mutual and the current two-year deal with no rate increase.

### **Claims and Premium Analysis**

Mr. Fleming presented a detailed analysis of claims and premiums, noting a significant increase in claims compared to the previous year, resulting in a high loss ratio. The discussion included potential reasons for the increase and expectations for future leveling off.

### **High Claimant Analysis**

The meeting reviewed high claimant data, identifying a few individuals driving a significant portion of the claims. Some claimants have terminated, potentially reducing future claims.

### **Group Dynamics and Stability**

The discussion covered group dynamics, highlighting a stable group with low turnover and a favorable member-to-contract ratio, which aids in predictability for underwriting.

### **Pharmacy and Drug Costs**

The meeting analyzed pharmacy costs, noting a high discount rate and a preference for generics among members. The discussion also covered the cost distribution between medical and pharmacy claims.

### **Drug Coverage and Costs**

Discussion on the coverage of GLP-1 drugs for diabetes and weight loss, constraints due to popularity, and the cost analysis of prescriptions under high-deductible plans.

### **Network Utilization**

Analysis of network utilization, highlighting the hospitals visited by Morgan County employees and the associated costs for inpatient and outpatient claims.

### **Pharmacy Network Changes**

Discussion on the potential resolution of Kroger's exit from the pharmacy network and its impact on convenience for prescription pickups.

### **Insurance Rate Negotiations**

Review of historical insurance rate negotiations, highlighting successful efforts to maintain flat rates over several years.



### **Wellness Program Interest**

Exploration of interest in implementing a wellness program through Wellspring, with potential financial incentives for successful participation.

### **Fire Department Insurance Inquiry**

Discussion on the potential inclusion of a smaller group, such as a fire department, into the insurance plan, considering health conditions and renewal processes.

### **Conclusion**

There are constraints on GLP-1 prescriptions, and costs are being monitored under high-deductible plans.

Riverside Methodist and Arthur James are significant for high claimants, with detailed spending analysis provided.

There is a possibility of Kroger rejoining the pharmacy network, which will be communicated if resolved.

Rates have been kept flat for four years, with a positive outlook for future negotiations.

Interest in a wellness program is noted, with potential financial benefits highlighted.

Information has been provided to the fire department, but no further action has been taken yet.

---

---

### ***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)

---

---

### ***John Telez, Engineer; Steve Hook, Deputy Engineer***

### **Creation of a Separate Board**

Discussion on creating a separate board similar to the health department, involving various representatives like commissioners, township, and mayoral representatives. The board would handle projects worth \$15 million related to transportation and other areas.

It's a good board to have and should be kept in place.

### **Floodplain Meeting**

The next floodplain meeting is scheduled for 8:30 AM on January 14, 2025, due to Martin Luther King Day on January 13. The meeting will provide an overview and is expected to be less contentious than previous ones.

---

---

### ***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator***

This past week saw a potential malware incident on a computer at the Sheriff's office. An officer had received a "scare-ware" pop message designed to get them to click some more malicious links, which they did. Fortunately, the malicious application was closed and a full virus scan did not reveal any malware on the system.

The Prosecutor's office had asked about the types of phones that was available on the County's Verizon cell phone plan. The County usually goes with phones or devices that are free, if a generation or two older. By so doing, the County's only cost is the monthly service charge from Verizon, which is \$50 each month per device.

Public Transit has several phone issues that need to be corrected. For starters, the group voicemail for the Morgan County dispatchers needs to be available on all dispatcher phones, not just one, and remote access to that voicemail group also needs to be configured. This became a problem when no one could check voicemail remotely on the day Transit was closed due to a snow emergency. Also, the programming for the attendant station needs to be looked at as it is ringing for all calls. Finally, the call forward from Monroe County needs to be modified to account for the fact that a Monroe County dispatcher might not always be available in Morgan County. Advanced Business Communications was contacted about this and work is underway.

The IT Director briefed the Commissioners on a company called Spyglass, which looks at a company's phone lines and tries to identify unused lines. Morgan County used Spyglass in 2020 and identified a couple of phone lines that were no longer used, but were still being billed. Spyglass would like to perform another check of all the phones lines in use at Morgan County government buildings to see if there are any additional savings to be had.

The Commissioners asked the IT Director to put a note on the County's Land Bank webpage that properties in the Land Bank show up in green on the GIS layer. Additionally, there was some confusion regarding where people can find information

about renting the Riecker Building community room. The IT Director will put a post on the Commissioners' Facebook page with actual link to the rental page.

---

---

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

**25-045-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to request a change in line descriptions:

063-0063-5310.00 currently is COVID Distribution, we would like to change it to Miscellaneous.

063-0063-5309.06 currently is Vital Stats Expenses we would like to change it to Homemaker.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

**25-046-**Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve payment of bills. \*See attached\*

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

**25-047-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting on January 13, 2025 at 4:00pm.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

---

---

**Cecil Mayle, President**

---

**Heidi Maxwell, Vice-President**

---

**Steven Best, Member**

**Sheila Welch, Clerk**

---

Attachment A

RESOLUTION # 25-038

Whereas, the Child Support Enforcement Agency of Morgan County performs allowable TANF or Income Maintenance activities to assist low-income, non-custodial parents to increase the ability to meet their child support obligations;

Whereas, the Child Support Enforcement Agency of Morgan County goes into excess, there is access to Community and Protective Services allocation from Public Assistance;

Whereas, in order to properly access these funds for this purpose, the funds must be transferred from the Public Assistance Fund (006) in which they are received from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services into the Child Support Enforcement Fund (090) on a quarterly basis.

Therefore, we, the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County do hereby grant to the Director of Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services, the authority to approve the transfer of money from the PA Fund to the CSEA Fund through December 31, 2025.

Adopted this 13 day of January, 2025.

Vote: Cecil Mayle yes; Heidi Maxwell yes; Steve Best yes  
Motion Carried

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cecil Mayle

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Maxwell

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Best

Attachment B

RESOLUTION # 25-039

Whereas, the Public Children Services Agency of Morgan County performs allowable PA activities for the purpose of meeting the expenses for providing Children Services per Section 5101.144 of the Revised Code. Funding included is as follows:

1. Child, Family, & Adult Community and Protective Services (OAC 5101:9-5-12.4(D))
2. Title XX Base (OAC 5101:9-6-12; 5101:2-25-01(S); 5101:2-25-02)
3. Title XX TANF Transfer (OAC 5101:9-6-12; 5101:9-6-12.1; 5101:2-25-01(S); 5101:2-25-02)
4. Social Service Operating (OAC 5101:9-6-10(E))
5. TANF Admin (OAC 5101:9-6-08.8(E); PRC Reference Guide)
6. TANF Regular (OAC 5101:9-6-08(G); PRC Reference Guide)

Whereas, in order to properly access these funds for this purpose, the funds must be transferred from the Public Assistance Fund (006) in which they are received from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services into the Public Children Services Fund (050) on a quarterly basis.

Therefore, we, the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County do hereby grant to the Director of Morgan County Department of Job and Family Services, the authority to approve the transfer of money from the PA Fund to the PCSA Fund through December 31, 2025.

Adopted this 13 day of January, 2025.

Vote: Cecil Mayle yes; Heidi Maxwell yes; Steve Best yes  
Motion Carried

  
Cecil Mayle

  
Heidi Maxwell

  
Steve Best

Attachment C



**Morgan County  
Commissioners**

155 East Main St., Room 216  
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756  
Phone: 740-962-3183  
Fax: 740-962-1341

Cecil Mayle  
Heidi Maxwell  
Steve Best  
Sheila Welch, Clerk

RESOLUTION # 25-040


The Board of Morgan County Commissioners do hereby resolve that: Pursuant to 5101:9-6-82 (Inter-County Adjustment of Allocations) of the Administrative Code publicized by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Director of Morgan County DJFS/PCSA/CSEA (CFSA) is the authorized designee to sign/approve the inter-county adjustment of allocations on behalf of the county. This agreement is in effect through December 31, 2027.

Adopted this 13 day of January, 2025.

Vote: Cecil Mayle yes; Heidi Maxwell yes; Steve Best yes  
Motion Carried

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cecil Mayle

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Maxwell

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Best

Attachment D



**Morgan County  
Commissioners**

155 East Main St., Room 216  
McConnelsville, Ohio 43756  
Phone: 740-962-3183  
Fax: 740-962-2014

Cecil Mayle  
Heidi Maxwell  
Steve Best  
Sheila Welch, Clerk

January 13, 2025

The Morgan County Commissioners met in a regular session on January 13, 2025 and passed the following resolution:

Resolution # 85-043

Moved by Mrs. Maxwell

The Morgan County Commissioners approve the request to establish a new Revenue and/or expense line item for Morgan County Board of Elections.

The purpose of the revenue fund shall be to accumulate revenue withheld by or paid to the county under section 3501.11 of the ORC for the payment of any expense related to the duties of the board including but not limited to chargebacks and filing fees.

This expense fund shall be used for the purchase of voting and/or tabulation equipment as needed by the Board of Elections.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Best

With no further discussion, roll call vote taken:

Mr. Mayle YEA

Mrs. Maxwell YEA

Mr. Best YEA

The undersigned Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County, Ohio certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the agreement that the Morgan County Board of Commissioners adopted on January 13, 2025 and appearing upon the official records of the Board.

Sheila Welch  
Sheila Welch  
Commissioners Office, Morgan County, Ohio

Cecil Mayle  
Cecil Mayle

Heidi Maxwell  
Heidi Maxwell

Steve Best  
Steve Best







