

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, February 3, 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 Commissioner's meeting will be moved from Monday, February 24, 2025 to Friday February 28, 2025 due to scheduling conflicts.

The commissioners did the following over the past week:

Commissioner Maxwell and Commissioner Best attended a Buckeye Hills Open House Tuesday. Commissioner Maxwell attended a Senior Citizens Meeting with MS Consultants.

25-086- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of January 27, 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, Scheduled for (Pickup and repairs 2-5-25) Would also like to get the complete Annual service done at the same time.

Bragg's started installing new carpet and as of Friday 12-27-24 the conference rooms on the 2nd and 3rd 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 Now working on the extension Office 1-8-25. Carpet will be replaced in the Auditors office 2-1-25

Title and Registration form BMV 4501 has been sent to Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles for the new Plates 1-17-25 Still waiting for Tags to arrive.

Called Apperson's to look at a urinal located in the basement that someone has pulled the water supply line from the urinal. Will have to order parts! The flush meter Assembly was just replaced 2 weeks ago. Parts ordered 1-24-25

Able's H/C was able to find the electrical problem with basement unit at the Courthouse and it's now up and operational. 1-29-25

Ordered 5 buckets of Enzyme chemical for the Septic pump 1-28-25 Received it 1-29-25

Installed new signs on Sheriff's Office for Sheriff Jimmy Fisher 1-29-25

Advanced H/C replaced all the belts on all 3 RTU's 1-30-25

Reinstalled front window blinds for the Treasurer's Office 1-30-25

Office and Equipment Maintenance

The discussion covered various maintenance tasks, including the completion of work in the engineer's and Shannon's offices, storage of extra parking squares, and scheduling a tractor recall and service. Additionally, new wax seals were ordered for public restrooms, and enzyme chemicals were received for the downstairs tank.

Building and Equipment Updates

Updates were provided on the installation of blinds in the treasurer's office, the functioning of air conditioners due to temperature changes, and the replacement of belts on RTUs. The discussion also included the relocation of a van and the need to find a new parking spot for a truck.

Communication and Coordination

There was a mention of awaiting communication from Johnson's Technology and John Walter, indicating ongoing coordination efforts.

Julie Gridley, Pound Keeper

Two dogs were adopted from the pound this week. Seventeen dog tags were sold. There are currently six dogs in the pound.

Several donations were received this week...treats and food. Blankets, toys, leashes and collars. The dog pound also received dog food from Velvet Paws in Duncan Falls.

Throughout the week dogs were taken in.

Heidi Burns, JFS

-Mandated Share- \$3,278.83

Introduction of Management Teams

Director Burns plans to introduce management team members every Monday. The senior supervisor, Cathy Apperson manages public assistance programs like food stamps and Medicaid.

PRC Program

The PRC program helps prevent evictions and utility shut-offs and supports self-sufficiency. A planning committee meeting is scheduled between April and June.

Community Partnership and Child Care

A partnership is being formed for a treatment center to stabilize kids. A consummate for child care involves working with local authorities to manage contracts and funding.

The partnership aims to provide more financial support and stability for child care services.

Funding and Budget Concerns

Discussion on the impact of state budget cuts on school funding and the complexities of government funding allocations.

Duane Hostetler, Haus Building Group

Building Renovation and Updates

Discussion on updating the exterior of a building, including replacing old siding with steel board batten siding and addressing structural issues with the awning. The project involves collaboration with commissioners and staff for decisions on color and style.

The project is planned in phases, with decisions made collaboratively with commissioners.

BuilderTrend Software Usage

Explanation of using BuilderTrend, a web-based build management software, for managing contracts, change orders, and documentation. It allows clients to access documents and ensures organized management.

Community Assistance and Volunteer Work

Discussion on potential community assistance projects, such as helping with yard waste cleanup and supporting individuals in need. The speaker expresses willingness to assist with tasks that the government office cannot handle.

Access and Security for Public Spaces

Discussion on securing a public space with gates and fences, and determining access for the public. Options include using a key system managed by the sheriff's office or the village.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

A bid opening for the emergency generator at the transit building at 900 S. Riverside Dr. is at 10am today.

Bid Openings for Transit Generator

Present at bid opening: Steve Best, Commissioner, Shannon Wells, Economic Development Office, Josh Beck, Beck Electric, Cecil Mayle, Commissioner, Mark Ponchak, Bellavenue Manor, Sheila Welch, Commissioner's Clerk, Brad Jones PJs Electric Inc., Michelle Hampton Proline Electric Inc., Heidi Maxwell, Commissioner, Traci Baker, Economic Development Office

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| PJs Electric | Base Bid- | \$170,000.00 |
| Proline Electric Inc. | Base Bid- | \$191,900.00 |
| Beck Electric | Base Bid- | \$166,460.00 |

25-087- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to table all bids for further review.

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

Monroe and Noble County Commissioners have signed the Memorandum of Understanding to operate as one transit agency under the name Buckeye Southeast Transit beginning July 1, 2025.

A new transit logo has been developed for Buckeye Southeast Transit. Additional work is still being done for the tagline and vehicle images.

A training will be held tomorrow at 830am with the software company that transit uses to learn how to start using the online reservation system.

A meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2025 at 1:30pm with ODOT historic bridge engineer to discuss funding options for the Veterans Bridge. This will be an online meeting.

Columbia Gas responded with some initial cost estimates to expend gas service to ODOT and the school at \$3 million and to expand to EZG Manufacturing at \$2 million.

The final flood study document should be completed and ready for review in March. Funding for flood mitigation projects will be available in August.

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

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

Tracey Simons, Visitors Bureau

25-088- Motion by Mr. Mayle and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to appoint Steve Best (commissioner) and Briana Mayle (food service) for the 2025 CVB Board.

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

25-089- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to reappoint Clint Foreman (Township or Municipal), Tyrell Curtis (hospitality) and Shannon Wells (Economic Development) to the 2025 CVB Board.

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

Introduction to Morgan County Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Morgan County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting tourism in Morgan County. It operates under a board of five members and aims to enhance visitor experiences and strengthen the local economy through marketing and collaboration with local businesses.

Marketing and Promotion Strategies

The CVB employs various marketing strategies, including brand development, advertising campaigns, and digital platforms like a new website and social media. They focus on promoting local businesses and attractions to increase tourism and economic activity in the county.

Collaboration with Stakeholders

The CVB collaborates with local businesses, restaurants, and attractions to promote Morgan County as a tourist destination. They provide free representation on their website and support businesses through social media sharing and partnerships.

Public-Private Partnerships

The CVB has partnered with organizations like Ohio's Winding Road and the Village of McConnelsville to promote local heritage and tourism. These partnerships aim to drive visitors to the area and support local businesses.

Visitor Services and Website Features

The CVB provides visitor services through a visitor center and a newly launched website that highlights local businesses and attractions. They plan to add an events calendar and visitor survey to gather data and improve services.

Future Plans and Developments

The CVB is involved in various future projects, including the development of trails for Ohio's 250th anniversary and collaborations with organizations like ORGA and AceNet to enhance tourism infrastructure and services.

Covered Bridge Trail and Tourism Initiatives

The discussion focused on the Covered Bridge Trail incentive program, its reinvention, and the economic impact of tourism in Morgan County. Plans include creating a Z card for the trail and a county guide, and gathering visitor feedback through surveys.

Lodging and Tax Remittance Issues

The meeting addressed challenges with lodging partners not remitting the required lodging tax. Efforts are being made to educate partners and enforce tax collection through letters and meetings.

Visitor Guide Distribution and Marketing

The visitor guide is a key tool for promoting Morgan County. Distribution strategies include partnerships with various distributors and participation in travel shows. A new guide is planned once county projects are completed.

Website and Online Presence

A new website was launched to enhance the county's online presence, featuring improved navigation and business listings. Plans include adding an event calendar and visitor survey.

Advertising and Memberships

Advertising efforts include placements in various publications and participation in industry memberships to stay informed on legislative changes affecting tourism.

Sales Tax Remittance

The discussion focused on the challenges of collecting and remitting sales tax for short-term rentals, particularly through platforms like Airbnb and VRBO. The lack of transparency and difficulty in tracking property owners were highlighted as major issues.

Partnerships and Merchandise

The speaker discussed partnerships with organizations like Appalachian Ohio and Ohio's Winding Roads to promote tourism and sell merchandise. The Visitor Center now sells various items, supporting local businesses.

Short-term Rental Registration

A new registration process for short-term rentals was introduced, requiring property owners to register with the auditor's website. The process aims to ensure compliance with county regulations.

Visitor Guide Distribution

Efforts to increase the distribution of visitor guides were discussed, with a focus on budget constraints and the need for more copies and distribution channels.

Ohio Valley Opry and Opera House

The loss of the Ohio Valley Opry was discussed as a significant impact on local tourism. Plans to renovate the opera house and bring in new acts to fill seats were considered.

Park and Visitor Center Developments

New developments at the park, including cabins and trails, were discussed. The park will feature unique Frank Lloyd Wright-designed cabins and a new trail connecting various sites.

Social media and Analytics

Challenges in managing social media presence and utilizing analytics were discussed, highlighting the time constraints and staffing limitations.

Nick Bunbren, Ohio Land and Liberty Coalition

Renewable Energy Sentiments

The discussion focused on gauging sentiments towards renewable energy, particularly wind and solar, in various counties. The speakers noted mixed reactions, with some support for using brownfields for solar projects.

There is a mixed sentiment towards renewable energy, with location and historical reliance on coal affecting opinions.

Impact of Energy Transition

The conversation highlighted the economic impact of transitioning from coal to renewable

energy, emphasizing the importance of understanding energy systems and their local economic effects.

The transition from coal has significant economic impacts on local communities, which need to be addressed.

Educational Efforts

Speakers discussed efforts to educate the public and teachers about energy systems to improve understanding and reduce misconceptions.

Educational initiatives have been successful in changing perceptions about energy systems.

Future Energy Solutions

The discussion touched on future energy solutions, including small modular reactors and the need for diverse energy sources.

Small modular reactors and diverse energy sources are seen as future solutions.

John Telesz, Engineer; Steve Hook, Deputy Engineer

25-089- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to untable the tire bids.

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

25-090- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to accept the Ohio Central Tire bid upon recommendation of the John Telesz, Engineer. See Attachment A

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

25-091- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to untable the aggregate bids.

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

25-092- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to rebid aggregate bids.

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

25-093- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to untable the fuel bid.

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

25-094- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to rebid fuel bid.

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

25-095- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to allow Engineer Telesz to purchase a used 1977 semi tractor from TSS Trucking LLC. In the amount of \$60,000.

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

25-096- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to place the existing semi tractor on Gov Deals.

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

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

Interaction Insight came to the Sheriff's office to install the new call recorder for the upgraded Next Generation 911 (NG911) system. The new call recorder was set to record the phone calls on the Sheriff's office main telephone lines. After the NG911 upgrade is completed, the new call recorder will begin recording all calls to 911. Currently, 911 calls are being recorded at the State level.

Renovation work was completed in the Sheriff's office dispatch area. There was a significant amount of cabling under the desk of the dispatch area. This made removing the old equipment and wiring time consuming as it was difficult to tell what circuits were still in use. Eventually, the data cables were rerouted, electric outlets were moved, and the renovation was completed.

Johnson Controls sent a contract technician to the Morgan County Health Department to test the fire alarm. Unfortunately, the technician did not know how to work on the old fire panel at the Health Department and left while the alarm was in a non-functional state. The IT Director powered the alarm back up while a supervisory technician from Johnson Controls came and tested the alarm. Johnson Controls also discussed upgrade options for the old panel with the Health Department Administrator and the County Commissioners.

Both Job and Family Services Workforce Development and the Auditor's Office received new printers from Poynter's Business Solutions this past week. Scanning over the network was initially not configured correctly on the Auditor's new device, but this was fixed after Poynter's left.

The key used to download the County's fuel usage reports needed to be reformatted this month in order to get it to connect to the fuel pump. This has happened several times before. The IT Director will attempt to contact the company that installed the fuel meter and ask about replacing the key and the damaged screen on the fuel meter.

The Commissioners' approved the use of a laptop from their inventory at the Dog Pound. Additionally, JFS has an extra multifunction printer that can be reused at the Dog Pound. This will replace the older, Windows 10 laptop and the inkjet printer that keeps failing.

Transfers, Then & Now, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

25-097- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to grant permission to American Electric Power-Joint Use/Chris Postle to span over CR 53 located in the Township of Marion, Morgan County, Ohio.

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

25-098- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to grant permission to American Electric Power-Joint Use/Chris Postle to span over CR 25 located in the Township of Deerfield, Sec No.27, Morgan County, Ohio.

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

25-099- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to grant permission to American Electric Power-Joint Use/Chris Postle to span over CR 94 located in the Township of Malta, Sec No.16, Morgan County, Ohio.

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

25-100 Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to grant permission to Osmose Utilities Services, Inc. to span over CR 17 located in the Township of Windsor, Sec. No. 06 Morgan County, Ohio.

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

25-101- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best grant permission to Osmose Utilities Services, Inc. to bore under CR 75 located in the Township of York, Morgan County, Ohio.

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

25-102- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to request a supplemental appropriation in the following fund:

001-0103-530-00 Contracts \$8,0000.00

Motion 25-037 was passed by the commissioners to retain RedTree Investment Group to provide advice and supervision of the County investments.

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

25-103- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

The Morgan County Veteran’s Service Commission requests that account number 001-0903-5309.00 name be changed from Training to Outreach by filling our request, it will allow for more accurate tracking of data needed to complete the Ohio Department of Veteran Service annual report.

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

25-104- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to approve the following supplemental appropriation:

| Account: | Amount: |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Fair Board Payments 001-0701-5316-00 | \$6,400.00 |

The amount is to cover 2024 annual appropriation that was missed in error in the amount of \$3,200.00 as well as the 2025 annual appropriations that were missed in the 2025 budgeting process for the amount of \$3,200.00.

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

25-105- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following name change for expense line 001-0701-5316.00 from payments to Fair Board Payments. This is to allow for easier reporting and understanding of expenses.

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

25-106- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to establish the expense line 701-0701-5302-00 building expenses for OSU Extension office for maintenance on the building per their agreement.

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

25-107- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mr. Mayle to supplementally appropriate \$100,000.00 into expense line item 701-0701-5302-00 building expenses. This amount OSU Extension has agreed to pay toward maintenance expenses.

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

25-108- 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

25-109- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to recess the commissioners meeting Monday February 3, 2025 at 4:00pm.

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

25-110- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to reconvene the commissioners meeting Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 9:00am for the Land Bank Meeting.

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

25-111- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting February, 5, 2025 at 10:00am for the Land Bank Meeting.

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

January 31, 2025

Morgan County Commissioners
155 E Main Street, Rm. 216
McConelsville Ohio, 43756

Re: Tire Bid Results

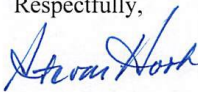
Two vendors submitted a bid on the tire usage for the County; Ohio, Central Ohio Tire LLC of Zanesville and Skinner Firestone of Beverly Ohio. Based upon our average usage Central Ohio Tire LLC of Zanesville submitted a bid of **\$63,926.73**; as compared to Skinner Firestone's bid of **\$64,981.26**. Which is **\$1,054.53 (1.65%)** less than Skinner Firestone.

Central Ohio Tire LLC will also be mounting about 40 dump truck tires in their shop at no additional cost to us, whereas, Skinner Firestone charges \$35-\$45 to do so. Central Ohio Tire also charges \$20/hour less for hourly work when needed.

From a different point of view the County will be keeping a more detailed list of what tires are used by brand and size, the individual tire performance (mileage), as well as costs associated with each tire. This will help in the future in determining what brands, manufactures, etc. give us the best cost per mile payback.

Therefore, it is my recommendation that the Central Ohio Tire LLC quote be accepted with the understanding, that we can purchase tires from other vendors, when special opportunities arise. This will allow the County to obtain the most overall cost effective result.

Respectfully,



Stevan Hook
Morgan County Ass't Engineer

