

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Friday, February 28, 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:

Commissioner Maxwell and Commissioner Best attended CCAO training Monday through Wednesday.

25-135- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of February 18, 2025.

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

John Telesz, Engineer

Greuey's Fuel & Farm Supply

25-136- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to table the fuel bid as recommended by Engineer John Telesz.

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

Bridge Funding and Renovation

The discussion focused on whether to spend \$110,000 from the NASTACs fund for bridge inspection and re-rating. The bridge does not meet the required size for the Local Major Bridge Fund, but expanding the sidewalk could qualify it. The proposal is to close the bridge on June 30th, allow pedestrian access on July 4th, and rebuild the sidewalk to meet the size requirement. The proposal is to close the bridge on June 30th, rebuild the sidewalk, and attempt to qualify for funding.

Financial Considerations

The financial implications of spending \$111,000 on inspection and \$70,000 on sidewalk

reconstruction were discussed. The potential need for a \$4 million local match if funding is secured was also considered.

The decision on spending is pending, considering the financial constraints and potential future funding needs.

Public Involvement

The possibility of holding a public meeting to discuss the bridge's future was considered, but time constraints were noted.

Al Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance

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 Auditors office Carpet replacement has been completed 2-2-25. Engineer is next to be done and they should start in March.

Terminix sprayed the Riecker Building 2-21-25

John Deere Tractor Recall and service has been completed and tractor returned 2-25-25

Need to call Advance Heating and Cooling to get a quote to replace 3 exhaust fan motors, we checked them all Tuesday 2-25-25. 2 are locked up and the third is very close to locking up. They are sealed units and can't be lubricated, we also need new belts for the exhaust fans.

Ohio Department of Forestry looked at the tree in the park and said it isn't a threat to fall but does need to be trimmed and topped. 2-24-25

Heidi Burns, JFS

Introduction to Management Team each week—today is Ginger Bowen, Child Support Supervisor

Travel/Meeting Requests

- Heidi Burns to Somerset on 3/4 for East Central JFS monthly meeting
- Heidi Burns & Kari Schaad to Lewis Center on 3/6 & 3/7 for PCSAO quarterly Execs meeting
- Heidi Burns to Lewis Center on 3/24 & 3/25 for OJFSDA New Director Training

- Joe Frazier to Marietta on 3/20 for AOMC Quarterly Meeting

Julie Gridley, Pound Keeper

We received \$125.00 donation to sponsor the adoption of dogs. One dog was adopted this week. We currently have three dogs.

We received the following donations...one box of dog bones, one case of peanut butter bones, two cases of pedigree dog food. We also received blankets, sheets and pillow cases.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

Shannon Wells and Sheriff Fisher reviewed the two submissions from architecture firms for the jail renovation project and selected DLZ Architecture based on experience and knowledge of the project. A meeting was held with Shannon Wells, Sheriff Fisher and DLZ Architecture on February 27, 2025 to discuss the project.

Shannon Wells has completed the H.B.2. Capital Improvement funding application for local jails. DLZ Architecture has determined a cost of \$1.6 million to complete the project. Morgan County has already been funded \$300,000 in a previous capital improvement funding round and the Morgan Co. Commissioners has previously committed \$50,000 to the project. An additional \$1.2 million will be submitted in the H.B.2 capital improvement funding application and an additional \$50,000 for a total of \$100,000 is requested from the Morgan Co. Commissioners. Shannon Wells attended a meeting at central office on February 25, 2025 to discuss the career tech pathways.

25-137- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to set aside \$100,000 from the ARPA fund for the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

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

25-138- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to declare the 2019 Dodge MMV-2C7WDG6KR53862 excess.

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

John Wilt, EMA/ 911 Coordinator

911 System Outage

The 911 system experienced an outage due to a fiber issue at Brightspeed's central office. Automated reporting failed, and the issue was only discovered after a report was made.

Technical Issues with Solicom and DDTI

There are ongoing technical issues with Solicom regarding the installation of software on their computers and with DDTI in mapping, which have been resolved. Further programming is needed at the firehouse to improve call handling.

911 Steering Committee Meeting

The meeting with the 911 Steering Committee needs to be scheduled before April to discuss changes to the final plan and adopt them. An annual meeting is required regardless of developments.

EMA Grants and Mitigation Grant

EMA grants are delayed due to federal issues, causing hesitancy in contractors. A clause ensures only the local share is paid if federal reimbursement fails.

Feasibility Study for New Jail

Discussion on using funds for a feasibility study for a new jail, which could include a 911 facility. The study costs around \$10,000.

Athens 911/EMA Building Project

The Athens 911/EMA building project faced funding issues, increasing costs from \$1.9 million to \$13 million. The 911 parts are funded, but EMA needs \$2 million.

State 911 Funding Changes

The State 911 Steering Committee is considering funding changes based on population, which may lead to reduced funding for some areas.

Radio Tower and Communication Issues

Discussion on building a new radio tower to improve communication. Current tower locations and propagation issues were considered.

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

Funding and Extensions

Discussion on the allocation of \$5,000 or \$5 million for a new extension office and the appointment of a snapback coordinator starting in March. There were also inquiries about tax services and appointments in Beverly.

Upcoming Meetings

The next council meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2025, and the Regional Advisory Council meeting is on April 30, 2025, at 10 AM.

Funding Deadline Concerns

Concerns were raised about the deadline for spending allocated funds by the end of 2026, with uncertainty about whether the funds need to be spent or just allocated by then.

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

Work continues on floor plans for the Health Department. Clean, blank floor plans are needed to mark the locations of currently installed fire alarm equipment so that Advanced Business Communications and Johnson Controls can provide quotes for the replacement of the fire panel and associated equipment.

A remote access computer was installed on the Sheriff's office network to allow access to the Eventide 911 call recorder from outside of the Sheriff's office. Prior to deployment, it was believed that the Eventide call recorder would be accessible from anywhere with an Internet connection. However, after it was installed, it was discovered that access is limited to within its own network subnet.

The files in the IT/storage room in the Courthouse basement were taken out of the file cabinets and placed in boxes for easier transport and storage. When the file cabinets were removed, some cracks and bulging in the Courthouse exterior wall were discovered. The County Engineer has been notified to have a look at the issue.

The Engineer's office needed to purchase another pack of 5 seats for their Office 365 installation. They were also wanting to transition their e-mail to an outlook.com domain, but this was not necessary as they only wanted the shared calendar functionality of Outlook.

While purchasing a new cell phone for the Courthouse, Verizon notified the County of

some potential savings on their cell phone bill. Verizon now has a Public Safety Plan for government and others in the public safety sphere. The plan would save the County \$5 per month per phone and provide priority access to the Verizon cell network in the event of an emergency.

Brightspeed and Spectrum bills were uploaded to Spyglass for them to audit and check for potential savings. Spyglass performed a similar audit in 2020 and found a couple of phone lines that were not being used but were still being billed to the County.

The Health Department’s finance software was installed on a new computer for their new Fiscal Officer.

Another vehicle was placed on GovDeals for sale to the public by Public Transit. This vehicle was in an accident and was totaled by the insurance agency.

Friday, February 28, 2025, was the deadline for a grant from the Ohio Supreme Court for cybersecurity or case management system upgrades. Both County Court and Common Pleas Court applied for this grant to upgrade the server hardware for their case management systems (CourtView) and to add eServices to their CourtView installations.

The IT Director attended the Zanesville – Muskingum Chamber of Commerce Safety Council meeting on February 26, 2025. The topic of discussion was Emergency Management and was presented by the Muskingum County Emergency Management Agency Director.

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

25-139- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the following: Pursuant to ORC 5721.20 there are monies being held in fund #318or unclaimed foreclosures. These funds have been held in excess of three years from the deposit date and shall be distributed in equal amounts to the DRETAC funds for the Treasurer and Prosecutor. The following are the releases to be transferred:

Deposit Date	Case Number	Name	Amount
2/17/2022	20CV0100	Wesley McCort	\$832.83
2/17/2022	17CV0150	Michael Duncan	\$621.55

Transfer from: 318-0318-5301.00 To: 030-0030-4001.00 in the amount of \$727.19
 Transfer from: 318-0318-5301.00 To: 060-0060-4001.00 in the amount of \$727.19

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

25-140- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer \$5,000.00 from 001-0207-5102.00 (salary) to 001-0207-5321.00 (other fees).

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

25-141- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to provide a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$40,000.00 to line item 001-0301-5306.00 (contract expenses) which is the appropriated funds received from the SOS for the May 6, 2025 Special Election.

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

25-142- 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

25-143- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting February 28, 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
