

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIECKER BUILDING**

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

*Commissioners are in receipt of February expense, revenue and statement of cash report from the Morgan County Auditor.

The commissioners did the following over the past week:

-Commissioner Best attended a Malta Township meeting Saturday.

25-144- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of February 28, 2025.

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

John Telesz, Engineer

25-145- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to enter executive session with John Telesz at 8:30am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

25-146- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to exit executive session with John Telesz at 8:47am pursuant to ORC. 121.22 section (G)(1) Employment, Personnel.

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

Fire Department and Village Water Tower Lease

The fire department is charging \$600 a month for a small building used for amplifiers, which is considered excessive. There is concern about potential additional charges for antenna use on the water tower.

Alternative Tower Options

Options include negotiating with the fire department, using the county tower, or building a new tower on a ridge for better transmission capabilities. The ultimate solution is to improve transmission for transit and the sheriff.

Engineering Inspection and Costs

An engineer from Cleveland proposed an inspection costing \$71,000. Inspections and dives are required every other year, costing \$30,000, with next year's costs estimated at \$70,000 to \$100,000.

County Road Map and Internet Map

A new printed map of county roads is being created, along with an internet map that can be updated frequently. Businesses can advertise on the internet map for \$100, covering four to five years.

Heidi Burns, JFS

Mandated Share for March \$3,278.83

Travel/Meeting Requests

- Tina Cooper, Amy Moore and Devan Vincent to Marietta for AOMC Quarterly Gathering on 3/20
- Amy Moore to Columbus on 5/8-9 for JFS Conference

Julie Gridley, Pound Keeper

We received a huge pallet of Moist and Meaty Dog food from Purina. Thank you so much for your donation. It is much appreciated.

We had dogs adopted this week. So happy for Sunny and Ranger. We took in one stray, who is a beagle.

We are still working on the pound to make it more dog friendly.

We had two cans of paint donated to the pound.

Thank you to Lynn Smith and Cindy Finley Mansfield for faithfully coming every Monday and Wednesday to play with the dogs, and bring them treats.

We also had a mom and her daughter and son come on Thursday to play with the dogs and bring them treats. We are so happy to have people come and volunteer their time to the dogs.

Dog Adoption Process

The discussion revolved around the process of adopting dogs from their owners and ensuring they are not fed before being brought to the pound. There is a mention of a person who seems to want control over the adoption process, which causes tension among the team.

Authority and Responsibilities

There is a debate about the roles and responsibilities of different individuals involved in the dog pound operations, particularly concerning the above-mentioned person's authority and the legal obligations regarding holding dogs from the humane society.

John Wilt, EMA; 911

Radio and Tower Issues

The discussion focused on resolving radio communication issues in the county, including leasing space on a tower controlled by SBA and the impact of T-Mobile's transmitters. The need for technical data to proceed with leasing and the potential relocation of equipment were highlighted.

Fire Department and Antenna Leasing

The conversation addressed the financial aspects of leasing antennas on village property, questioning the fire department's authority to charge fees. The possibility of using a generator as a bargaining chip was also discussed.

911 Dispatch and Training

The meeting discussed the training of 911 dispatchers and the transition of responsibilities to the fire department. The need for improved accuracy in dispatching was emphasized.

Fire Service and Mutual Aid

The discussion touched on the future of paid fire services and mutual aid agreements. The need for better coordination and response times was highlighted.

Shannon Wells, Development Office

The HB2 Jail Grant Application for jail rehab was submitted and confirmed received by Department of Rehab and Corrections on February 28, 2025.

25-147- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the following:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF COUNTY OF MORGAN FOR THE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF HOME SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS:

Whereas, the County of Morgan seeks to repair and/or replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems; and

Whereas, the County of Morgan intends to apply for Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the repair and/or replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems; and

Whereas, the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund requires the government authority to pass legislation for application of a loan and the execution of a WPCLF loan agreement; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Morgan County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the President of Morgan County Commissioners be and is hereby authorized to apply for a WPCLF loan, sign all documents for and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the repair and/or replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems on behalf of the County of Morgan, Ohio.

SECTION 2. That is resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed this 3rd Day of March 2025.

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

Shannon Wells received a request from ODNR Chief of Division of Wildlife to testify before the House of Natural Resources Committee for H.B.96 in support of the ODNR budget on March 5, 2025.

A meeting of the Morgan County Land Bank will be this Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 9am in the Economic Development Conference Room.

Shannon Wells will meet with a representative from the Small Business Administration at 2pm today during an online meeting.

Shannon Wells has a scheduled meeting at 4:30pm on March 5, 2025 with the new OhioSE Director, Matt Abbott.

Becky Thompson, Dog Warden

-Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

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

John Telesz, Engineer

25-148- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the WSP iron bridge inspection and assessment in the amount \$71,000.

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

Wendy Gorrell, MCDD

25-149- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to appoint Roger Calendine to the MCDD Board commencing on commencing Jan 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025.

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

Amber Wallace, Senior Center

Community health and resource fair

A community health and resource fair is planned for May at the Malta Youth Building. Agencies are invited to participate for free, and \$50 gift cards will be offered as incentives for attendance. Highland Oaks may provide a light lunch for a donation.

25-150- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

Board of Commissioners for Morgan County

Whereas, Disability is a natural part of the human experience, and

Whereas, Developmental Disabilities in Morgan County touch one of every ten families, and

Whereas, People with Developmental Disabilities have many skills, talents and abilities to contribute to the neighborhoods and communities, and

Whereas, Everyone wins when people with developmental disabilities receive the supports wins when people with developmental disabilities receive the supports and opportunities they need to be contributing members of their communities; and

Whereas, the abilities of people with developmental disabilities have been traditionally and systematically undervalued, and

Whereas, Public attitudes are the biggest barrier to full community integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities, and

Whereas, Public awareness about developmental disabilities promotes acceptance and understanding, and decreases prejudice and misconception;
Now Therefore, Be it Resolved, that on this third day of March, 2025 the Morgan County Bboard of commissioners does hereby proclaim March 2025 as “Developmental Dyabilities Awareness Month” in Morgan County We also call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, business and schools in Morgan County to recognize the ability of individuals with developmental disabilities to make significant contributions to their communities.

Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator

After much research, it was decided that Microsoft 365 Business Basic would be the best service for e-mail for the County’s new domain, morgancountyohio.gov. This plan uses Microsoft Exchange as the mail server and will offer a host of Microsoft service, including Outlook, Teams, and Booking. The IT Director has a meeting scheduled with Microsoft to clarify some of the features of the Business Basic plan, such as group e-mail accounts, shared calendars, and room booking.

The IT Director has been working with Spectrum to upgrade the fiber Internet contract at the Courthouse. While meeting with Spectrum regarding the upgrade of Internet at the Sheriff’s office, it was mentioned that the County could upgrade their service in the middle of their contract, if we add or change services. The IT Director is trying to add a firewall from Spectrum at the Courthouse and renew the contract at a lower rate.

The Commissioners sent documentation to the IT Director, who also co-chairs the County’s Safety Committee, about CORSA’s Loss Control Incentive Program (LCIP) and the LCIP Bonus program. These programs will apply rebates to the County’s CORSA dues if certain action items are completed prior to January of next year (CORSA is the County’s liability insurance provider). The County’s Safety Committee will review these programs and attempt to implement as many of them as possible in 2025.

Transfers, Then & Nows, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications

25-151- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the following:

Acc name changes

Revenue Accts:

All Revenue accts will remove the letter “K” and add the letter “R”

The following accts need full names changes

004-0004-4004.00 Change to R4 Equipment & Materials Sales

004-0004-4006.00 Change to R6 TWP & Village Sales

004-0004-4007.00 Change to R7 Reimbursements

004-0004-4008.00 Change to R8 Map Prints & Copies

The rest of the Revenue Accts will remain the same name except for replacing the K to R.

004-004-4003.00 R3 Fines
004-0004-4005.00 R5 Other Receipts-Interest
004-0004-4010.00 R10 FEMA DSR
004-0004-4011.00 R11 Intergovernmental Receipts
004-0004-4012.00 R12 Building Permit penalties
004-0004-4015.00 R15 Donations
004-0004-4016.00 R16 Floodplain Admin.

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

25-152- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the following:

We would like to make the following names changes in our expense lines:

004-0004-5102.00 K2 Salaries from Salaries Employees
004-0004-5102.01 K11A Garage Laborers from Laborers
004-0004-5304.00K4 Office Equipment from Equipment
004-0004-5305.00 K5 Office Contract Repair from Contract Repair
004-0004-5309.00 K24 Utilities from Other Expenses
004-0004-5309.01 K10 Floodplain from Other Expenses

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

25-153-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

25-154- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to recess the commissioners meeting March 3, 2025 at 4:00pm.

25-155- Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to reconvene the commissioners meeting Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 9:00am for a Landbank meeting.

25-156- Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting March, 2025 at 9:30am.

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

Cecil Mayle, President

Heidi Maxwell, Vice-President

Steven Best, Member

Sheila Welch, Clerk

