



**MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF
HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:00 a.m. President Elaine Flesher called the meeting to order and welcomed Dr. Kylee Swingle as a new Board member.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Flesher with all participating.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Flesher called the roll as follows:

Elaine Flesher – Here; Rhonda Smith – Here; Michael Huck – Here; Dr. Murrell – Here; Dr. Kylee Swingle - Here.

STAFF PRESENT:

Jeff Michaels, Administrator; Lynn Mercer, Accreditation Coordinator; and Peydon Kincaid, Fiscal Specialist.

GUESTS:

County Commissioner, Steve Best and Rene Redd, Program Manager for the Alzheimer's Association

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the November 20, 2025 Regular Session were reviewed. Dr. Murrell made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Mr. Huck seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

BOARD CEUs:

Required CEUs have been exceeded for 2025.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Redd stated that 11.3% of Morgan County citizens over the age of 60 have dementia. The Alzheimer's Association offers resources and caregiver support. They can do care consultations over



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

the phone for caregivers and they provide Alzheimer's informational programs for organizations. There is a 24/7 Helpline for caregivers as well. Additional information can be found on the Alzheimer's website www.alz.org. Ms. Redd thanked the Board for letting her come to share information.

Ms. Redd left the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

County Commissioner, Steve Best reported that the commissioners have funds to help demolish the property on Main Street owned by Mr. David Becker. The property owner would pay 20% of the demolition cost and the county would pick up the other 80%. Mr. Becker turned that offer down.

EXPENSES AND BALANCES REVIEW/APPROVAL:

Mr. Michaels said he wanted to point out a \$5.00 donation on page 9. That is from Mrs. Mercer for a name badge she needed.

Mr. Kincaid reviewed the Revenue Report with a total revenue receipt of \$47,283.57 for the month of November. He noted that the general fund account was the highest with revenue generated from Nursing, Environmental, and birth/death certificates.

Mr. Kincaid reviewed the Expense Report with a total of \$45,100.77 in expenses for the month of November. That number may seem high, but Mr. Kincaid explained that there are a lot of grants that are reimbursable so the work has been completed, but not reimbursed yet.

Mr. Kincaid reviewed the Statement of Cash. He is working with the Auditor's Office to get the negative accounts and accounts no longer used cleaned up. He suggested focusing on the unexpended balance column because that shows money that is actually available.

Dr. Murrell made a motion to approve the Expenses and Balances. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Michaels reported that he is meeting with Mayor Finley at 11:00 a.m. this morning regarding the Becker property. The Board expressed concern that the initial report from Mr. Dostal indicated the property should be demolished and now Mr. Dostal seems to be supporting Mr. Becker in his remodeling plan. Mr. Michaels said Mr. Dostal and Mr. Becker are expected to be in attendance at the meeting with the mayor this morning. Mr. Michaels brought Dr. Swingle up to speed on the situation stating that the Board of Health has condemned Mr. Becker's Main Street property for human habitation.

Mr. Michaels provided an update on the Lightner Ridge property. He was contacted by the Sheriff's Office to go to the property due to piles of trash inside and outside the home. The Sheriff's Office was looking for the body of a missing woman when they discovered so much trash that it had to have been hauled from another location and dumped on the Lightner Ridge property. Mr. Michaels stated



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

that this is an Ohio EPA issue so he contacted them. They referred him to Solid Waste Management. Mr. Michaels called Solid Waste Management and they said it was an Ohio EPA issue. The County Prosecutor had the Board of Health condemn the Lightner Ridge property for human habitation as well.

Commissioner Best said the woman is missing and her husband died so the county is unsure who owns the property now. The taxes are in arrears. The plan is to let the EPA clean up the property and then turn it over to Land Bank to sell it.

Mrs. Flesher asked about the Becker property on SR 60. Mr. Michaels said Mr. Becker's attorney said Mr. Becker has not had time to read through the paperwork.

Mr. Michaels reviewed the vaccine pricing list from the Local Public Health Services Collaborative (LPHSC). The prices listed were set by LPHSC and the Board of Health agreed to them. The vaccines that the health department carries are highlighted in yellow. The Board previously decided not to send out a notice to patients if a balance is due beyond what their insurance covered for the vaccine. Director of Nursing, Jennifer Arnold, stated that if the insurance company denies the claim, she does send out an invoice. She currently does not send out an invoice if the cost of the vaccine is partially paid by the insurance.

ACCREDITATION REPORT: (handout and verbal)

Mrs. Mercer stated that due to the health department staffing reduction, she and Mr. Michaels have pulled back on gathering documents for accreditation other than the work on the Community Health Improvement Plan. Mr. Michaels has given Mrs. Mercer additional duties in the interim.

NEW BUSINESS:

Campground fees - Mr. Michaels did the second reading of the Campground fees and additional Sewage Treatment Program fees. The 3rd and final reading will take place in January.

Mr. Jeffrey Babcock, County IT Director, entered the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Mr. Babcock addressed the Board to discuss internet issues within the health department building. He has repeatedly called Spectrum. They say they have the issue resolved, but after a couple of months or less the problem reoccurs. Mr. Babcock says he is getting quotes from Glo Fiber for fiber optic internet. This will increase the health department's cost considerably. The current internet cost is around \$100 per month. It would go up to \$400 per month with fiber optics. The company will waive the construction fees if at least three local businesses contract with them together. Mr. Babcock said Transit has agreed to switch to Glo Fiber. He is reaching out to the Morgan County Garage as another location. The construction fee is around \$1200.00. Another consideration is that Glo Fiber can assist with disaster recovery efforts. In the event of a disaster, if everyone had to move to a central location, Glo Fiber could increase bandwidth to accommodate more people. Mrs. Smith asked about the deadline for deciding. Mr. Babcock said he feels it can wait until the new year because he still needs to get the County Garage and Transit to sign on. He will let Mr. Michaels know when he has those two



places confirmed.

Mr. Babcock left the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

Mr. Michaels stated that in the Ohio Revised Code it states the County Commissioners are to pay for a building and basic utilities for the local health department. Currently, the commissioners pay part of the phone bill. He asked Mr. Best if the commissioners could pay part or all of the internet services bill. Mr. Best said Mr. Michaels would need to bring that before the commissioners at one of their meetings.

The Board asked about the internet issues. Mrs. Mercer said in the upstairs part of the building, the internet goes off frequently, but comes back on. Mr. Kincaid said he feels it is a hardware issue not an internet speed issue. He noted that there is an abundance of equipment added on to old equipment.

Dr. Murrell asked if the Genesis side of the building is having the same issue. Mr. Michael said he would check into that. If they are not having issues, then it would confirm that the problem is with the health department's equipment.

New Board of Health Appointment - Mr. Michaels welcomed Dr. Kylee Swingle to the Board stating that she is finishing out Dr. Clemens' term that expires in March of 2028. He noted the term expirations for the remaining board members are as follows: Dr. Murrell: 2026; Mrs. Smith: 2027; Mrs. Flesher: 2029; and Mr. Huck: 2030.

HEALTH COMMISSIONER/MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT:

No report available.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: (Handout and verbal)

Mr. Michaels reported that the commissioners negotiated a 14.9% health insurance increase. Mr. Best commented that Medical Mutual started with a 27% increase and the commissioners got it down to 14.9%. He said the commissioners may switch carriers mid-stream due to the increase in cost.

Mr. Michaels asked Mr. Kincaid to discuss the new birth/death records system. Mr. Kincaid said the communication from the state has not been good. He is trying to learn the new system, but there have been a lot of delays and some things he has to just figure out on his own. Mr. Huck asked if the health department will receive the same amount in fees as they have in the past. Mr. Kincaid said the health department will receive the same amount, but people purchasing the copies will pay more with the extra funds going to the state. Mr. Huck said people can go online to Vitalchek and order their own copies and have them sent to their home.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING AND EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS: (Handouts)

Mr. Michaels pointed out that Mrs. Arnold represented the health department at the Senior Center Holiday Dinner. She is working on a Healthy Eating Healthy Living grant. A new WIC grant



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

opportunity is coming up.

As part of the Tobacco Grant, local businesses are audited to see if they sell cigarettes to individuals under the age of 21. The health department will send out a person between the ages of 18 & 20 to see if they can buy cigarettes locally. This is the 2nd grant cycle where this has been done. If the business sells to the individual, the health department sends out a letter to the business. The Board inquired if this was only a notification that they sold cigarettes illegally. Mr. Michaels said that is correct. Law enforcement is not contacted. The Board requested a list of establishments that sell tobacco products illegally when the health department conducts their undercover work.

Mr. Michaels noted that the Homemaker Program will end on December 31st.

Prior to exiting the meeting at 10:17 a.m. Commissioner Best said he has heard good things about Mr. Kincaid from the Auditor's Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and PHEP REPORTS: (Handouts)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:18 a.m. Dr. Murrell made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion and/or compensation. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

Mrs. Flesher – aye; Mr. Huck – aye; Mrs. Smith – aye; Dr. Murrell – aye; Dr. Swingle – aye

The Board returned to regular session at 10:51 a.m. with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Smith made a motion to adjourn at 10:52 a.m. The next Board meeting will be held Thursday, January 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Elaine Flesher, President

Jeff Michaels, Administrator