



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

**MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF
HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:00 a.m. Vice-President Michael Huck called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Huck with all participating.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Huck called the roll as follows:

Rhonda Smith – Here; Dr. Murrell – Here; and Michael Huck – Here. President, Elaine Flesher and Board member Kylee Swingle were absent.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

County Commissioner, Steve Best

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the January 15, 2026 Regular Session were reviewed. Dr. Murrell made a motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Commissioner Best reported that the water line going up State Route 60 is complete. Public water lines are now available clear up to Tractor Supply. He is not sure if they are actually on yet. Commissioners are also working on an upgrade to the sewer system. This project will be costly with an estimated 10 million for McConnelsville and an estimated 12 million for Malta.

Commissioner Best recently spoke to the County Prosecutor about an environmental nuisance complaint regarding property on State Route 60. Prosecutor Welch said he will keep on top of it. There are four mobile homes or campers on the property with a lot of junk piled up. County Commissioners are trying to promote tourism and places that are in bad shape hinder that effort.



EXPENSES AND BALANCES REVIEW/APPROVAL:

Mr. Kincaid reviewed the Revenue, Expense, and Statement of Cash reports. He noted that he is still working with the Auditor's Office to get line items cleaned up. Mr. Michaels noted that Mr. Kincaid recently caught some errors from the Auditor's Office. He also noted that when the State of Ohio sends the health department a check, they don't explain what it is for. He recently had to call about a check received in the amount of \$2,527.43. It was for a portion of the health department's subsidy. The total amount expected to be received is \$8,782.26. This is the largest subsidy the health department has received.

Mrs. Smith inquired about the COVID19 Enhanced Operations line item. Mr. Kincaid said that fund has been there since at least 2024. It has a negative balance because it is reimbursable. Mrs. Smith also asked about the Bioterrorism line item. She thought that name was going to be changed. Mr. Kincaid said he attempted to get it changed but, for some reason, the Auditor's Office didn't want to rename it.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Michaels reported that he met with the Prosecuting Attorney last week about the Becker property. Attorney Welch still has not heard from Mr. Becker's attorney. If he does not receive a response, he will file a foreclosure on the property.

Mrs. Smith asked if anything is being done with the Main Street property. Mr. Michaels said he is not aware of anything being done. Commissioner Best said he believes the village brought in an attorney from Columbus to advise them. Mr. Michaels said he would reach out to Mayor Finley again.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Michaels reminded the Board that the District Advisory Council meeting will be held on March 16th at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Murrell's term is up for reappointment and the DAC will be asked to reappoint her.

BOARD CEUs:

The Board watched a 15-minute video created by Kent State titled Foundational Public Health Services Part 2. The video reviewed the types of services provided by local health departments and the importance of them. The speaker discussed health department funding and said local health departments are historically underfunded.

REVIEW AND ADOPT REVISED PERSONNEL POLICY CHAPTER 6

The Board reviewed proposed changes to chapter 6 and discussed other needed changes. Mrs. Smith asked that the Credit Card Policy referred to in chapter 6 be made available to staff. Mr. Michaels will



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

ensure that a copy is available to staff. Mrs. Smith asked to have language added in section 6.08 that makes it clear employees are responsible for any traffic violations occurring while driving a Morgan County Health Department vehicle. The Board discussed section 6.11 “Infants and Children in the Workplace” and decided to remove the section. Additional typographical errors were noted.

Dr. Murrell made a motion to approve the revisions to Chapter 6 with the corrections noted. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH COMMISSIONER REPORT/MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT:

Mr. Michaels reviewed Dr. Clark’s report. Mrs. Smith inquired about the 100+ emails that Dr. Clark received during his time off. Mr. Michaels said those were not from the health department. They were likely from the Ohio Department of Health and the CDC.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: (Handout and verbal)

Mr. Michaels reviewed his report and highlighted his efforts to get Ty Moore to visit the Morgan County Health Department and a discussion with EMA Director, Steve Redrup, regarding a Hyper-Reach system for emergencies.

ACCREDITATION REPORT: (Handout and verbal)

Mrs. Mercer reported that she submitted the annual report to PHAB. They sent back a response stating they needed additional information regarding Performance Management. Mrs. Mercer reached out to Ann Goon with the Public Health Services Council of Ohio (PHSCO) and asked for assistance. She suggested outlining funding reductions and the resulting loss of staff. Additionally, Ms. Goon felt it would help to say MCHD is seeking quotes for a new Strategic Plan and will track goals completed from that plan as performance management measures. Mrs. Mercer said she sent PHAB that response and has not yet heard back.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING AND EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS: (Handouts)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH and PHEP REPORTS: (Handouts)

Commissioner Best asked Mr. Michaels if he would be doing a presentation at the DAC meeting. Mr. Michaels confirmed that he would be. The Board advised Mr. Michaels to keep his presentation short and to stick to information about the cost of providing services and lack of funding rather than trying to educate the DAC members about science or public health history.

Commissioner Best said perhaps a doomsday report outlining what it would be like if the Morgan County Health Department was not here. What would it cost them to go outside the county to get these services?

At 10:41 a.m. Commissioner Best and Peydon Kincaid left the meeting.



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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:41 a.m. Mrs. Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion and/or compensation. Dr. Murrell seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

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

The Board returned to regular session at 11:03 a.m. with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Murrell made a motion to adjourn at 11:04 a.m. The next Board meeting will be held Thursday, March 19th at 9:00 a.m.

Michael M. Huck

Michael Huck, Vice-President

Jeff Michaels

Jeff Michaels, Administrator