



**Public Health**  
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MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

**MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 7, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 8:00 a.m. President Elaine Flesher called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mrs. Flesher called the roll as follows:

Rhonda Smith – Here; Dr. Swingle – Here; Dr. Murrell – Here; and President, Elaine Flesher – Here.  
Michael Huck was absent.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jeff Michaels, Administrator

**GUESTS:**

None

**FINANCIAL DISCUSSION:**

The Board discussed the proposed 2027 appropriations resolution and the upcoming Budget Commission meeting with Mr. Michaels. Currently there is a \$109,803.00 deficit in meeting the 2027 General Health Budget. Cost saving measures and potential revenue sources were reviewed that included obtaining support for a property tax levy, partnering with another county for services, and potential reduction of agency hours and services. A fourth item of review included the real estate reappraisals and trienniums. It was noted property valuations have increased 78.318% since 2012. If the inside millage for the Health Department increased by 78.318% there would not be a deficit. The Health Department has received a 9% increase since 2012. The Board agreed a fair share of tax revenue increases should be considered as they occur.

Some of the bullet points the Board had consensus on for Mr. Michaels to present include:

- Briefly discussing unfunded mandates
  - Animal bite investigations
  - Foodborne illness complaint investigations
  - Communicable disease surveillance
  - Child fatality review
  - School and institution inspections
  - Public health nuisance abatement activities



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- Assisting Commissioners with residential property cleanup
  - Assisting Trustees with tire removal
  - Assisting Sheriff & Prosecutor with dump sites
  - Assisting Mayors with public health nuisances
  - Assisting Engineer with floodplain properties
- Share some **cost saving measures** already taken
    - Employee paid lunches went from 60 minutes to 30 minutes
    - Eliminated postage machine contract
    - Reviewed ORC for proposed cost saving regarding health department housing expenses
    - Renegotiated for better copier machine lease
    - Eliminated vaccine program risk by contracting with Vax Care
    - In-house website & social media management and ID badge creation
    - Performed salary survey and advocated for wage adjustments to reduce staff turnover (onboarding and training is expensive)
      - Public Health Workforce grant's purpose is to recruit & retain qualified public health staffing
      - The Public Health Workforce grant also subsidizes some of our local Accreditation efforts
- Overview of Current Grants & Programs
    - Note: *Consideration must be given to continuance of maintaining accreditation status in order to receive grants.*
    - PHEP grant for \$65,000 to be used for preparedness planning & infrastructure (MARCS, OPHCS), training exercises, and collaboration with EMA
    - Tobacco Cessation grant for \$68,350 to check retail compliance, promote Quit Line, engage with youth on activities targeted to discourage tobacco use
    - Food Safety program funds are fees derived using cost methodology. Fees are paid by local license holders to be used for food inspections
- Share **revenue opportunities** recently pursued
    - CPR Training fees
    - Food safety training fees
    - Nursing vaccine administration fees (direct payment) from Vax Care
    - Recent grant awards
      - Get Vaccinated Ohio grant for \$15,700
      - Mosquito Control grant for \$25,000
    - Recent grant applications
      - United Way grant for \$15,000 to use towards “nutrition and healthy food preparation training”
      - Adolescent Health Resiliency & Youth Engagement grant for \$100,000 to strengthen youth resilience while elevating youth voices in community health planning
      - Foundation for Appalachian Ohio grant for \$5,000 to use toward Safety Town Initiative to teach young children essential safety skills; including pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, fire prevention, stranger awareness, school bus safety, and general injury prevention



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Dr. Murrell asked Mr. Michaels to have Mrs. Flesher review his final presentation before the Budget Commission meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Dr. Murrell made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 a.m. The next Board meeting will be held Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

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Elaine Flesher, President

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Jeff Michaels, Administrator