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MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

# MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
## September 17, 2026

## CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:02 a.m. Board member Kylee Swingle called the meeting to order.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Swingle with all participating.

## ROLL CALL:

Dr. Swingle called the roll as follows:

President Elaine Flesher – Here (via video conference); Mrs. Rhonda Smith – Here; Dr. Barbara Murrell – Here; Dr. Kylee Swingle – Here. Rick Ellingsworth was absent.

## STAFF PRESENT:

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

## GUESTS:

Steve Best, County Commissioner and Malachi Morrison representing the County Prosecutor.

## READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the August 20th Regular Session were reviewed. Dr. Murrell made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Commissioner Best reported that the commissioners purchased the old Grace Church building on 9th Street. The Extension Office will be moving in there next week. The Extension Office employees will do a presentation for the commissioners, with an architect present, outlining what they need in the building. Pam Montgomery said she would eventually be able to hold District Meetings in the building because it is larger than their previous office location. Commissioner Best noted that the flooding at the fair has kept everyone busy. He thanked Mr. Michaels for attending the Fair Board meeting to help mitigate damage. Commissioners are working with Muskingum Water Shed on the stream by 8th Street and at the fairgrounds. Muskingum Water Shed has grants to help with drainage issues. He is hoping they can help Morgan County.

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## EXPENSES AND BALANCES REVIEW/APPROVAL:

Mr. Kincaid reviewed the Revenue, Expense, and Statement of Cash reports. He highlighted environmental fees in the amount of $3,975.00, a little over $1,700 in immunization fees, $1,600 in birth and death certificate fees, as well as revenue from PHEP and Tobacco deliverables. On the Expense report he noted expenses from audit fees, mileage and the Clemens Nelson retainer. Mrs. Smith inquired about the names of individuals being listed under birth and death certificates. Mr. Kincaid said those were names of people paying with a credit card. The names will be redacted if there is a public records request, but the Auditor's Office needs the names on the report for their information.

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

## OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Michaels reported that a letter was sent to the Village Council on August 20th regarding the installation of a hot water tank without a plumbing license. The letter states there is a $150 fine for not having the license. The health department has not received payment. Ms. Smith asked if there is any consequence for not paying? Mr. Michaels provided background information to Malachi Morrison. Mr. Morrison will share the current situation with the Prosecuting Attorney. Mrs. Flesher said she would recommend resubmitting the bill with a letter stating payment has not been received. She recommended sending it by certified mail. If they do not pay after that, Mrs. Flesher recommends attending a Village Council meeting. Mr. Michaels stated that when the Village installed the hot water tank, they did not install it properly because a thermal expansion unit was not included. This is dangerous because the hot water tank could explode.

Mr. Michaels provided an update on the Becker lien. Prosecutor Welch has the lien paperwork ready. He is planning to do a judicial title search on the property.

Mr. Michaels reported that he and Dr. Clark visited the Nolan property in Chesterhill. While walking around the property, they observed stuff everywhere. The property has no water, electric, or sewer. They met with the neighbor across the street, Mr. Pinnell. He would like the property cleaned up and stated he didn't think it was safe for Ms. Nolan. Dr. Clark had Mr. Michaels call Adult Protective Services (APS). APS said due to confidentiality they would not be able to report back, but they will check into the situation. Dr. Murrell said Ms. Nolan is not in danger or neglected. Although it is not how most people are used to living, she chooses to live that way. Dr. Murrell asked if there are any laws stating someone cannot live on a cluttered property. She spoke to Ms. Nolan and Ms. Nolan said she is willing to do a payment plan for the property taxes. Ms. Nolan told her APS did come and visit her and stayed for about an hour. According to Ms. Nolan they did not ask about her utilities and they did not say they would come back for a second visit. Dr. Murrell is not sure there is any legal standing to remove her from her property. Mr. Michaels said Dr. Clark believes if someone lives inside the village they are required to have sewage. Dr. Clark recommends condemning for human habitation and giving Ms. Nolan 2 – 4 weeks to vacate the property and then another 30 – 90 days to put up a legal dwelling that meets applicable laws. Mrs. Flesher said if Mr. Pinnell pursues this, it is going to fall back on the health

department again, unless the health department takes action. She does not feel this matter should be tabled. Dr. Swingle and Mrs. Smith expressed concern regarding taking action before knowing what can legally be done. Mrs. Flesher said once the Prosecuting Attorney is consulted, an emergency meeting could be called for this purpose. The Board directed Mr. Michaels to contact the Prosecuting Attorney, Rick Welch, regarding authority to condemn Ms. Nolan's property due to lack of sewage, water and electricity on her property and give her time to comply. Mr. Michaels said Dr. Clark would also like him to ask about the timeline. Is 2 – 4 weeks to vacate reasonable and legal? Is 30 – 90 days to mitigate the issues reasonable and legal? Mrs. Flesher said her feeling is that neither the village or Mr. Pinnell are going to back down.

**Malachi Morrison left the meeting at 9:46 a.m.**

## NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Michaels stated that he and Dr. Clark visited the Morgan County Dog Pound due to a couple of complaints regarding dog feces everywhere and dogs being mistreated. He and Dr. Clark did not see any of that. Mrs. Smith said she has seen dogs tied outside in 90-degree weather and the smell is terrible. Commissioner Best said at times there are as many as 24 dogs being held and there isn't enough room. As for disposing of the dog feces, the trash hauler does not want feces placed in plastic bags in the dumpster so they have been trying to hide it inside dog food bags so they can still dispose of it. Mrs. Flesher asked if the Dog Pound is a licensed facility. Commissioner Best said he is not sure, but there is no State oversite. It is mandated that each county have a Dog Pound and the county maintains it. The commissioners are looking at buying a grinder that would help dispose of dog feces.

Mr. Michaels reported that 520 Brookside Drive has been condemned due to the foundation crumbling and leaning as a result of flooding. Dr. Clark condemned it due to it not being safe for human habitation.

Mr. Michaels shared that a representative from the Department of Agriculture is here today to train Andrew Herbst.

Mr. Kincaid said he forgot to mention that the 078 Fund will be renamed Adolescent Health Resiliency Grant. That grant is $94,000 each year for three years.

Mr. Michaels asked Commissioner Best if there was any news about a meeting with Eric Leach regarding congressional funding. Commissioner Best said he would send Mr. Michaels a link to an upcoming Zoom meeting with Mr. Leach.

## HEALTH COMMISSIONER/MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT: (No Report)

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: (Handout and verbal)

## ACCREDITATION REPORT: (Handout)

## PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING AND EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS: (Handouts)

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## TOBACCO CESSATION REPORT: (Handout)

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT: (Handout)

## PHEP REPORT (No Report)

## BOARD CEUs:

A Kent State video titled "Sewage Treatment Systems and the Role of the Board of Health" was shown. This video explained what Sewage Treatment Systems are, reviewed conventional septic systems, discharging septic systems, an overview of rules, how to install a septic system, and the responsibility of the Board of Health to delegate authority to local health department employees, to adopt local rules, and approve variances.

## MISCELLANEOUS:

Mrs. Flesher asked the Board members to be prepared to reassign committees and vote on Board positions in December. She would recommend Rick Ellingsworth to be on the Finance Committee and keep Dr. Swingle on the Personnel Committee. Mr. Michaels said a Finance Committee meeting would be needed in October.

## ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Smith made a motion to adjourn at 10:26 a.m. Dr. Murrell seconded the motion. The next Board meeting will be held Thursday, October 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Elaine Flesher
**Elaine Flesher, President**

Jeff Michaels
**Jeff Michaels, Administrator**