

April 9th, 2024

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners David L. Fox, Jim Barber and Wayne Kohler were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Others present: Gary Floyd, Billy Kryger- Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters for 15 minutes with Bill Kassebaum and Chelsey Schmidt present. Motion carried.

The commission entered executive session at 9:05 a.m.

The commission returned to open session at 9:20 a.m.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the quote from Jake's Tree Service to remove the sycamore tree on the north side of the courthouse, in the amount \$1,778.88. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the Annual Rooftop Maintenance Program with Stanfield Roofing, in the amount of \$780.00 per year. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$114,148.60. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 26,640.89
Road & Bridge:	\$ 22,991.28
Special & Bridge:	\$ 11,900.00
Reappraisal:	\$ 348.96
Health Dept Flowthru:	\$ 6,026.00
Noxious Weed:	\$ 451.89
Ambulance:	\$ 369.99
Solid Waste:	\$ 1,485.10
Morris County 911:	\$ 958.32
Equipment Reserve:	\$ 42,976.17

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve payroll liabilities in the amount of \$43,883.55. Motion carried.

Floyd Albrecht attended the commission meeting via telephone. Discussion was held regarding a drainage issue on 2500 Rd, south of Hwy 4; it is a minimum maintenance road.

Len Lehmann with Empower visited with the commissioners regarding KPERS 457 plans.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. The fourth-grade classes at Council Grove Elementary School will be implementing a recycling program within the school to assist with recycling of paper, plastics and other materials.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the April 2nd, 2024 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, gave a report on the Appraiser's Office. The office will be updating/replacing two of their computers.

Shelly Lautt and Jeff Falter gave the following weekly road and bridge report:

- Air Capital Quarry rock was hauled to CC Ave. from 2600-2750, 2600 Rd. from X-Y, DD Ave. from 2600-2700, 2400 Rd. from R-T, 2500 Rd. from R-T, T Ave. from 2500-2600 and AA Ave. from 2800-2900
- Mid States Materials Quarry (Wilsey location) was placed on Kahola Rd. from 400-500 and on Helmick Rd. from 1100-1200
- Creek gravel was put on V Ave. from 525-700
- Screened creek gravel
- Surveyed 2200 Rd. for drainage issues
- Routine grading of roads done across the county
- Sign maintenance done across the county
- Jeff took Pottawatomie County Road Department supervisors to view half train car tube installations that Morris County has done
- Jeff and Shelly attended the Kansas District 2 meeting in McPherson
- Sunflower Bridge Update: Ebert Construction now has the bridge decking on hand and plans to complete the project the last week of April through the first week of May
- FEMA Update: The state of Kansas has qualified for the disaster. Morris County has been validated at \$893,000.00 + an additional 13.5 miles. FEMA will pay 75% of this amount. The percentage that the State will pay has not yet been determined. Morris County will have to fund 5-10% of this amount. The Governor will receive the letter on April 15th to sign and approve. It will then move to the President of FEMA for signatures and approval. Representatives from either FEMA or KDEM should be reaching out to work with the county in July or August.
- Discussion was held regarding the areas of C Ave. and 1800 Rd., and C Ave. and 2400 Rd.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve and sign the Off-System Bridge Project Agreement with KDOT for the OS-34 Bridge Project located southeast of White City on K Ave., over the Wests Fork Neosho River. Motion carried.

There will be a rotation and change in blade route drivers in order to better train staff.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the quote from Bolton Inc. for the purchase of a 2016 Dodge Ram 1500 Longhorn Limited truck in the amount of \$27,199.00. Funds are to be paid from the Road & Bridge Capital Outlay Fund. Motion carried.

Jeff Blosser, with Wildcat Construction, visited with the commissioners regarding a temporary lease-agreement between Wildcat Construction and Morris County for the lease of county owned property located south of Council Grove. Wildcat Construction would like to store equipment and materials on the leased property for upcoming projects in the area. Further discussion will be held.

Discussion was held regarding stolen gravel on 2700 Rd. between U and V Ave.

Commissioner Barber discussed the area of 2500 Rd. from Hwy 4 going south; the road is minimum maintenance but may have drainage issues that need addressed.

Commissioner Barber discussed 1800 Rd. going south of Hwy 4.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund Request for the invoice to Rays Apple Market for the March MDT Meeting in the amount of \$103.38. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve use of county property for the annual Hooptie-X Race to be held on May 25th, 2024. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

--Meeting minutes can also be found on the county website: www.morriscountyks.org

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS

David L. Fox, Chairman

ATTEST:

Wayne Kohler, Member

**Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk**

Jim Barber, Member