

April 19th, 2022

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 19th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Wayne Kohler, David Fox and Jim Barber were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Kelley Judd, Sharmon Richardson, Dave Cosgrove and Jan Kimbrell, board members for Morris County Historical Society, gave a report on current and future projects. The board holds meetings every two months. They plan to hold an educational/presentation type meeting that will be open to the public every third meeting.

Branden Dross, City of Herington Administrator, and Andrew Avantagiato, City of Herington Fire Chief, discussed fire department/coverage contracts for calendar year 2023 for Fire Districts No. 7 and No. 11.

Nick Jones, City of Council Grove Administrator, presented the City of Council Grove's "one-mile of chip seal" request for the upcoming chip seal to be done in 2022.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments. The Recycle Center is seeking applications for a full-time route driver. Discussion was held regarding trash along the lake road and vehicles being tarped while hauling trash and other materials.

Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer, provided quarterly financial reports.

Jim Crosby and Jay Simecka gave a presentation on the Together with Veterans, a rural veteran suicide prevention program, that is currently being developed for the Morris County area. Jim Crosby is the facilitator and coordinator of the organization along with several members of the community who are serving on the steering committee. The program is funded by the VA Office of Rural Health via grant monies. The main goal of the organization is to improve the mental health capacity within our community. The program would provide suicide awareness, support and prevention not only to veterans but to all in need. The organization would like to implement a Mental Health First Responder, a licensed and trained individual (s) to be on-call to a mental health crisis in conjunction with law enforcement and other first responder agencies. They have estimated approximately 6-8 hours a month for the Mental Health First Responder and recommend \$125.00/hour. The organization has asked that the funding for the Mental Health First Responder be provided by the City of Council Grove and Morris County, in hopes that the grant funds would be able to take over this cost in the future.

The commissioners expressed that they would be willing to allocate funding to the organization for a Mental Health First Responder in the amount of up to \$500.00 per month, pending further information; required credentials for the responder, policies, procedures, liability, contract agreements, etc.

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

- Delavan quarry rock was placed on 2400 Rd. from R-U
- Rawhide quarry gravel was hauled on Kelso to Lake Rd., 800 Rd. from G-J detour roads; 1100 Rd. from D-F, F Ave. from 1000-1200, M Ave. from 1950-2000 and 2000 Rd. from P-Q
- Worked on cleaning rock from culvert pipe on the low water crossing at 400 Rd. between H-J
- Cut brush with the boom mower on the White City routes around 2000 and 2100 Rd.
- Finished screening creek gravel at 1400 Rd. and G Ave.

- Chip seal bids for oil and chips were sent out; sealed bids to be opened May 10th at 1:15 p.m.
- Traffic control was provided for home being moved in on 500 Rd.
- Trees were removed from the county right of way on B Ave. between 2300-2400
- Shoulder ditch work was done in the western part of the county on BB Ave. from 2200-2750, 2400 Rd. from G-J, 2500 Rd. from L-M and on V Ave. from 525-700 and topped with gravel on the Council Grove route
- Rip rap was placed and repair work was completed on the "Picolet" box culvert on Kelso Rd.
- Traffic control was provided while blades drug 1400 Rd. from G-J on the K-177 detour route
- Traffic counters were picked up from Kelso Rd. and 800 Rd. and J Ave.; the data is being compiled by LTAP
- Received the finalized signed contract agreement from KDOT on the K-177 detour route
- Requested funds in the amount of \$64,117.09 for Morris County from the 2022 Federal Fund Exchange Reimbursement; Available funds after exchange are \$57,705.38 which is an increase of \$2,736.98 from 2021
- The John Deere motor grader was delivered this morning

The Road and Bridge department will be selling four pick-up trucks, one flat bed truck, chainsaws, and other items on an upcoming Purple Wave Auction. The auction is scheduled for May 24th, 2022. The Purple Wave Auction link will be provided on the county's Facebook page once it is available.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the quote from K-Construction in the amount of \$70,269.00 and a contingency amount of \$6,388.00, for repairs to the road and bridge truck shed that was damaged during the windstorm in December of 2021. Authorization was given to Chairman Kohler to sign the quote. The total cost of the project will be offset by the KCAMP insurance payment in the amount of \$40,964.23. Funds are to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to grant power of attorney to KCAMP for pursuing settlement of any and all claims arising from the collision that occurred on December 16, 2021. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the amount of \$79,889.67. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 13,103.75
Road & Bridge:	\$ 49,261.46
Reappraisal:	\$ 190.00
Noxious Weed:	\$ 671.82
Solid Waste:	\$ 1,141.64
Bridge Bonds 2020A:	\$ 9,271.00
ARPA Funds:	\$ 6,250.00

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the payroll in the amount of \$99,707.92 and employer paid liabilities in the amount of \$98,012.18. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the minutes from the April 12th, 2022 commission meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the quote from Wildcat Concrete Solutions for concrete replacement and repair to the Morris County Health Department entryway in the amount of \$6,019.42. Funds are to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS

Wayne Kohler, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jim Barber, Member

Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk

David L. Fox, Member