

April 20th, 2021

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 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.

Others present: Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, gave a report on the sheriff's office. Prom was held on April 17th for White City and Council Grove and both went smoothly. There have been an increasing number of reports of theft and damage to property in the northern part of Morris County. The sheriff's office will be issuing a press release to raise awareness and inform the public.

The commissioners received information from Timothy Biehler regarding the Kansas Nebraska Heritage Area Partnership. This program does not currently include Morris County; however, he wanted the commissioners to be aware and make his opposition to the program known.

Zach Krause with KVK, discussed specifications for the bidding of the courthouse boiler pumps.

John Lee, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave a report on the noxious weed and waste management departments.

Josh Erb with Associated Insulation Inc. visited with the commissioners via telephone regarding inspection findings of asbestos in the west end of the courthouse basement. Discussion was held regarding abatement procedures.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the April 13th, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Jeff Blosser, County Road Engineer, gave the following weekly road and bridge report:

- Hauled Harshman rock on 2200 Rd. south of Hwy 56
- Grading at the landfill to move the pile areas around and make room for more materials
- Everett's hauled MSM Skiddy rock to P Ave. from 2600 Rd. going east
- Completed patching the Rock Creek Bridge (RS-120)
- Completed patching the Laird Creek Bridge (RS-70)
- Completed patching the west Parkerville Bridge (RS-270)
- Distributed new entrance culverts on the Dwight and Latimer routes and will begin installing as the weather permits
- Worked on sign repairs in the Dwight, Wilsey, and areas south of Council Grove
- Graded on all of the gravel routes
- Heartstone is crushing at the 4 Mile location
- Progress is being made on the OS-36 Bridge. The piers are complete and the contractor is forming the deck and abutments.
- Courthouse mechanical bids, road oil bids and chip bids are to be submitted to the County Clerk's office by April 27th, 2021.
- Latimer shop discussion

The City of Wilsey applied on behalf of the Wilsey Cemetery District to boar under V Ave. for placement of a new water line.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the road boring application for the Wilsey Cemetery District as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber discussed ditches in the area of L Ave. and 3000 Rd. and a culvert on 3100 Rd. (minimum maintenance) and M Ave.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve purchasing a half train car in the amount of \$9,7850.00 and a 48-inch tube in the amount of \$5,000.00 to replace a box culvert at 1660 D Ave. Motion carried.

Zach Snider, employee from the solid waste department, discussed his future employment plans and wages.

Chris Blackledge, County Emergency Manager, provided an update on emergency management.

Branden Dross, Herington City Manager, and Merlin Oswald, part time Herington Airport Manager, discussed designing a strategic plan for the development of the airport. US Stone is expanding and is currently advertising for several different employment opportunities.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 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