

## **April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 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

Corrine Blosser, Register of Deeds, discussed plans to implement a Remote Access E-Search software program with Computer Information Concepts in the amount of \$1,565.00. The program will be purchased with the Register of Deed's Technology Funds.

Zach Krause with KVK delivered a sealed bid for the courthouse heating/cooling system.

John Lee, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Manager, gave a weekly report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments.

One sealed bid was received for the courthouse heating/cooling system from KVK and is as follows:

Equipment, labor and materials to remove and replace dual pump system: \$39,813.00

Replace 4 motor starters and 2 breakers to match new pump specifications: \$5,626.00

Fully automated control package with complete system monitoring capability: \$19,810.00

Total: \$65,249.00

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the bid from KVK as presented for a total of \$65,249.00. Motion carried. Funds will be taken from the Capital Improvement Fund.

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

- Hauled Harshman rock on H Ave. west of Hwy 177
- Hauled MSM (Skiddy) rock on 1800 Rd. north of Hwy 56
- Hauled MSM (Skiddy) rock on 1700 Rd. north of Q Ave.
- Hauled MSM (Skiddy) rock on P Ave. from 2500 Rd. to 2800 Rd.
- Hauled MSM (Skiddy) rock on 2600 Rd. on P Ave.
- Hauled creek gravel on Kahola Rd.
- Worked on sign repairs in Dwight, Wilsey and areas south of Council Grove
- Grading on the gravel and dirt routes as the weather has allowed
- Heartstone has completed crushing at the 4 Mile location
- Bridges Inc. is forming the deck and abutments on the OS-36 Bridge
- Ditching along 2800 Rd. south of C Ave.
- Latimer shop discussion

Two bids were received for approximately 179,000 gallons of RS-1M Road Oil Emulsions to be delivered to various locations within Morris County:

| <b><u>Bidder</u></b>            | <b><u>179,000 gal.</u></b> | <b><u>Total</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc. | \$1.90/gallon              | \$340,100.00        |
| Vance Brothers, Inc.            | \$2.18/gallon              | \$390,220.00        |

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the bid from Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc. as presented. Motion carried.

Two bids were received for approximately 5,150 tons of chips to be delivered to various locations in the county and are as follows:

| <b><u>Bidder</u></b> | <b><u>½ Inch Chips</u></b> | <b><u>Delivery-White City</u></b> | <b><u>Delivery-Burdick</u></b> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mid States Materials | \$11.35/ton                | \$14.70/ton                       | \$14.70/ton                    |
| Hamm Inc.            | \$19.00/ton                | \$4.65/ton                        | \$7.15/ton                     |

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve 2,450 tons of chips from Hamm's to be delivered to the White City location for a total amount of \$57,942.50 and 2,700 tons of chips from Mid States Materials to be delivered to the Burdick location for a total amount of \$70,335.00. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler discussed the areas of Helmick Rd. to V Ave., 1200 Rd. and 1400 Rd., and expressed concerns regarding the placement of a few Santa Fe Trail signs in the area of 1400 Rd. south of V Ave.

Commissioner Barber discussed the area of V Ave. from 2200 Rd. to 2400 Rd.

Commissioner Fox discussed the intersections and driveway entrances on F Ave., G Ave. and H Ave. in his district.

Commissioner Barber discussed an upcoming construction job that he will be doing and he would like to offer to move the excess dirt to the area of 2300 Rd. for the county to use on the minimum maintenance roads.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Department head meeting was held at 2:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were: Jim Barber, Wayne Kohler, David Fox, Bill Kassebaum, Jeff Blosser, Chelsey Schmidt, John Lee, Laura Viar, Ryan Michaelis, Linda Eldridge, Corrine Blosser and Scott Coover.

Items discussed:

- A report was given on each department. Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, reported that the Appraiser's office is in the process of starting re-inspections and certifying values. Corrine Blosser, Register of Deeds, reported that they will be implementing an e-search portal that would provide online access to documents. Laura Allen, County Attorney, reported that there will be a jury trial scheduled in July. Scott Coover, County Under-Sheriff, reported that they have a new full-time officer and several part-time officers. The department has received their new computers that were purchased at the end of 2020. Jeff Blosser, County Road Engineer, reported that they have been working to clean up the land-fill area. There will be a Local Road Safety Plan public meeting held in the downstairs courthouse meeting room on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer, reported that the second half of taxes are due on May 10<sup>th</sup>. John Lee, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, discussed having several staff

members retire. They are seeking job applicants. Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, reported that the Clerk's office will begin working on the July Abstract of property valuation, as well as budget estimates and preparation. The deadline for candidates to file for office for the upcoming city/school election will be on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Noon. All candidates must file with the County Clerk's Office. At this point in time, there will be no need for a Primary Election to be held, however, that may change.

- Commissioner Fox asked that department heads review their job descriptions for each position and make sure they are accurate and up-to-date.
- Commissioner Fox discussed the county's base wages. The commissioners would like to compare with counties of similar size and surrounding businesses and evaluate the current base wages offered. Goals to increase base wages and wages for county employees will need to be planned with the budgeting process.
- Commissioner Fox informed department heads that KVK will be installing a new heating and cooling pump system for the courthouse this fall. There has been asbestos identified in the boiler room and the basement storage area. This will need to be abated prior to the installation of the new pump system. Departments will be updated as more details are finalized.
- Discussion was held regarding the paid covid-leave policy. It was suggested that a policy be in place in the event that an employee reports to work while being under quarantine or isolation orders.

The department head meeting ended at 2:45 p.m.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation with Laura Viar, Scott Coover, Chelsey Schmidt and Bill Kassebaum present, for 15 minutes. Motion carried.

The commission entered executive session at 2:50 p.m.

The commission returned to open session at 3:05 p.m.

No action taken.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

--Meeting minutes can also be found on the county website: [www.morriscountyks.org](http://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**