

August 15th, 2023

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 15th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Jim Barber, David L. Fox and Wayne Kohler were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, gave a report on the Sheriff's Office. Discussion was held regarding the progress of the Sheriff's Office Construction Project.

The Sheriff's Office has developed a yearly rotation for vehicle purchases and/or upgrades over the next several years. One new vehicle to be purchased in 2023 and one new vehicle to be purchased in 2024 are listed in the county's Equipment Reserve Fund Plan. In February of 2023 the commissioners approved the purchase of a 1500 SSV Crew Cab 4x4 Pickup Truck from Bolton Chrysler Dodge Jeep in the amount of \$45,000.00; additional vehicle upfitting was estimated to cost approximately \$15,000. It is unknown at this time as to when the vehicle will be delivered; upon delivery of the vehicle it will take additional time for the upfitting to be completed. Due to vehicle availability and production delays, Sheriff Simecka requested that the commissioners consider purchasing the vehicle planned for the 2024 calendar year now, rather than waiting until 2024.

A quote was presented from Specialty Vehicle Source for a 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit in the amount of \$43,200.00, with a trade in offer of \$8,000.00 for the county's 2016 Dodge Ram Truck and an additional cost of \$16,729.40 for the vehicle upfitting; for a total amount of \$51,929.40.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the quote from Specialty Vehicle Source for the purchase and upfitting of a 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit, including the trade in of the 2016 Dodge Ram Truck; in the total amount of \$51,929.40. Funds are to be paid out of the Equipment Reserve Fund. There will be no vehicle purchase made for the Sheriff's Office in the 2024 calendar year. Motion carried.

Two quotes were presented for the purchase and programming of two mobile 800mhz radio units for the new vehicles and are as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Total</u>
Motorola Solutions	New	\$7,168.74
TBS Electronics, Inc.	Used/Refurbished	\$4,790.00

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the quote from TBS Electronics, Inc. for the purchase and programming of two used radios in the amount of \$4,790.00. Funds are to be paid from the Equipment Reserve Fund. Motion carried.

Colleen Anderson, President for the Morris County Senior Citizens Inc., gave a monthly report on the services being provided within Morris County. The Council Grove Senior Center served a total of 1,618 meals in the month of July. The Rolling Prairie Senior Center served a total of 319 meals in the month of July. Between the two centers various activities and events have been provided such as: Tall Grass Prairie Tour, bingo, community card party, birthday lunch, blood pressure checks, ladies coffee and psalms, men's prayer breakfast, late risers coffee and fellowship, foot care clinics and chair yoga.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to recess the commission meeting and change the location of the meeting to the downstairs meeting room to conduct the 2024 Budget Hearing. Motion carried.

The commission meeting was recessed at 9:55 a.m.

The 2024 Budget Hearing was called to order in the downstairs meeting room at 10:00 a.m.

Those present were: Commissioner Kohler, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Barber, Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, Corrine Blosser, Register of Deeds, Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer, Jan Sciacca, Council Grove Republican, Billy Kryger, Ryan McDonald, Jim Johnson, Don Kraus, Melaney Johnson, Bonnie Kraus, Barbara Richardson, Sheryl Fischer, Tom Nurnberg, Jeff Daniels, Shelley Dunham, Gary Floyd and Tom Moxley.

Those present were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed 2024 County Budget; open discussion was held.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the 2024 Morris County Budget as proposed. Motion carried. Morris County will not be exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2024 budget year.

The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

The commission meeting resumed in the commissioner's meeting room at 11:05 a.m.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments. Travis will be meeting later this afternoon with Scott Cornwell from Waste Management to discuss potential alternatives for waste removal and hauling. He will be meeting with Alex McCord from Endurance Environmental on Thursday to discuss the same and will report back to the commissioners at next week's meeting.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-06 to remove a section of 3000 Rd. from the minimum maintenance road list. Motion carried.

Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer, and Corrine Blosser, Register of Deeds, discussed the North Central Treasurer's and Register of Deed's Associations Meeting that will be held on October 13th, 2023 in Morris County.

Commissioner Fox discussed public transportation scheduling and ride availability. Morris County General Public Transportation provides rides to out of town locations. Out of town trips must be scheduled in advance. Trips are booked on a first come, first serve basis and fill up quickly, often for several weeks in advance.

Shelly Lautt gave the following weekly road and bridge report:

- Asphalt patch work, along with traffic control, was done on the Lake Rd., Four Mile Rd., 2600 Rd. from T-U, Dunlap Rd., Old Hwy 56 and Old Hwy 4
- Chip seal work began at the Kelso Rd.- Lake Rd. intersection
- Cleaned out a low water crossing box on X Ave. between 100-200
- Mowing was done on the White City, Council Grove and Latimer routes
- Routine maintenance and service was done on trucks
- Jeff and Shelly met with Bridges Inc. and contractors to review the punch list for work on the Dunlap River Bridge project
- Bridges Inc. and APAC will seal the crack and add 2' shoulder

A quote was presented from Foley for a 2018 120M2 AWD Motor Grader with 1,700 engine hours, in the amount of \$246,400.00; a trade-in offer for the one of county's 2013 Motor Graders in the amount of \$50,000.00 - \$50,900.00. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the August 8th, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll liabilities as presented, in the total amount of \$42,756.58. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$319,426.27. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 60,376.20
Road & Bridge:	\$ 58,019.32
Reappraisal:	\$ 48.66
Health:	\$ 38,000.00
Noxious Weed:	\$ 233.42
Ambulance:	\$ 70,000.00
Solid Waste:	\$ 12,357.60
Mental Health:	\$ 22,000.00
Hospital Maintenance:	\$ 52,000.00
Morris County 911:	\$ 111.37
Bridge Bonds 2020A:	\$ 6,279.70

The meeting adjourned at 2:15PM.

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS

Jim Barber, Chairman

ATTEST:

David L. Fox, Member

**Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk**

Wayne Kohler, Member