

August 29th, 2023

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 29th, 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.

Others present: Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the August 22nd, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Shelly Lautt gave the following weekly road and bridge report:

- Chip Seal work was done on the Dunlap Rd., 2600 Rd., Skiddy Rd. and the annual one mile of White City streets
- Culvert pipe was installed on 3000 Rd. between R-T
- Mowing was done on the Dwight routes

Discussion was held regarding an individual who purchased one of the county's dump trucks on the recent Purple Wave Auction. The truck was advertised as being in "driving condition", however, upon pick up the truck would not start and required the purchase of new batteries. It later broke down and had to be towed.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to reimburse 50% of the cost to Shane Dickerson for the purchase of batteries for the dump truck sold on Purple Wave, in the amount of \$221.00. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler discussed the area of 975 Rd. west of the Corp; there is a tree impeding visibility of the roadway that needs attention.

Commissioner Barber discussed blading the gravel roads up to the highways; there is beginning to be large dips where the gravel roads meet up to the blacktops.

Jeff Hamm with Hamm Companies, discussed the proposed 20% price increase for the renewal contract for waste management services. The current hauling charge is \$37.00/ton and will increase to \$46.00/ton as of October 1, 2023; in addition to fuel surcharges. Hamm Companies have experienced increased costs to purchase, maintain, and operate equipment. Additionally, they have incurred significant costs due to damage to trailers, facilities and equipment from unacceptable waste such as lithium-ion batteries causing fires. Commissioners explain the recent increase the county made to special assessment landfill fees; this increase was made prior to considering a 20% increase for hauling fees. The County's 2024 Budget has also already been approved, prior to being able to plan for the price increase. Jeff Hamm explains that in calendar year 2022, 154 loads were hauled from the Morris County Transfer Station and 107 of those loads were well below 21 tons. (A trailer is expected to be a minimum of 22 tons). Hamm's encourages the county to pursue some type of scale or weight system to be more efficient with the utilization of trailers and hauling. Discussion was held regarding possibilities to increase the hauling fees in increments, rather than 20% at once. Hamm's will consider this possibility and further discussion will be held.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll liabilities as presented, in the total amount of \$127,584.01. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$8,772.34. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$	5,935.41
Road & Bridge:	\$	2,103.23
Reappraisal:	\$	259.70
Noxious Weed:	\$	64.00
Solid Waste:	\$	410.00

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the purchase of the KnowBe4 Cybersecurity Platform in the amount of \$429.00 per year, for a three-year contract. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at Noon.

--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