

## August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Shelley Dunham, Chair of the Morris County Democratic Party, visited with the commissioners regarding the upcoming county budget hearing. A request was made for the proposed 2024 county budget to be made available online prior to the budget hearing that is scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Commissioners agreed to have the **proposed** 2024 county budget available on the county's website for taxpayers to review prior to the scheduled budget hearing. The proposed 2024 county budget is also available, upon request, at the Morris County Clerk's Office.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, gave a report on the Sheriff's Office. Discussion was held regarding quotes from Hayden Tower Service and Ka-Comm for installation of the new radio tower located outside of the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the quote from Hayden Tower Service for the foundation work and installation of the radio tower in the amount of \$18,668.17. Funds are to be paid from the 9-1-1 Fund. Motion carried.

Dave Owen, Morris County EMS Director, gave a report on Morris County EMS and presented the following run statistics for the months of June and July:

<u>June</u>		<u>July</u>	
Ambulance calls:	49	Ambulance calls:	52
Transfers from MCH to other hospitals:	12	Transfers from MCH to other hospitals:	20
Total number of runs:	61	Total number of runs:	72
Year to date total runs:	374	Year to date total runs:	446

Ambulance runs continue to be tracked for responses in the north area of the county vs the south and are as follows:

<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
North County: 16	North County: 14
South County: 45	South County: 58

Morris County EMS is scheduling sports injury training for the month of August, in preparation for the upcoming football games and fall sporting events.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll as presented, in the total amount of \$102,019.71. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$332,927.65. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 35,992.66
Road & Bridge:	\$ 14,680.65
Special Bridge:	\$ 10,294.90
Reappraisal:	\$ 745.17
Noxious Weed:	\$ 508.38

Ambulance:	\$	691.11
Solid Waste:	\$	841.87
Morris County 911:	\$	31,156.37
Capital Improvement:	\$	5,200.00
Equipment Reserve:	\$	3,666.54
Bond & Interest:	\$	229,150.00

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments. Travis will be attending a transfer station management course hosted by Hamm's on August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held regarding the upcoming 20% price increase from Hamm's for hauling. It is estimated that the transfer station will be paying approximately \$29,000 per month for hauling and fuel surcharges beginning on October 1, 2023. Commissioners would like to schedule an appointment with Hamm's management to discuss the proposed price increase.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the KAW Nation for storage of the Kaw Sacred Rock, as presented. The county will be providing storage of the rock until it can be moved to its new location at Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park; there is no cost to the county or the taxpayers for storage of the rock. Motion carried.

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

- The oil distributor went to El Dorado for patch oil
- Asphalt patch work was done over a culvert located on 2400 Rd. between D-F Ave.
- Asphalt patch work with traffic control was done on the Skiddy Rd., Woodbine Rd., 2600 Rd. between Q-R, 2800 Rd. and Burdick Rd., and on BB Ave. between 2800-3200
- Mowing was done on the Burdick, Delavan, Parkerville and White City routes
- Shoulder and ditch work was done on 3100 Rd. between Y-Z
- Stop sign at 1400 Rd. and Z Ave. was stolen again; reported to the Sheriff's Department
- The waterline project bid advertisement was published on the contractor website
- Shelly attended a meeting on the RUC Charges Pilot Program; to replace state fuel taxes on county roads
- Jeff and Shelly reviewed roads and discussed options for the chip seal work with Doug Francis from Ergon

The following county equipment was sold on the August 8<sup>th</sup> Purple Wave Auction:

2007 Sterling L9500 Dump Truck	\$29,500
2003 Sterling LT7500 Dump Truck	\$ 8,300
2003 Sterling LT7500 Dump Truck	\$ 7,600
2001 Sterling LT7500 Dump Truck	\$ 6,900
1995 Ford L8000 Dump Truck	\$ 5,700
2004 Dodge Ram 2500 Quad Cab Truck	\$ 4,100
2004 Ford F150 Super Cab Truck	\$ 2,700
Total:	\$64,800

The amount of \$64,800.00 will be receipted back into the Road & Bridge Fund.

Two fuel bids were received for 4,500 gallons of clear #2 diesel fuel and 3,500 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Diesel</u>	<u>Reg Unleaded</u>	<u>Total</u>
MFA Oil	3.4176/gal	3.1463/gal	\$26,391.25
Agri Trails	3.5370/gal	3.1704/gal	\$27,012.90

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the bid from MFA Oil as presented, in a total amount of \$26,391.25. Motion carried.

The county received the 2023/2024 propane contract from K&R Propane, LLC. The county is estimated to use approximately 5,000 gallons of propane for the 2023/2024 contract year.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the contract with K&R Propane for the 2023/2024 contract year at the pre-buy price of \$1.60 per gallon; at 5,000 gallons the total amount is \$8,000.00. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the penalties that may be assessed to the contractor for working day overages on the Dunlap River Bridge Project.

Commissioner Barber thanked the road and bridge department for work that has been done on 1900 Rd and 2400 Rd.

Commissioner Fox discussed the area of 1000 Rd. a quarter mile south of X Ave.; there is a drainage tube that will need attention in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.

--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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jim Barber, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**David L. Fox, Member**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chelsey Schmidt**  
**Morris County Clerk**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Wayne Kohler, Member**