

December 13th, 2022

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, December 13th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Jim Barber, Wayne Kohler and David L. Fox were present. Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, and Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, were present.

Others present: Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Laura Viar, County Attorney, gave a report on the Attorney's Office. The Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Office continue to work with local mental health services and Morris County Hospital to establish policies for care-in-treatment cases. Discussion was held regarding concerns about not having security or law enforcement present during court sessions. Sheriff Jay Simecka was present for the discussion. Sheriff Simecka shared concerns as well. Staffing deputies for court sessions is a priority for the Sheriff's Office as well, however, staffing availability and scheduled court dates will need to be planned and coordinated better in the future.

Deputy Alex Wooden, Morris County Deputy, introduced K9 Kimber to the commissioners. Kimber is a 16-month-old female Belgium Malamute. Deputy Wooden explained that Kimber is trained in identifying 6 different types of controlled substances, apprehension, and tracking. Her tracking abilities are very impressive and are also applicable to locating missing individuals. Kimber is able to track an individual or scent for a minimum of 3 miles. Kimber and Deputy Wooden have already responded to neighboring counties for requests for assistance.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, gave a report on the Sheriff's Office. Future vehicle purchases from the Equipment Reserve Fund were discussed.

Nate Butler, Kansas House Representative for 68th District, introduced himself to the commissioners. The house committees are still unknown; however, Nate Butler has requested to serve on the Commerce, Agriculture and Budgeting, Foster Care, and Veterans Affairs committees. Swearing in of the state officers will be January 9th.

Chris Blackledge, Emergency Manager, gave a report on emergency management. Morris County has received a private donation from a Morris County land owner in the amount of \$50,000. The donation is to purchase 800mhz radios for all fire departments in Morris County. Chris Blackledge, Emergency Manager, has obtained quotes for new radio units vs used radio units.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Solid Waste Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Solid Waste departments. Travis will be vice president of the Board of Directors for the Big Lakes Household Hazardous Waste Program.

Darrell Miller visited with the commissioners regarding inflation and grave markers for Veterans.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from December 6th, 2022 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to appoint Angela Harris to serve on the Morris County Board of Hospital of Directors. The board position was previously held by Diane Miller, whom is retiring from the position at the end of the year. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to re-appoint Steve Morgan and Sarah Cosgrove to serve on the Morris County Hospital Board of Directors. Motion carried.

Morris County Hospital Board Members serve four-year terms.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$97,956.11 and payroll liabilities in the amount of \$17,014.02. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the amount of \$104,103.73. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 19,400.52
Road & Bridge:	\$ 54,338.15
Noxious Weed:	\$ 11.05
Solid Waste:	\$ 1,070.25
Morris County 911:	\$ 18,111.44
Capital Improvement:	\$ 11,172.32

A public hearing was held to amend the 2022 budget. No taxpayers were present for the hearing.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the 2022 budget amendments as presented. Motion carried.

The 2022 budget amendments were made to allow for transfers into reserve funds and are as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Adopted Expenditures</u>	<u>Amended Expenditures</u>
General Fund	2,761,552	2,961,552
Road & Bridge	3,191,000	3,691,000

Commissioner Kohler did not attend the afternoon session.

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

- Mid States Materials Quarry rock was hauled to Helmick Rd. from 1200-1400, 2400 Rd. from Q-T and AA Ave. from 3000-3200
- Mid States Materials Quarry AB-3 rock was placed on Q Ave. from 2200-2400
- Rawhide Quarry gravel was added to the road on Pondway
- Routine sign maintenance was done across the county
- Mowing was finished up on the Council Grove routes
- Shoulder and ditch work was done on 400 Rd. from Dunlap- AB Ave.; placed Wilsey Mid States Materials Quarry rock on the road
- Wilsey Mid States Materials AB-3 rock was placed on 2900 Rd. from M-P
- Assisted Kaw Valley Engineering with finding survey markers and repaired road on 2700 Rd. from U-V
- MP27 was hauled to Foley's in Manhattan for warranty work on the EGR
- Submitted project closeout letter to KDEM stating all work was completed on the PW-594 low water crossing
- Shelly attended the Kansas Open Records Act presentation by Jay Hall.
- Sunflower Bridge discussion

3 bids were received for 31 various sized metal corrugated pipes and are as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Total</u>
J&J Drainage	\$19,627.70

Welborn Sales \$27,249.30

Kanaflex Corporation \$11,437.50 (only 21 various sized HDPE pipe)

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the bid from J&J Drainage for 31 various metal corrugated pipes in the total amount of \$19,627.70. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding a quote for a pick-up truck from Bolton's. The item was tabled.

Discussion was held regarding a gravel purchase from Air Capital.

Commissioner Fox discussed the area of 500 Rd. north of R Ave.

Commissioner Barber discussed the area 2 miles west of Latimer on L Ave. at the Clarks Creek Bridge; the area is needing ditch liner repairs.

Kevin Miller visited with the commissioners regarding the bridge at 2600 Rd. and AA Ave., a ditch on 2500 Rd. north of Hwy 56 needing attention, and the area of X Ave. between 2600-2700 Rd.

Delores Fisher, G. Dean Miller, Linda Boggess, and Charles Kniebel have each received one write in vote from the November General Election for the position of Township Seven Clerk. In order to determine the winner, the names were drawn from a hat. Linda Boggess was drawn as the winner for Township Seven Clerk position.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the Employee Policy Handbook revisions as presented. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS

Wayne Kohler, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jim Barber, Member

Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk

David L. Fox, Member