

December 20th, 2022

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, December 20th, 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.

Laura Viar, County Attorney, Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, Kevin Leeper, Morris County Hospital CEO, and Amber Wangerin, Morris County Hospital Registered Nurse, discussed the progress for developing protocols for care-in-treatment cases. Kevin Leeper visited Newman Regional Hospital last week to tour their "safe" rooms. A safe room is used when a patient is a threat to themselves or others. The original design of the safe room at Morris County Hospital does not meet specifications and requirements in order to be utilized. Discussion was held regarding upgrades that will need to be done to allow the use of the safe room at Morris County Hospital. Morris County Hospital staff has been working closely with mental health services to develop policies and protocols for the care of mental health patients and care-in-treatment cases. Follow-up discussions will be held.

Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer, gave a report on the Treasurer's Office. The handicap accessible doors have been installed in the Treasurer's Office.

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, gave a report on the Appraiser's Office.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Solid Waste Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Solid Waste departments.

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

- Mid States Materials Quarry rock was hauled to Diamond Creek Rd. from CC-FF and to 200 Rd. from V-Y
- Cleaned up stockpiles around the shop and put equipment away for the winter
- Hauled mower tractors to KanEquip and Prairieland Partners for repairs
- Burnt brush piles at the Gail Lee Bridge
- Assisted surveyors with finding markers on G Ave. from 1200-1300 and H Ave. from 1175-1200
- Shoulder and ditch work was done on Helmick Rd. from 1200-1400 and then topped with Mid States Materials rock
- Routine grading was done on roads across the county
- Worked on and stirred the pumps on the brine tanks
- Routine maintenance was done on trucks and equipment
- Dump Truck TU51 was in use for one day and had to be hauled back to Central Power in Salina for repairs

Discussion was held regarding a 2022 Dodge 2500 diesel pick-up truck at Bolton's in the amount of \$64,199.00. Commissioner Barber expressed that he did not feel that a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck was needed; he recommended that a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton would be more appropriate and cost effective. Commissioner Kohler expressed that he was in favor of purchasing the $\frac{3}{4}$ ton.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to purchase the 2022 Dodge Ram 2500 diesel pick-up truck from Bolton's in the amount of \$64,199.00. Funds are to be paid from the Road and Bridge Fund. Motion carried 2-1, with Commissioner Barber opposing.

The Sunflower Bridge is listed on the Kansas Historic Registry, therefore, there are limitations to the methods used for repairs to reopen the bridge.

Bridge Reports from Michael Maris of E.E.S. were received. There were concerns reported regarding the deck of the Clark's Creek Bridge located on G Ave., west of 2700 Rd. A polymer overlay for the bridge deck may be a solution. The item will be discussed further.

Commissioner Fox discussed the area of 300 Rd. to the county line.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the purchase of 20,000 tons of gravel from Air Capital Recycling (from the US Stone location) at \$10.70/ton; for a total amount of \$214,000.00. Funds are to be paid from the Road and Bridge Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the minutes from December 13th, 2022 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, Ben Moore, Ben Moore Studios, Justin Mallon and Rodger Ernst with Evergreen Design-Build LLC held the construction kick-off meeting for the Sheriff's Office Addition and Remodel Project. The official "notice to proceed" date was 12-19-2022. Construction for the project is scheduled to begin the first of the year.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve payroll liabilities in the amount of \$41,767.09. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the amount of \$593,725.12. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 22,847.10
Road & Bridge:	\$ 23,089.29
Special Bridge:	\$ 15,228.00
Reappraisal:	\$ 8,336.61
Solid Waste:	\$ 182.78
Bridge Bond 2020A:	\$ 524,041.34

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