

## **December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, December 26<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.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, and Deputy Alex Wooden visited with the commissioners regarding an automatic license plate reader. Deputy Wooden has received donations in support of purchasing an automatic license plate reader 4 camera system for the deputy and K9 Kimber's patrol vehicle. To date, Morris County residents have donated a total of \$11,625.00. The camera system, mounting brackets, and software system cost \$12,679.40; the annual maintenance cost is \$2,100.00. The Morris County Attorney has already agreed to pay the annual maintenance cost of \$2,100.00 from the Diversion Funds. Sheriff Simecka requested for approval to purchase the automatic license plate reader with the donated funds, and the remaining amount of \$1,054.40 is to be paid from the Sheriff's Drug & Asset Forfeiture Funds.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to accept the donations in the total amount of \$11,625.00 and to approve the purchase of an automatic license plate reader 4 camera system with the donations. The remaining amount of \$1,054.40 shall be paid from the Sheriff's Drug & Asset Forfeiture Funds. Motion carried.

Jim Sturgeon, Chairman for Rural Water District No. 2, visited with the commissioners regarding the Morris County Water Infrastructure Extension Project. Rural Water District No. 2 supports the grant application for the project.

Holly Boice, with the Flint Hills Regional Council, attended the commission meeting via telephone. The Flint Hills Regional Council would like to apply to the State Water Projects Grant Fund. The application titled the Morris County Water Infrastructure Extension Project, would extend rural water access south of Council Grove. The rural water access would allow Rocking KM Veterinary Services to build an expansion facility to care for large animals and livestock. It will also provide water infrastructure to two full-time operational farms. The total amount of grant funds requested for the project is \$205,826.44. The county must be the applicant and receiving entity for the grant funds. Flint Hills Regional Council would like to submit the application on behalf of Morris County and will administer the project. The grant application was reviewed.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve Morris County as the applicant for the Morris County Water Infrastructure Extension Project and to authorize Chairman Barber to sign the application and affidavits of support. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler discussed publishing a monthly informational column in the Council Grove Republican and the Prairie Post.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments.

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

- Air Capital Quarry rock was spotted in on Q Ave. from 3000-3100, D Ave. from 2100-2200, J Ave. from 3100-3200, BB Ave. from 2800-2900, 1800 Rd. from X-Z, U Ave. from 3100-3200, 3100 Rd. from T-U, 3100 Rd. from P-Q, R Ave. from 2500-2600, R Ave. from 2900-3100, 2800 Rd. from Q-R, X Ave. from 2700-2800, Y Ave. from 2600-2800,

2700 Rd. from X-Y, B Ave. from 2500-2600, 1800 Rd. from X-Y, Q Ave. from Old Hwy 4-575, P Ave. from 250-300 and 575 Rd. from Oldy Hwy 4-Q

- Mid States Materials Quarry (Skiddy location) AB-3 rock was hauled on 2800 Rd. from C-G
- Creek gravel was put on Four Mile Rd. from Z-1300, Z Ave. from 1400- Four Mile and Helmick Rd. from 1300-1400
- Crossroad culvert was installed on B Ave. between 2500-2600 to replace a failed box culvert
- Entrance culvert was replaced on BB Ave. between 2800-2900 with steel casing pipe
- Weed-eating around signs and box culverts was done on 1900 Rd. from Q-AA, 2400 Rd. from G-U, 2600 Rd. from G-Q, 2800 Rd. from G-U, 3000 Rd. from T-DD, Q Ave. from 1600-2400, 1700 Rd. from Parkerville-Q, 2800 Rd. from BB-FF, 1400 Rd. from U-CC, DD Ave. from 1000-1500, 500 Rd. from Q-T, 575 Rd. from M-Q, 700 Rd. from T-V and Ram Court
- Cleared pad for scale at the Transfer Station

Commissioner Fox discussed H Ave. from 800 Rd. to Hwy 177.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Morris County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District was presented for snow removal and winter treatment on the Council Grove Lake Dam Road. The County agrees to perform snow removal along the Council Grove Lake Dam Road and will put down preventative salt and sand, as on other county roads. This road will not be designated as a snow or bus route; and will be cleared of snow in a timely manner after the county has cleared designated snow and bus routes. The Corps agrees to install gates and control traffic as needed for public safety during adverse weather events or as work and maintenance on the road requires.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve and authorize Chairman Barber to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Morris County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the 2023 Year End Budget Transfers as follows:

- Transfer \$300,000 from the 2023 Road & Bridge Fund Budget to the Equipment Reserve Fund
- Transfer \$140,000 from the 2023 Road & Bridge Fund Budget to the Capital Improvement Fund, for the purchase of rock/gravel
- Transfer \$250,000 from the 2023 General Fund Budget to the Capital Improvement Fund
- Transfer \$200,000 from the 2023 General Fund Budget to the Equipment Reserve Fund

Motion carried. The Equipment Reserve Plan and Capital Improvement Plan outline the proposed uses of these funds.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$107,891.45. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$14,698.94. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General: \$ 10,632.07  
Road & Bridge: \$ 737.19  
Reappraisal: \$ 79.77  
Ambulance: \$ 99.41  
Capital Improvement: \$ 3,150.50

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund request for an invoice to Rays Apple Market for the November/December MDT Meeting, in the amount of \$80.44. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve and authorize Chairman Barber to sign the Agreement for Fire Protection Services with the City of Herington for Fire District No. 11. The contract for fire protection is calculated by the district's annual assessed valuation and will be 3.151 mills for calendar year 2023, 3.151 mills for calendar year 2024 and 3.5 mills for calendar year 2025. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

--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**

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**Jim Barber, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

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**David L. Fox, Member**

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**Chelsey Schmidt  
Morris County Clerk**

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**Wayne Kohler, Member**