

December 7th, 2021

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, December 7th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Wayne Kohler, Jim Barber and David Fox were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Others present: Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, provided a report on the Appraiser's Office. Discussion was held regarding recent Board of Tax Appeals rulings in Scott County.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, provided a report on the Sheriff's Department. Chase County Detention Center has notified the sheriff that they will no longer be housing prisoners for Morris County. Chase County Detention Center receives more funding for housing federal prisoners and therefore will no longer be housing prisoners for Morris County. Sheriff Simecka has reached out to neighboring counties to contract housing for Morris County inmates.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the agreement with Dickinson County for the housing of Morris County inmates at the Dickinson County Jail in the amount of \$43.00 per inmate, per day. Motion carried.

Sheriff Simecka discussed the strain that prisoner transport creates for his officers and department. The sheriff's office has made a significant amount of arrests in 2021 compared to previous years and it is not anticipated that this trend will decline. Majority of the officer's time is spent transporting inmates to and from the jails and to and from court hearings. Transporting prisoners to and from Dickinson County Jail will now double the mileage and travel time compared to previously traveling to Chase County Detention Center. This takes away officers from performing regular patrolling and local law enforcement duties within the county. The county has been working on plans to remodel the sheriff's office and dispatch area with the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. Discussion was held regarding revising the design plans to provide building more jail space.

Sheriff Simecka has applied for a grant to assist with purchasing a K-9 Drug Detection Dog.

A quote from Motorola is being obtained for purchasing a Computer Aided Dispatch Program. Sheriff Simecka would like to purchase the program with the 911 Funds.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve giving permission to the Flint Hills RECA to burn in Morris County during the 2022 calendar year. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the invoice from Rays Apple Market for the November MDT meeting in the amount of \$50.99. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the request from the Morris County Attorney's Office to donate \$300.00 to the White City After Prom Party. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the request from the Morris County Attorney's Office to pay for a 4-night hotel stay for three sheriff deputies while attending a training, in the amount of \$1,488.59. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to accept the letter of resignation from John Lee to be effective December 31st, 2021. Motion carried.

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

Zach Snider visited with the commissioners regarding his employment at the Morris County Recycle Center. Jalen Thompkins was present for the discussion.

Brady Hedstrom, with BG Consultants, visited with the commissioners.

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

- Continue to stockpile and screen creek gravel
- Hauled creek gravel to Wilsey and Council Grove routes
- Hauled gravel to the Dwight routes
- Completed shoulder ditch work on 1000 Rd., C-D Ave.
- Continue to reinstall signs that have been run over and knocked down
- Cut brush and trees around the guardrails on the Lake Rd., 825 Rd. and 875 Rd.
- Patched up washout areas around several culverts
- MSHA inspected our screening site
- Met with Larry Schoof with Rawhide Rock Quarry and they lowered the price of rock \$1.00/ton
- Worked with County Counselor on the Road Maintenance Agreement with Schwartz Farms

Tom Moxley visited with the commissioners regarding upward trends over the years in the taxes levied and discussed the roads in his area of 200 Rd.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve issuing a check to Tyson Read in the amount of \$500.00 to finalize and close a pending liability insurance claim. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the November 30th, 2021 commission meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$96,350.29. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 49,377.55
Road & Bridge:	\$ 12,036.55
Reappraisal:	\$ 285.54
County Health:	\$ 5,062.00
Health Dept Flowthr:	\$ 1,706.00
Noxious Weed:	\$ 213.53
Ambulance:	\$ 4,562.00
Solid Waste:	\$ 1,062.08
Mental Health:	\$ 3,375.00
Hospital Maintenance:	\$ 5,624.00
Morris County 911:	\$ 951.04
Bridge Bonds 2020A	\$ 12,095.00

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

David L. Fox, Chairman

ATTEST:

Wayne Kohler, Member

**Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk**

Jim Barber, Member