

## **February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Jim Barber, David L. Fox and Wayne Kohler were present. Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, and Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, were present.

Attorney, Mike Montoya, gave a report on the Board of Tax Appeals final ruling regarding the City Lake Tax Appeals for 2014, 2015, and 2016. The original hearing was held in May of 2018. Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, was also present for the discussion.

The Council Grove Lake, is owned by the City of Council Grove. The various parcels of land surrounding the lake are subdivided into individual lots, which the City then leases to individuals under 30-year lease terms, with automatic 30-year renewals. The rental rate of the leases ranges from \$1,000 per year in 2012 to \$1,200 per year in 2014. The City protested tax year valuations for 2014, 2015, and 2016 suggesting that the value of the land should be based upon the contract lease amount of \$1,200.00 per year. The Board of Tax Appeals determined and again re-confirmed that the contract lease amount of \$1,200.00 per year was below market value and should not be used as a basis to value the land. The official ruling from the Board of Tax Appeals can be found on the Morris County Website at [morriscountyks.org](http://morriscountyks.org).

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to go into executive session pursuant to attorney client privilege to discuss pending litigation matters, for 25 minutes, with Bill Kassebaum, Ryan Michaelis, Chelsey Schmidt and Mike Montoya present. Motion carried.

The commission entered into executive session at 9:20 a.m.

The commission returned to open session at 9:45 a.m.

No action was taken.

Linda Johnson, Board of Directors President, Amanda Cunningham, Chief Executive Officer and Katie Jo Connor, Morris and Wabaunsee County Regional Manager, gave an annual report on Crosswinds Counseling and Wellness services provided in Morris County. A total of 189 residents of Morris County were served in calendar year 2022; 92 of those clients being high need children or adults meeting criteria for severe emotional disturbance and/or serious persistent mental illness. Behavioral health services are essential to healthy communities; the commissioners thanked CrossWinds Counseling and Wellness for the services they continue to provide to Morris County.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Solid Waste Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Solid Waste departments. A 1990 model yard truck with 6536 engine hours is on an upcoming Purple Wave Auction. The auction date is February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The current auction bid placed for the yard truck is \$4,000. The cost to purchase a brand-new yard truck is approximately \$147,000.00.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to authorize Travis Schweger to bid up to \$15,000.00 to purchase the 1990 model yard truck with 6536 engine hours on the upcoming Purple Wave Auction. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$104,106.39. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$78,963.15. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General: \$ 20,344.82  
Road & Bridge: \$ 12,696.19  
Bridge Bonds 2020A: \$ 45,922.14

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

- Creek gravel was hauled to 900 Rd. from U-V, 1500 Rd. from AA-CC, 1300 Rd. from CC-DD and 200 Rd. from T-U
- Air Capital rock (Delavan location) was hauled to H Ave. from 1900-2000, M Ave. from 1800-2000 and M Ave. from 2200-2400
- Treated chip seal roads with brine
- Fixed a hole in the approach to the box culvert on 1300 Rd. between CC-DD
- Trees/brush were cut on Y Ave. from 2500-2600, 1800 Rd. from Z-AA, X Ave. from 1450-1600, AA Ave. from 1800-1900 and CC Ave. from 2050-Diamond Creek Rd.
- Shoulder ditch work was done on 500 Rd. from DD Ave.- Kahola Rd.
- Safety meeting and MSHA training was held. Staff was given certificates earned for completing Defensive Driving courses. 3 employees were recognized by the Kansas Association of Counties for service and commitment to government in Kansas; 2 of the employees had 8 years of service and 1 employee had 16 years of service.

Commissioner Fox discussed the areas of 500 Rd. between H and G Ave., F Ave. between 500-600 Rd., and 300 Rd. between D and F Ave.; they are needing attention and more gravel.

One fuel bid was received for 4,000 gallons of winter blend clear diesel fuel and 4,000 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Diesel</u>	<u>Reg Unleaded</u>	<u>Total</u>
MFA Oil	3.4436/gal	2.7091/gal	\$24,610.80

*Agri Trails and Mid Kansas Coop passed on submitting bids.*

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the bid from MFA Oil as presented, in a total amount of \$24,610.80. Motion carried.

Lancer Scott and Larry Scott visited with the commissioners regarding rock that was recently placed on the roads in their area.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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**