

February 22nd, 2022

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Wayne Kohler, David Fox and Jim Barber were present. Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, was present.

Others present: Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Kevin Leeper, Morris County Hospital CEO, discussed potential housing/station locations for Morris County EMS.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, and Ben Moore discussed floor plan proposals for an expansion to the jail. The proposal is to approach the expansion in multiple phases; the sheriff office and dispatch remodel as phase one and the jail expansion as phase two.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve Ben Moore Studio, LLC. to design plans for the phase two- jail expansion. Funds are to be paid from the ARPA Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the contract with Ben Moore Studio, LLC. for the architectural and engineering designs for phase one- sheriff office and dispatch remodel, in the amount of \$83,400.00. Funds are to be paid from the ARPA Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the February 15th, 2022 commission meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the payroll as presented; in the amount of \$100,228.69. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the amount of \$16,404.31. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 14,658.23
Road & Bridge:	\$ 1,746.08

County Counselor, Bill Kassebaum, joined the commission meeting.

Chris Blackledge, County Emergency Manager, provided a report on emergency management. Last week, on Tuesday February 15th, 2022 the south west part of Morris County was affected by grass fires. The fires spread over an 11- mile span and burned approximately 7,000 acres. A total of 14 fire departments responded to the scene along with assistance from an airbus. One abandoned farm structure was reportedly damaged. All other damages incurred were haybales, grassland, fences, etc. The cause of the fires is being investigated by the State Fire Marshall.

Discussion was held regarding communication difficulties that were encountered during the grass fires and the need for an 800-radio system for county fire departments.

Chris Blackledge requested that the commission pass an emergency disaster declaration for the grass fires.

Discussion was held regarding motor-grader bids that were opened last week.

Nick Stringer with Foley CAT and Chris Crum with Murphy Tractor & Equipment, were present for the discussion.

The commissioners questioned whether or not the current motor-graders are in a condition of needing replaced vs keeping them for a few more years. Commissioner Barber stated that with the trade in value being minimal, that it may be in the county's best interest to keep the machines and try to use them longer. Jeff Falter and Shelly Lautt report that the two motor-graders that road and bridge currently have scheduled in the rotation for replacement are a 2008 and 2010; both have approximately 11,000 hours. Numerous repairs have already been done on the 2008 motor-grader. Nick Stringer and Chris Crum report that motor rebuilds are typically performed between 10,000-12,000 hours.

Jeff Falter recommended approval of one motor-grader from both Foley CAT and Murphy Tractor; along with the trade in value of the 6070D to Foley CAT and the 6070G to Murphy Tractor. This recommendation is based on the bids between the two machines (with add-ons) are approximately \$166.00 difference between the CAT and the John Deere. The proposed trade ins also maximize the total dollar amount for the 6070D and 6070G graders. He would also like to be able to run comparable data between the two graders.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the purchase of 2 motor-graders with trade-in values, in the amount of \$603,183.00. Motion carried. Funds are to be paid from the equipment reserve fund. The approved bids with trade in amounts are as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Grader</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Trade-In Value</u>
Foley	140	\$310,000.00	\$35,000.00 6070D

Add On-Rear Ripper \$19,000.00

Add On- Groomer \$8,500.00

Add On- Reverse Fan \$5,800.00

Total with Trade In: \$308,300.00

Murphy		\$50,000.00 6070G
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6070GP	\$320,933.00
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Add On- Rear Ripper \$17,500.00

Add On- Groomer \$6,450.00

Add On- Reverse Fan Standard

Total with Trade In: \$294,883.00

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

- Stockpiled Robidou creek gravel to G Ave., between 500-600
- Hauled gravel on 400 Rd. from Dunlap Rd. to AB Ave.
- Hauled gravel on 3000 Rd. between L and M Ave.
- Installed a culvert on county road at Oak St. and 6th St. in Dwight
- Performed culvert work on DD Ave. between 200-400

- Roads were brined for snow/ice removal
- Received notification that Governor Kelly declared the December 15th, 2021 severe storms and straight-line winds a FEMA disaster; President Biden approved the Kansas disaster declaration.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to authorize Shelly Lautt to sign the utility permit in Rural Water District No. 1 to bore under 975 D Ave. for Logan Zimmerman. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the KDOT K-177 Detour Route Agreement as presented. Motion carried.

County Counselor, Bill Kassebaum, left the commission meeting.

David Owen, Morris County EMS Director, discussed potential housing/station locations for Morris County EMS.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to recess the commission meeting to tour the Axe Industries Building. Motion carried.

The commission meeting was recessed at 2:15 p.m.

The commission meeting resumed at 2:55 p.m.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to adopt Resolution 2022-05, a proclamation declaring a state of local disaster emergency due to grass fires for Morris County, Kansas on February 15th, 2022. 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