

February 27th, 2024

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 27th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners David L. Fox and Wayne Kohler were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Others present: Billy Kryger- Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. The Transfer Station scale has been constructed. Dig Safe has not completed marking the utility lines, therefore, Ziegler Plumbing, Heating, Cooling and Electrical will not be able to start trenching until this coming Sunday. Travis Scale Company is to be coming to install the scale kiosk.

Discussion was held regarding the legislative forum that was held this past Saturday morning at the Dealership Building. State Senator Jeff Longbine and State Representative Nate Butler were present for the forum. Commissioner Kohler was in attendance.

Commissioners reviewed special assessment abatement requests. Per Resolution 2024-06, residential and commercial properties where the structure has been removed and no longer exists, or the structure is uninhabitable may have the special assessment landfill fee abated. Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, was present and provided the commissioners with information regarding the status of the properties that submitted abatement requests. Linda Eldridge, was present for the discussion.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the abatement of the special assessment residential landfill fee for Anna & Eric Baggett for the property located at 137 AA Ave. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the abatement of the special assessment residential landfill fee for John & Ruby Hertlein; ETAL for the property located at 1436 S 2100 Rd. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to deny the abatement of the special assessment residential landfill fee for Colt Hiebert for the property located at 1674 S 100 Rd. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to deny the abatement of the special assessment residential landfill fee for Mark & Patty Carson for the property located at 108 North Street in Latimer. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to deny the abatement of the special assessment residential landfill fee for Linda Eldridge for the property located at 1025 W Main St. in Council Grove. Motion carried.

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, gave a report on the county's appraised and assessed values. Value notices for 2024 will be mailed to all taxpayers on March 1st, 2024. The comparison from 2023 assessed values to 2024 assessed value estimates are as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Land:	26,149,899	25,387,180	- 3.0%
Buildings:	<u>43,387,713</u>	<u>45,663,551</u>	<u>+5.2%</u>
Total:	69,537,612	71,050,731	+2.2%
 *New Construction:	 3,012,902	 778,933	 - 74%

Further details were provided regarding specific classes within each category:

- Ag Land assessed values are down - 7.9%
- Ag Buildings assessed values are up + 5.0%
- Farm Land assessed values are up + 5.6%
- Farm Buildings assessed values are up + 7.6%
- Residential Land assessed values are up + 9.1%
- Residential Buildings assessed values are up + 5.3%
- Residential New Construction assessed values are up + 19.4%
- Commercial New Construction assessed values are down - 95%; majority of this value change is from Schwartz Hog Farm being completed

One sealed bid was received for the Sheriff's Office Sidewalk concrete work as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Base Bid (Sidewalks 1&2)</u>	<u>Alternate (Handrails)</u>	<u>Total</u>
K-Construction Inc	\$11,984.00	\$9,950.00	\$21,934.00

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, was present for the bid opening. Discussion was held regarding the progress of the remodel work.

Ben Moore attended the meeting via telephone.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve payroll liabilities in the amount of \$134,159.85. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$204,180.43. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 17,124.63
Road & Bridge:	\$ 72,527.77
Reappraisal:	\$ 331.67
Health Dept Flowthru:	\$ 2,399.00
Solid Waste:	\$ 280.65
Employee Benefits:	\$ 830.00
Morris County 911:	\$ 111.37
Equipment Reserve:	\$ 88,640.02
LATCF:	\$ 21,935.32

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the February 20th, 2024 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

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

- Routine maintenance on all blade routes was done across the county
- Air Capital Quarry (Delavan location) rock was hauled on V Ave. from 1900-2100, Q Ave. from 2200-2300, 1600 Rd. from R-T and Z Ave. from 1500-1600

- Rebuilding of 600 Rd. and H Ave., to new house driveway; placed Mid States Materials (Wilsey location) base rock on it and ran sheep's foot on it
- Closed B Ave. from 2400-2600 for box culvert replacement work; the old box was torn out and hauled off; the site was leveled and rock placed as a base for the new box structure
- Maintenance and repairs were done to equipment
- Took delivery of the box culvert from Welborn Sales
- Report of gravel stolen from the roadway and windrow and placed in a driveway entrance to dog kennels from nearby property owner; the report will be filed with the Morris County Sheriff's Office
- January 7-16th Winter Storm and Extreme Freeze Preliminary Cost Assessment is \$800,000.00 in damages to roads; the preliminary assessment will need to be submitted to the Morris County Emergency Manager and submitted to KDEM for possible FEMA Reimbursement
- Wooden box culvert failed on Helmick Rd. west of 1200 Rd.; there is currently a hole in the driving lane of the road with a cone placed over it to prevent a vehicle from falling in it; replacement work is being planned

Commissioner Kohler discussed the area of R Ave. and 2400-2500 Rd.

A recent elevator inspection was done at the courthouse. A deficiency was found regarding no emergency phone in the elevator. An emergency phone must be installed in the elevator and resolution of the deficiency submitted to the Office of the State Fire Marshall. Two quotes were obtained from TK Elevator Corporation as follows:

<u>Phone Type</u>	<u>Total</u>
• Max Link (Cellular connectivity)	\$3,649.12

Price includes emergency button and installation and cellular connectivity device. It will cost an additional \$55.00/month for the cellular connectivity.

• ADA Phone (Physical phone line)	\$1,815.67
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Price includes emergency button and installation. Will require TCT to run new phone line to the elevator. Price quotes obtained from TCT were approximately \$40.00 for running a new phone line and \$45.00/month for the additional phone line itself.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the quote from TK Elevator Corporation for the ADA Phone for the courthouse elevator in the amount of \$1,815.67. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the bid from K-Construction Inc for the Sheriff's Office Sidewalk concrete work and the ADA compliant handrails in the total amount of \$21,934.00. Funds are to be paid from the ARPA Fund. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 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