

## February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 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.

Others present: Gary Floyd, Billy Kryger- Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Discussion was held regarding the need for positive working relationships and communication between county departments.

Sealed bids for the lease of the County Hay Property were opened at 9:30 a.m. and are as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Shawn Tiffany	\$215.00 per year
Chris Brackenridge	\$300.00 per year

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to accept the bid from Chris Brackenridge for the County Hay Lease, in the amount of \$300.00 per year. Motion carried.

Kevin Leeper, Morris County Hospital CEO, presented financial reports and patient/service statistics for the 2023 calendar year. The 3D Mammography Machine is expected to be installed and operational towards the end of February. The purchase of the machine was fully funded by the Morris County Hospital Foundation.

Dillis Owen, county resident, visited with the commissioners regarding the re-setting of headstones in cemeteries throughout the county. The cemetery boards will be mailed a letter regarding further information about re-setting and re-leveling headstones.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$108,655.41. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$445,087.51. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 27,542.18
Road & Bridge:	\$ 132,348.80
Reappraisal:	\$ 339.65
Noxious Weed:	\$ 329.72
Ambulance:	\$ 489.73
Solid Waste:	\$ 17,000.28
Morris County 911:	\$ 955.58
Capital Improvement:	\$ 156,150.57
Equipment Reserve:	\$ 109,931.00

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. The steel decking for the Transfer Station scale arrived on Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Preventative maintenance will be done on the baler and other equipment for the Recycle Center.

Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer, visited with the commissioners regarding additional duct work to provide better temperature regulation to the lobby area of the Treasurer's Office. She will visit with KVK and report back to the commissioners.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund Request for an invoice to Sirchie for a certified compact scale for law enforcement, in the amount of \$714.20. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund Request for an invoice to Rays Apple Market for the January MDT Meeting, in the amount of \$135.43. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

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

- Mid States Materials Quarry (Wilsey location) base rock and Air Capital Quarry rock were placed on the detour route on K Ave. from 2100-2200
- Rawhide Quarry 2-inch clean rock was placed on Y Ave. from 150-200, 200 Rd. from U-V, 1700 Rd. from K-P, 3100 Rd. from CC-FF, J Ave. from 2900-3000 and V Ave. from 1500-1600
- Creek gravel was hauled to Z Ave. from 1600-1700
- Mid States Materials Quarry AB-3 rock was hauled to G Ave. from 1300-1400
- Harshman Quarry 2-inch clean rock was placed on Y Ave. from 150-200, Z Ave. from 200- Dunlap Rd., X Ave. from 400-525, J Ave. from 800-900, 800 Rd. from J-K, K Ave. from 800-900, 1600 Rd. from Q-U and stockpiled at the county shop
- Air Capital Quarry rock was hauled on 1000 Rd. from T-U
- All blades were dragging roads on their routes
- Hired Everett's Trucking and Yadon Construction to haul 2-inch clean rock from the Harshman Quarry in Eskridge
- Trees trimmed and brush cut on 250 Rd. from M-P, M Ave. from 100-Hwy 56, 400 Rd. from Dunlap-DD, 1700 Rd. from Parkerville-P, 2100 Rd. from T-U, Y Ave. from 1100-1400 and on the Four Mile blacktop roads
- Returned the rental dozer to Foley's in Manhattan
- Jeff Falter went to Wamego to look at trucks at Reed Company
- Winter storm impact letter was written and emailed to Sheriff Jay Simecka as instructed
- Responded to questions from the Council Grove Republican regarding the K-149 and K-4 detour routes
- The OS-41 Bridge located at J Ave. and 1050 was removed from the county bridge inventory by the State and is no longer classified as a bridge
- KDOT approved the estimates from BG Consultants for the HRRR Signage Project; the estimate was for 548 hours and a preliminary engineering fee of \$70,071.42

Kaw Valley Engineering provided preliminary construction cost estimates for the replacement of the OS-58 (Buchanan Bridge) and the OS-5 (Marstellar Bridge).

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve Kaw Valley Engineering to prepare design plans for the OS-5 (Marstellar Bridge) located on F Ave. over Lairds Creek. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve Kaw Valley Engineering to prepare design plans for the OS-58 (Buchanan Bridge) located on 575 Rd. over a tributary of Big John Creek. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber discussed the area of J Ave. between 2900-3000; Jeff Falter will contact the landowner to address their concerns.

Chris Blackledge, Morris County Emergency Manager, gave a report on Emergency Management. Discussion was held regarding the Emergency Manager job duties and expectations.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the quote from Stroda Plumbing for repairs to the courthouse jail plumbing in the amount of \$3,865.63. Funds are to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve Resolution No, 2024-06 to establish a special assessment abatement request committee to review and approve or deny special assessment abatement requests. Motion carried. The resolution will be published in the official county newspaper.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the January 30th, 2024 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 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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**David L. Fox, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

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**Wayne Kohler, Member**

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**Chelsey Schmidt  
Morris County Clerk**

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**Jim Barber, Member**