

February 7th, 2023

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 7th, 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.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund Request to pay an invoice to Rays Apple Market for the January MDT meeting in the amount of \$20.64. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund Request to pay an invoice to Pizza Hut for the January MDT meeting in the amount of \$136.51. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from January 31st, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, gave a report on the Sheriff's Office. Discussion was held regarding obtaining quotes for medical insurance for K9 Kimber. Morris County currently has an agreement in place with Rocking KM Veterinary Services to provide Kimber's routine examinations and vaccinations at no cost; however, this does not cover any further medical care or treatment that may be needed. Sheriff Simecka has obtained a quote from Nationwide for a major medical policy for Kimber in the amount of \$257.62 annually. No further policy details have been provided regarding coverage and deductible. The item was tabled. Sheriff Simecka will report back with further information once it is provided by Nationwide.

A quote from Bolton Chrysler Dodge Jeep was presented for a 2023 1500 SSV Crew Cab 4x4 Pickup Truck in the amount of \$45,000.00.

A quote from John North Ford was presented for a 2023 F-150 XL Pickup Truck in the amount of \$51,565.00.

A quote from General Motor's was presented for a 2023 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado Pickup Truck in the amount of \$57,570.00.

The Sheriff's Office would like to be on a yearly rotation to replace one vehicle of their fleet per year, over the next several years. The purchase of a new vehicle in 2023 would give the Sheriff's Office 2 spare vehicles that are used by part-time deputies and used as backups while other vehicles undergo routine maintenance or repairs. Commissioner Kohler asked about having any older vehicles to trade in. At this point in time, the Sheriff would like to keep the 2 older vehicles of the fleet to be used as backups.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the purchase of the 2023 1500 SSV Crew Cab 4x4 Pickup Truck from Bolton Chrysler Dodge Jeep in the amount of \$45,000.00. Funds are to be paid from the Equipment Reserve Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler discussed multiple reports from Dwight area residents of train cars sitting/blocking the crossings for extended periods of time; up to days at a time. The Sheriff's Office and County has no local authority to address this issue with the Railroad Companies.

Discussion was held regarding compensation for Deputy Alex Wooden for being the caretaker and handler of K9 Kimber. Additional compensation for K9 caretakers in other law enforcement

agencies varies and can be paid hourly or by a set rate in the form of a stipend. The item was tabled.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund Request to pay an invoice to GovDirect for the purchase of a Panasonic Toughbook to be used by the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$2,665.00. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Sheriff Simecka reported that the Sheriff's Office has been receiving numerous phone calls regarding a westbound speed limit sign towards the Lyon County line on Hwy 56; the sign shows the speed limit posted as 60 mph, rather than 65 mph. The information will be relayed to the Road and Bridge Department as KDOT will need to be notified.

The courthouse currently has no AED's on site. The County Clerk will be applying for grant funding to purchase 2 AED units for the courthouse; one would be located upstairs near the jail and dispatch; the other would be located downstairs.

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, gave a report on the Appraiser's Office. The appraiser has been saving funds for the purchase of a new vehicle for the past several years; a balance of \$45,000.00 has been transferred from the Reappraisal Fund to the Equipment Reserve Fund.

A quote from Bolton Chrysler Dodge Jeep was presented last week for a 2023 1500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4x4 Pickup Truck in the amount of \$45,000.00.

A quote from Bolton Chrysler Dodge Jeep was presented today for a 2021 Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 Pickup Truck in the amount of \$43,199.00. The truck has 238 miles. The warranty on the vehicle began September 17th of 2022.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the purchase of the 2023 1500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4x4 Pickup Truck from Bolton Chrysler Dodge Jeep in the amount of \$45,000.00. Funds are to be paid from the Equipment Reserve Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved that the commission meeting go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters for 10 minutes, with Ryan Michaelis, Bill Kassebaum and Chelsey Schmidt present. Motion carried.

The commission entered executive session at 10:32 a.m.

The commission returned to open session at 10:42 a.m.

No action was taken.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Solid Waste Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Solid Waste departments. Discussion was held regarding upcoming chemical purchases. Travis will be attending the KAC Annual Weed Director Conference the last week in February. Two bids were obtained for the purchase and removal of scrap metal at the transfer station and are as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Hess & Sons	\$115/ton	February 28, 2023
Wes Recycling Inc	\$110/ton	March 14 th , 2023

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the bid from Hess & Sons as presented. Motion carried.

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

- AB-3 rock from Mid States Materials (Skiddy) was placed on 2800 Rd. from F-G and on 2100 Rd. from C-D
- Rawhide Quarry 1 ½ inch rock was placed on 800 Rd. from G-H and on F Ave. from 900-1100
- US Stone (Delavan) rock was hauled to H Ave. from 600-700, 600 Rd. from G-H, 800 Rd. from H-K, F Ave. from 900-1100 and 1200 Rd. from T-U
- Mid States Materials (Wilsey) rock was put on 1400 Rd. from X-Y
- Mid States Materials (Wilsey) base rock was hauled to the White City Shop stockpile
- Signs were reinstalled across the county
- Cleaned up the White City mixing strip
- Cut brush on V Ave. from 2400-2500
- Received payment from KDOT for Hwy 177 Detour Road Maintenance in the amount of \$7,220.65
- Wildcat Construction installed the 911 signs along the Hwy 177 Project on January 3rd
- Heartland Title Company has requested that a portion of CC Road be added/mapped on GIS. Upon discussion with County Counsel, the Appraiser's Office will update on the GIS map
- Water bill reading for the county shops from January 3rd meter date was \$1,195.46. This coincides with the water leak that occurred around that time.

Commissioner Barber discussed the areas of:

- J Ave. ¼ mile east of 177 Hwy; needs more gravel
- 3000 Rd., north of L Ave.; has drainage issues that need attention
- 1800 Rd. 100 yards north of Hwy 4; "stop ahead" sign is missing

Commissioner Fox discussed the area of 500 Rd. between Q-R Ave.; has drainage issues that need attention

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$100,156.21. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$1,111,878.86. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 163,429.68
Road & Bridge:	\$ 22,114.03
Reappraisal:	\$ 219.75
Health:	\$ 80,000.00
Noxious Weed:	\$ 283.57
Ambulance:	\$ 150,933.13
Solid Waste:	\$ 1,549.26
Mental Health:	\$ 45,500.00
Hospital Maintenance:	\$ 112,000.00
Morris County 911:	\$ 956.18
Bridge Bonds 2020A:	\$ 534,893.26

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

Jim Barber, Chairman

ATTEST:

David L. Fox, Member

Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk

Wayne Kohler, Member