

February 8th 2022

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, February 8th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Wayne Kohler, David Fox and Jim Barber were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Laura Viar, County Attorney, gave a report on the Attorney's Office. There has been a significant increase in the amount of arrests and criminal cases that are being prosecuted over the past year. Over half of the cases in 2021 were drug related felonies. In conjunction with the drug related felonies there has also been a significant increase in the *child in need of care* cases already for 2022.

Zoey Bond, with the Morris County Chamber of Commerce, discussed services that the chamber provides. The chamber has discussed changing the association's name to better represent the services provided. They would like to change their name to the Council Grove Area Trade and Tourism Association. A presentation was given over future marketing ideas and plans for the Morris County area.

Darrell Miller visited with the commissioners and provided an update on the status of filling the magistrate judge position for the 8th Judicial District.

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, gave a report on the Appraiser's Office.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. The LED lighting has been installed at the recycle center.

Commissioner Kohler discussed the recent salary increase that was approved for the County Health Officer position. The salary for the County Health Officer was increased from \$200.00 per month to \$600.00 per month. Commissioner Kohler suggested issuing a retroactive payment to Dr. Frese for his previous 6 months of service as County Health Officer.

Commissioner Barber discussed re-evaluating the salary after the Covid-19 pandemic subsidies and returning to the original amount of \$200.00 per month.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve a retroactive payment of \$2,400.00 (\$400.00 per month for the past 6 months) to Dr. Frese for compensation for his service as County Health Officer. Funds are to be paid from the ARPA Fund. Motion carried.

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

- Hauled gravel to Kelso Rd. and Lake Rd.
- New speed limit signs and stop signs have been installed on the Kelso Rd.
- Cleared snow on county roads; the winds had drifted many roads closed
- Installed culvert at 2800 Rd. and BB Ave.
- KDHE inspection on the underground storage facility was completed
- K-Construction is preparing an estimate for the truck shed repair
- Gravel permit for the Robidou Creek Gravel site was approved by the state

Three sealed bids were opened for a mini-x and are as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Trade-In Value</u>	<u>Total</u>
CAT	\$95,641.00	\$40,000.00	\$55,641.00

Victor L Phillips	\$77,864.00	\$39,500.00	\$38,364.00
John Deere	\$85,300.00	\$37,500.00	\$47,800.00

All bids include a 60 month/300-hour warranty and have an estimated availability of approximately 120 days. The bids will be reviewed further and discussed at next week's meeting. Those present for the bid opening were Fred Coble with Foley CAT and Andrew Schrader with Victor L Phillips.

The commissioners visited with Brady Hedstrom, with BG Consultants, via telephone regarding completing an inventory inspection on the Comp Bridge.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to authorize Shelly Lautt to sign the inventory inspection of the Comp Bridge, if needed, with BG Consultants. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber discussed a box culvert on Kelso Rd., one mile north of the asphalt, that has erosion issues.

Commissioner Barber discussed a culvert that was removed on 2400 Rd. and P Ave. going east.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve continuing reimbursement for an additional contact tracer for the Morris County Health Department through the end of February 2022. Funds are to be paid from the ARPA Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the February 1st, 2022 commission meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve payroll as presented; in the total amount of \$94,669.89. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$29,258.51. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 12,463.79
Road & Bridge:	\$ 8,088.05
Reappraisal:	\$ 267.31
Noxious Weed:	\$ 109.72
Solid Waste:	\$ 972.39
Morris County 911:	\$ 951.04
Capital Improvement:	\$ 6,406.21

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 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