

January 10th, 2023

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 10th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Wayne Kohler, Jim Barber and David L. Fox were present. Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, and Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, were present.

Sean Honer visited with the commissioners regarding the Hooptie-X race track. The track is located on county property near the fairgrounds. Hooptie-X would like to hold another race this year during Memorial Day weekend.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the use of county property for the Hooptie-X race track and event, to be held over Memorial Day weekend. Motion carried.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Solid Waste Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Solid Waste departments. Repairs and routine servicing are being done to the forklift; a new starter was also installed.

The commissioners discussed attending the public open forum on Saturday, January 14th at 9:00 a.m. at the Council Grove United Methodist Church to answer questions from the public regarding county business.

During the December 27th commission meeting authorization was given to the County Clerk to determine and make year-end budget transfers for 2022. The following 2022 year-end budget transfers were made:

- Transfer \$600,000 from the Road & Bridge Fund to the Equipment Reserve Fund
- Transfer \$100,000 from the Road & Bridge Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund
- Transfer \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund
- Transfer \$ 50,000 from the General Fund to the Equipment Reserve Fund
- Transfer \$ 25,000 from the Reappraisal Fund to the Equipment Reserve Fund for the future purchase of a vehicle

The commissioners reorganized for the year. Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to elect Commissioner Barber to serve as Chairman for 2023. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to elect Commissioner Fox to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2023. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to designate the Council Grove Republican as the county's official newspaper for 2023. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to designate all banks in the county and the State Municipal Investment Pool to serve as depositories for county funds for year 2023. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to make the following appointments for county representation for 2023. Motion carried.

- Commissioner Fox - Flint Hills Regional Council
Chamber of Commerce/Tourism
- Commissioner Kohler - Greater Morris County Development Corporation
Morris County Hospital

LEPC

- Commissioner Barber- North Central Kansas Juvenile Detention Facility
Community Corrections Advisory Board
Twin Lakes WRAPS

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from January 3rd, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the revisions/updates to the Morris County Public Transportation Title VI Plan, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$101,296.30. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$223,491.93. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 158,389.56
Road & Bridge:	\$ 31,772.00
Reappraisal:	\$ 211.72
Noxious Weed:	\$ 384.47
Ambulance:	\$ 345.75
Solid Waste:	\$ 1,899.25
Employee Benefits:	\$ 29,533.00
Morris County 911:	\$ 956.18

Commissioner Fox did not attend the afternoon session.

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

- Fixed another waterline break on the county grounds between the old shop and recycling center building
- Stockpiled Mid States Materials Quarry gravel from the Wilsey location at the county shop
- Mid States Materials Quarry gravel from the Wilsey location was placed on 2800 Rd. from BB-DD, AA Ave. from 2900-3000, 2900 Rd. from AA-BB and 3100 Rd. from CC-DD
- Culvert work was done on K Ave. between 2300-2400; Mid States Materials base rock was placed over it
- Rawhide Quarry gravel was put on D Ave. from 1300-1400

Bob Hay had previously visited with Commissioner Fox expressing concerns that the Canning Creek Bridge is too narrow. Discussion was held.

Jeff Blosser with Wildcat Construction has reported that he has a set of 9-1-1 signs being made to go on top of the stop signs along Hwy 177. They hope to have them done this week and put them up by next week.

The waterline engineering proposal with Schwab-Eaton was signed and returned. Schwab-Eaton will be out next week to start marking the current waterlines.

Linda Eldridge, Morris County Treasurer, presented the quarterly financial report.

Department Head Meeting was held at 2:00 p.m.

Those present were: Travis Schweger, Corrine Blosser, Linda Eldridge, Jeff Falter, Shelly Lautt, Bill Kassebaum, Chelsey Schmidt, and Ryan Michaelis.

Items discussed:

- All employees will be receiving an end of the year recap report. The report will show the employee's salaries, benefits, and leave balances for the 2022 year.
- Bill Halvorsen is the new Morris County Attorney. He is the County Attorney for Chase County as well. Mr. Halvorsen will be here at the Morris County Courthouse 3 days per week. Chase County currently has court on Fridays; therefore, he will not be here on Fridays.
- Construction for the Sheriff's Office and Dispatch Remodel/Addition will begin in sometime in the next few weeks.
- The new accounting structure for each department's budget was discussed and reviewed.
- Commissioners reminded department heads to try to purchase local as much as possible.

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