

## January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 16<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

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, gave a report on the Sheriff's Office and Dispatch Remodel Project. The proposal to add parking along the north side of the courthouse and sheriff's office has been discussed with KDOT and the City of Council Grove. Further discussion will be held as preliminary drawings are finalized.

Chris Blackledge, Emergency Manager, gave a report on Emergency Management. Morris County's Hazmat Mitigation Plan for Region 1 was issued in 2016 and will be expiring. It is recommended for the County to renew participation with surrounding counties and the Region 1 Hazmat Mitigation Plan. Participation costs are pro-rated according to each county's size and population; Morris County's participation cost would be \$1,107.00.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve Morris County to participate in the Region 1 County Hazmat Mitigation Plan with a participation cost of \$1,107.00 to be paid to Riley County Emergency Management. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding emergency plans for warming stations and other disaster related staging locations within Morris County.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-05, declaring a Snow Emergency in Morris County, Kansas. The snow emergency declaration is to begin on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and will be in effect for seven days; the resolution may be extended if needed. Motion carried.

Dave Owen, Morris County EMS Director, gave a report on Morris County EMS and presented the following run statistics for the month of December:

Ambulance calls:	58
Transfers from MCH to other hospitals:	18
Total number of runs:	76
<i>North County:</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>South County:</i>	<i>52</i>
Year to date total runs:	794

Discussion was held regarding the increasing costs to purchase ambulances and EMS equipment. The current cost to purchase a new ambulance is between \$380,000-\$410,000. The current cost to re-mount an existing EMS Box onto a new chassis would be approximately \$70,000 less than the purchase of a new ambulance. There is currently a two-year waiting list for agencies requesting the ambulance box re-mount. Morris County EMS is scheduled to have a new ambulance arrive in 2025; the purchase was approved in 2023 and will cost \$328,278.54. Further discussion will be held regarding the re-mount option for future ambulance needs.

Discussion was held regarding potential items that may be added to the Equipment Reserve Plan or Capital Improvement Plan. Items discussed were a back-up generator for the EMS Station; a radio intercom system for the EMS Station and "Tuff Books" for patient care reporting.

Commissioner Barber discussed an EMS Crew being stationed at White City, with the possibility to have an addition to the White City Fire Department for EMS. No action was taken. Further data will need to be obtained regarding call volumes within the County.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. The arrival date of the Transfer Station Scale is still unknown due to the current weather. The John Deere Loader is not working; parts have been ordered. Discussion was held regarding unauthorized personal use of county property.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the annual membership with Big Lakes Regional Household Hazardous Waste. The membership fee of \$2,944.00 is based off of county size and population. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers from the week of January 9<sup>th</sup> as presented; in the total amount of \$321,471.35. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 248,598.81
Road & Bridge:	\$ 7,413.34
Reappraisal:	\$ 9,477.37
Noxious Weed:	\$ 1,025.40
Ambulance:	\$ 337.72
Solid Waste:	\$ 2,875.13
Employee Benefits:	\$ 29,268.00
Morris County 911:	\$ 22,475.58

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers for the week of January 16<sup>th</sup> as presented; in the total amount of \$15,922.78. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 9,104.33
Road & Bridge:	\$ 626.53
Health Dept Flowthru:	\$ 6,027.00
Noxious Weed:	\$ 7.65
Solid Waste:	\$ 45.90
Morris County 911:	\$ 111.37

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll for the week of January 9<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$109,871.66 and payroll liabilities for the week of January 16<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$46,771.95. Motion carried.

Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer, presented quarterly financial reports.

The commissioners reorganized for the year. Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to elect Commissioner Fox to serve as Chairman for 2024. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to elect Commissioner Kohler to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2024. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to designate the Council Grove Republican as the county's official newspaper for 2024. Motion carried.

Public Transportation:	SFY2022 Grant Match; 1 Ramp Accessible Mini-Van	\$ 8,500
	SFY2023 Grant Match; 2 Ramp Accessible Mini-Vans	\$ 24,600

Road & Bridge:	John Deere Loader- Lease Payment #2	\$ 42,976
	2 Plow Spreader Trucks	\$470,000
Recycle Center:	Horizontal Baler/Building Alterations (Apply for Grant Funding)	\$100,000
<b><u>2025</u></b>		
EMS:	New Ambulance Purchase	\$325,000
Sheriff's Office:	New Truck Purchase & Retrofit Costs	\$ 60,000
Road & Bridge:	John Deere Loader- Lease Payment #3	\$ 42,976
	John Deere Loader- Buyout Option	\$132,312
	Motor Grader Purchase/Rebuild	\$225,000

Commissioners reviewed additional information for the county's 2024 budget that will be published on the county website.

Shelly Lautt and Jeff Falter gave the following road and bridge report for the week of Jan.1-5:

- Air Capital Quarry rock was placed on 2800 Rd. from CC-FF
- Shoulder and ditch work was done on K Ave. from 2100-2200 to rebuild the road; the sheep's foot was used on it as well; Mid States Materials Quarry (Wilsey location) base rock and Air Capital Quarry rock were used to finish up the rebuild. This will be the future detour route for the KDOT Hwy 4 bridge closure.
- Ditch liner and rip-rap were used on B Ave. from 1800-1900 to repair a washout around culvert pipes
- Mid States Materials Quarry (Wilsey location) base rock was hauled to CC Ave. from 2600-2700, AA Ave. from 1600-1700, G Ave. from 1100-1175, H Ave. from 800-900 and H Ave. from 300-500
- Creek gravel was placed on Helmick Rd. from 1200-1400
- Replaced a culvert on 2800 Rd. between C-D
- Routine sign maintenance was done across the county; sign at 2600 Rd. and Hwy 56 was fixed
- Burned brush piles at 1800 Rd. and C Ave. and at 2800 Rd. and G Ave.
- Snow removal from the blacktops was done on January 5<sup>th</sup>
- Checked pumping route for Swartz Farms
- Jeff met with Commissioner Barber, Commissioner Fox and Travis to discuss the Transfer Station scale site

Shelly Lautt and Jeff Falter gave the following road and bridge report for the week of Jan. 8-12:

- Worked to clear snow from 925 miles of roads; 825 miles of gravel and 75 miles of chip seal
- Declared County Snow Emergency
- Hired outside help from Yadon Construction, Paige Excavating and Land Management, and Edwards Construction to assist in clearing roads
- Fielded calls and requests from county residents
- Assisted Morris County Hospital in treating the ice on the parking lots
- Sent out bids for fuel; no bids received due to weather conditions and driver availability
- Filed MSHA Quarterly Report

Misc. Info:

- Jan. 10- 11:30 a.m. – spread brine on Morris County Hospital parking lots
- Jan. 11- ordered rental dozer from Foley
- Jan. 12- 9:28 a.m. – hired Yadon Construction to help clear roads
- Jan. 12- 11:00 a.m. – hired Paige Excavating and Land Management to help clear roads
- Jan. 12- 2:00 p.m. – dozer rental from Foley arrived
- Jan. 13- -- Yadon Construction running a second loader
- Jan. 15- -- hired Edwards Construction to help clear roads
- The road and bridge department fielded over 144 phone calls from January 9<sup>th</sup> to January 16<sup>th</sup>; calls varied from individuals stuck/stranded in snow drifts, individuals on hospice needing family access to the home, individuals needing cancer medications delivered, law enforcement and emergency services vehicles needing assistance, reports of roadways drifted closed, etc.

All suppliers refused bids for the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>. A request for bids was re-submitted on January 15<sup>th</sup>. One fuel bid was received for 5,500 gallons of winter blend clear diesel fuel and 2,500 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Diesel</u>	<u>Reg Unleaded</u>	<u>Total</u>
MFA Oil	2.8705/gal	2.0739/gal	\$20,972.50

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the fuel bid from MFA Oil as presented, in the total amount of \$20,972.50. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to recess the meeting and appoint the commission to act as the Morris County HRRR Selection Committee for the Signage Project 064-C-5260-01 (for the eastern half of the county). Motion carried.

BG Consultants was the only firm, out of the original three “short list” applicants, to respond with information for the selection process. BG Consultant’s application was reviewed and scored by the Morris County HRRR Selection Committee.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to adjourn as the Morris County HRRR Selection Committee and to reconvene as the Morris County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried.

An agreement with KDOT for the HRRR Signage Project was reviewed. Per the agreement, the Kansas Department of Transportation will be responsible for 100% of the participating costs for the project’s preliminary engineering, construction and construction engineering; Morris County will be responsible for 100% of the participating costs for obtaining right-of-way and utility adjustments.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the agreement with KDOT for the Morris County HRRR Signage Project, as presented. Motion carried.

An agreement with KDOT for the OS-34 Bridge Project (located on K Ave. between 2000-2100 Rd.) was reviewed. Per the agreement, the bridge project has been selected as part of the Federal-Aid Off System Bridge Program and the Kansas Department of Transportation will be responsible for 100% of the participating costs for the project’s construction engineering and construction, not to exceed \$750,000.00; Morris County will be responsible for 100% of the participating costs for construction engineering and construction after the state’s funding limit is reached. Morris County will additionally be responsible for 100% of the participating costs for preliminary engineering, obtaining right-of-way and utility adjustments.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the agreement with KDOT for the Morris County OS-34 Bridge Project, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve and authorize Jeff Falter to sign the utility permit for Rural Water District No. 1 to bore beneath 1175 Rd. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters for 10 minutes, with Bill Kassebaum and Chelsey Schmidt present. Motion carried.

The commission entered executive session at 2:50 p.m.

The commission returned to open session at 3:00 p.m.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the minutes from the January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 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**