

## **January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</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

Corrine Blosser, Register of Deeds, discussed courthouse maintenance.

The county will be accepting sealed bids for the lease of the County Hay Property. Notice of the bid opening was mailed to adjacent land owners. Sealed bids will be opened during the commissioners meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. The term of the Lease Agreement shall be for the period of March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2027. The Lease Agreement will grant the right to mow, bale and take all hay, grass, or other plant life growing naturally on the strip of county-owned property described as follows:

The land located west of the county road running north and south between Sections 28 and 29, Township 16, Range 6, in the northwest corner of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section 28, Township 16, Range 6, in Morris County, Kansas, in the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. The tract contains approximately five (5) acres.

Jon Sawyer visited with the commissioners.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

2023 budget and expense reports for the county were reviewed.

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

- Worked to clear and re-clear snow from 925 miles of roads; 825 miles of gravel and 75 miles of chip seal
- Hired outside help from Yadon Construction, Paige Excavating and Land Management and Edwards Construction to assist in clearing and widening the roadways
- Fielded calls and requests from county residents
- Removed stuck and abandoned vehicles from county roadways
- Trucks helped plow on chip seal roads
- Built and repaired tire chains for equipment to get around in the snow
- HRRR Signage Project letters were sent out
- Signed contracts and returned to KDOT for the HRRR Signage Project and the OS-34 Small Bridge Project
- Oil leak from an oil tank battery was found running down the ditch at 2700 Rd. and X Ave.; Hett Oil & Gas of Lincolnville is in charge of the wells; Contacted Tony Hett who reported that he has notified the state of the spill and they are to be removing the dirt/sludge from the ditch

Discussion was held regarding the Morris County Snow Emergency Declaration. Governor Laura Kelly declared a verbal Snow Emergency on January 8<sup>th</sup>. No further information has been received.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved that the commission go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters for 10 minutes; with Chelsey Schmidt, Bill Kassebaum, Jeff Falter and Shelly Lautt present. Motion carried.

The commission entered executive session at 2:01 p.m.

The commission returned to open session at 2:11 p.m.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved that the commission go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters for 5 minutes; with Chelsey Schmidt, Bill Kassebaum, Jeff Falter and Shelly Lautt present. Motion carried.

The commission entered executive session at 2:12 p.m.

The commission returned to open session at 2:17 p.m.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to renew and extend Resolution No. 2024-05 Declaring a Snow Emergency in Morris County, Kansas. The emergency declaration will be extended for a period of 7 days; January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion carried.

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 is expected to arrive next week.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$126,913.56. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$565,777.18. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 144,165.96
Road & Bridge:	\$ 6,518.67
Special Bridge:	\$ 1,200.64
Reappraisal:	\$ 290.02
Health:	\$ 90,000.00
Noxious Weed:	\$ 375.00
Ambulance:	\$ 127,600.00
Solid Waste:	\$ 827.89
Mental Health:	\$ 47,500.00
Hospital Maintenance	\$ 120,000.00
Morris County 911:	\$ 149.00
Bond & Interest:	\$ 27,150.00

The commission reviewed the Morris County General Public Transportation Title VI Plan.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the Morris County General Public Transportation Title VI Plan, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve a letter of support for the Greater Morris County Development Corporation to be accepted into the Flint Hills Regional Leadership Program. 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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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**