

January 2nd, 2024

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 2nd, 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, Billy Kryger- Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2024-01 setting salaries and county holidays for 2024. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2024-02 authorizing the county to waive the requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) for the year ended December 31, 2023. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2024-03 pertaining to the county's participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) Student Loan Repayment Program. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to appoint Dr. Sydnee Nelson as the Secondary Morris County Special Deputy Coroner and to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Morris County and Sydnee Nelson for Special Deputy Coroner, as presented. Sydnee Nelson will provide Special Deputy Coroner coverage for Morris County when Dr. John Price is unavailable. Motion carried.

Commissioners reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan and use of funds in 2023. Discussion was held regarding purchases that have been approved and encumbered for calendar year 2024, 2025 and 2026.

Commissioners reviewed the Equipment Reserve Plan and use of funds in 2023. Discussion was held regarding purchases that have been approved and encumbered for calendar year 2024 and 2025.

Kevin Leeper, Morris County Hospital CEO, gave a report on the hospital. Financial reports were presented and reviewed. Pulmonary rehab services are anticipated to start later this month.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. The new roll-up door has been installed at the Transfer Station; the previous door was damaged by Hamm's; the invoice will be submitted to KCAMP, the county's insurance provider. The master cylinder is not working correctly on the forklift. Discussion was held regarding possibly allowing 24/7 public access to the "north yard" of the Transfer Station.

Zach Krause with KVK Inc. visited with the commissioners regarding the environmental inspection that was done on the courthouse. Discussion was held about potential options to address mold, condensation, and the re-wrapping of the heating and cooling pipes. Further discussion will be held.

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

- Air Capital Quarry rock was placed on X Ave. from 2100-2200, 1900 Rd. from U-X, 1700 Rd. from Parkerville to L Ave., 1300 Rd. from T-U and H Ave. from 2500-2600

- Mid States Materials Quarry (Wilsey location) rock was placed on 3100 Rd. from CC-DD
- Routine sign maintenance was done across the county
- Weed eating around signs and box culverts was done on C Ave. from 1900-2100, 2700 Rd. from F-Q, 2400 Rd. from G-Q, 2600 Rd. from G-Q and 2800 Rd. from G. Ave- Hwy 56
- Fixed washout hole in the road on 3100 Rd. between CC-DD
- Brush was piled at F Ave. between 2000-2100 and G Ave. between 2700-2800
- Removed a tree from the roadway on B Ave. between 2500-2600
- Maintenance and repair work was done on equipment
- The County Snow Policy was published in both the Council Grove Republican and the Prairie Post
- Used grader that was purchased from Foley was delivered on December 28th
- Discussion was held regarding dirt work that will be done at the Transfer Station for the installation of the scale

Commissioner Barber discussed a sign that is missing at 1800 Rd. and Hwy 4.

Commissioner Kohler discussed a call he received regarding Helmick Rd.; he drove the road and found no concerns.

Commissioner Fox discussed the Kelso Rd., specifically the mile of road south of Kelso; it needs attention.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$257,847.31. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 10,927.21
Road & Bridge:	\$ 217,899.50
Noxious Weed:	\$ 13,974.40
Ambulance:	\$ 312.93
Solid Waste:	\$ 337.81
Capital Improvement:	\$ 14,395.46

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll liabilities in the amount of \$132,514.66. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the December 26th, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve 2024 annual membership dues to the Flint Hills Regional Council, Inc. in the amount of \$2,105.10; this is the same amount as 2023 membership dues. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the 2024 annual premium for work comp insurance submitted by KWORCC as presented, in the amount of \$29,268.00; this is a \$265.00 decrease from the 2023 premium. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the 2024 annual premium for property and liability insurance submitted by KCAMP as presented, in the amount of \$137,842.00; this is a 24% increase from the annual premium for 2023. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 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