

January 30th, 2024

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 30th, 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 (Barber) moved that the commission go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters for 15 minutes; with Chelsey Schmidt, Bill Kassebaum, Jeff Falter and Shelly Lautt present. Motion carried.

The commission entered executive session at 9:02 a.m.

The commission returned to open session at 9:17 a.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 9:18 a.m.

The commission returned to open session at 9:23 a.m.

No action was taken.

Governor Laura Kelly issued a State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation on January 8th, 2024 due to the severe weather, heavy snowfall, excessive winds, low temperatures and windchills the state experienced between January 7th – January 21st, 2024.

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, visited with the commissioners regarding Resolution No. 2024-04 to make dormant 20-year-old personal property tax warrants. The resolution that was passed on January 9th, 2024 encompasses oil leases and oil royalties, as they are considered personal property as well.

Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer, updated bank signature cards for authorized signers.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, and Ben Moore with Moore Design LLC visited with the commissioners regarding the sheriff's office remodel progress. Discussion was held regarding finalizing the parking lot drawings. Discussion was held regarding the completion date of the project.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the recommendation from Ben Moore to extend the working days with Evergreen Design Build LLC for completion of the Sheriff's Office Addition and Remodel Project; 66 calendar days will be added to the allowed working days in the contract with Evergreen Design Build LLC. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to authorize Ben Moore to prepare bid specifications for three separate bids: (1) for the sidewalk, (1) for the stairways and (1) for the parking lot along north main street. Bids will be opened on February 20th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the commissioner's meeting room. Motion carried.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. The roll up door at the Wilsey recycle drop off has

been damaged. It appears that a vehicle backed into the building; damages are minor. The steel decking for the Transfer Station scale is expected to arrive this Thursday, February 1st.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters for 15 minutes with Chelsey Schmidt, Travis Schweger and Bill Kassebaum present. Motion carried.

The commission entered executive session at 11:17 a.m.

The commission returned to open session at 11:32 a.m.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the January 23rd, 2024 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund Request for a donation to Chapter JN P.E.O. for the Annual Daddy Daughter Date Night, in the amount of \$500.00. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

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

- Continued work to clear and widen snow from county roads with blades and loaders
- Put brine down on chip seal roads and helped blade snow off of roadways
- Put up barricades to close DD Ave. from Hwy 177 to 1400 Rd.
- Fielded calls and requests from county residents
- Built, repaired and put tire chains on equipment to get around in the snow
- FEMA declaration declared by Governor Kelly for snow storm; started the paperwork that this initiates
- The Skiddy Rd. and B Ave. box culvert is estimated to be delivered mid to late February

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the proposal from BG Consultants for 548 project hours required to complete the HRRR Signage Project for the eastern half of the county. Motion carried. The proposal will be submitted to KDOT for review.

Yadon Construction and Everett's Trucking have been hired to haul rock. The only road rock currently available is located at the Harshman Quarry in Eskridge.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve and sign a letter to confirm that authorization was given to the Road & Bridge Department to hire private contractors during the recent snow emergency to assist the county in managing the drifted county roads. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the purchase of two used International truck tractors from Reed CO LLC in Wamego, Kansas as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2018	402,190	\$35,000.00
2018	516,474	\$35,500.00

The total amount of \$70,500.00 is to be paid from the Equipment Reserve Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the purchase of a 2008 used bottom dump trailer from Chuck Henry Sales in the amount of \$28,850.00. Funds are to be paid from the Equipment Reserve Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler discussed receiving concerns from patrons about 1400 Rd. south of Hwy 56.

Commissioner Fox discussed the area of 3100 Rd. and DD and FF Ave.

Commissioner Fox discussed the installation of guard railing on the box culvert on 300 Rd. between P-Q Ave.

Commissioner Fox discussed drainage issues that will need to be addressed on P Ave. near Old Hwy 4.

Diana Jost visited with the commissioners and road department regarding 2600 Rd.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve payroll liabilities in the amount of \$141,116.02. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$99,992.78. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 7,805.99
Road & Bridge:	\$ 55,581.13
Reappraisal:	\$ 4,328.63
Ambulance:	\$ 636.14
Solid Waste:	\$ 31,640.89

Scott Stroda, with Stroda Plumbing, attended the commission meeting via telephone. Discussion was held regarding repairs that are needed in the courthouse and jail area. A quote will be presented for the commissioners to review at next week's meeting.

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

The commission entered executive session at 3:01 p.m.

The commission returned to open session at 3:11 p.m.

No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

--Meeting minutes can also be found on the county website: www.morriscountyks.org

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS

David L. Fox, Chairman

ATTEST:

Wayne Kohler, Member

Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk

Jim Barber, Member

