

July 20th, 2021

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, July 20th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Wayne Kohler, Jim Barber and David Fox were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Others present: Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Cindy Jensen, CPA, presented the 2020 County Audit Report. It was a "clean audit." Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the 2020 County Audit as presented. Motion carried.

Stephanie Heersink discussed low water crossings on 400 Rd. and 500 Rd. between F and D Ave.

Shandi Andres, with the K-State Extension Office, discussed management needs for the Morris County Fair Building. Karen Allen, the current manager for the fair building, would like to retire at the end of October 2021. The K-State Extension Office would be willing to manage the event scheduling. Discussion was held regarding hiring or contracting cleaning and maintenance services for the building. Item was tabled.

Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer, presented the 2022 budget request for the Treasurer's Office.

Corrine Blosser, Register of Deeds, presented the 2022 budget request for the Register of Deed's Office.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, presented the 2022 budget request for the Sheriff's Office, Jail, and Dispatch.

Discussion was held regarding developing future plans for a Morris County Canine Program.

Commissioner Kohler expressed concerns regarding trains blocking railway crossings for prolonged periods of time. This has been discussed numerous different times in the past. Sheriff Simecka reported that there are currently no laws in place that would allow any action or enforcement to be taken against the railroad companies for blocking these crossings.

Shelly Lautt, County Road Assistant, gave the following weekly road and bridge report: (Jeff Blosser, County Road Engineer, attended via telephone)

- Removing and screening creek gravel
- Brush pile at Comp Bridge was moved and burnt
- Hauled gravel to G Ave. from 300-500, 300 Rd. from G-H Ave., 1800 Rd. from K-I Ave., 2000 Rd. from J-K Ave., K Ave. from 1900-2000 Rd.
- Received grader tires and installed on multiple machines
- K-177 Hwy project bid will let tomorrow
- Patching work will start around August 12th
- Chip seal work will start approximately September 1st

Commissioner Kohler discussed receiving several reports about the significant wait times to access the transfer station.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve 2100 Rd. from J Ave. to K Ave. to be removed from the minimum maintenance road list. It will now be considered an open roadway and maintained as such. Motion carried.

Carol Miller discussed a culvert at 1700 Rd. and U Ave. The culvert is located on a minimum maintenance road and has "Santa Fe Trail" and "Pan American Highway" engraved into the side. Possible options to preserve, restore, or relocate the culvert were discussed.

Ben Barr attended the meeting via telephone. A request was made for mowing to be done around a curve at the intersection of Z Ave. and 1900 Rd., in the northwest corner. Discussion was held regarding a culvert located on DD Ave. going west off of Diamond Creek Rd. A request was made to consider closing the road or removing the culvert. The area will be inspected by the road and bridge department and the items will be revisited.

Future road detour plans for the area of K Ave. and 800 Rd. were discussed.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the July 13th, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$37,991.19. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General Fund:	\$ 2,229.79
Road & Bridge:	\$ 17,318.86
Solid Waste:	\$ 18,097.54
Morris County 911:	\$ 345.00

Commissioners reviewed the draft of the Kansas Legislative Post Audit of CTCL Grants that were received by Kansas Counties.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve Resolution 2021-10 adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region I Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 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