

June 13th, 2023

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, June 13th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Jim Barber, David L. Fox and Wayne Kohler were present. Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, and Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, were present.

Discussion was held regarding statements made at the Council Grove City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 6th. During the meeting it was stated by a council member that Morris County had been asked by the City to approve sewer ponds for the City Lake sanitation issues and that Morris County had denied the request. Commissioners stated they wanted to make it very clear that there has been no discussion between the City and County regarding sewer lagoons for the City Lake. The Commissioners would not be opposed to the creation of sewer lagoons. This would require further discussion between the City and the County, as well as meeting the County's Sanitation Code requirements and standards required by KDHE. The County is hopeful to have better communication with the City regarding such matters.

Scott Graves, Connie Cahoone, and Mary Halleran with SOS, presented a report on services provided to Morris County. SOS provides support and services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. They also administer programs such as an Emergency Family Shelter, Child Advocacy Center and Child Visitation/Exchange Center, all located in Lyon County, as well as a Morris County Victim Advocate and Crisis Services Team, located in Morris County. The following number of Morris County residents were served in 2022 calendar year:

Crisis and Outreach Services- 171

Clients Helped- 17

Community Presentations- 1

Child Visitation and Exchange Center- 4

SOS Therapist Services- 2

Child Advocacy Center- 1

The organization plans to provide additional focus on prevention and education to the community, schools, and students regarding the increasing dangers of sexual predators, internet extortion, cyberstalking and other digital privacy dangers. An appropriation request was made for the 2024 budget year, in the amount of \$4,700; this is \$200 more than last year's request. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the June 6th, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. 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 May:

Ambulance calls:	44
Transfers from MCH to other hospitals:	17
Total number of runs:	61
Year to date total runs:	313

Ambulance runs continue to be tracked for responses in the north area of the county vs the south and are as follows:

North County:	11
South County:	50

The new location of the EMS Station has decreased response times to White City, Dwight, and Alta Vista by approximately 5 minutes; response times to Burdick and the western side of the county have virtually remained the same. Morris County EMS continues to have mutual aid agreements in place with Dickinson County EMS to mutually respond to calls in the western side of the county. Morris County EMS is preparing for the potential increase in call volumes for the upcoming Washunga Day's events.

Sharon Haun, David Cosgrove, and Kelley Judd provided a report on the Morris County Historical Society. The Historical Society owns and maintains the Carnegie Library, Seth Hays Home, Post Office Oak Museum, Freight Depot, Yester Year and the Dunlap Learning Academy. They have completed repairs and improvements to the Dunlap Learning Academy. Maintenance repairs to the bathroom at the Carnegie building continue to be done. The Historical Society reports their biggest challenge continues to be a need for volunteers and support, recognition and preservation of our history by the general public. An appropriation request was made for the 2024 budget year, in the amount of \$10,000; this is the same amount as last year's request. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$84,978.80. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 19,710.91
Road & Bridge:	\$ 45,167.32
Reappraisal:	\$ 79.10
Noxious Weed:	\$ 272.41
Solid Waste:	\$ 521.86
Morris County 911:	\$ 3,960.00
Bridge Bonds 2020A:	\$ 15,267.20

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll as presented, in the amount of \$101,510.25. Motion carried.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, was unable to attend the Commission meeting due to a training. Noxious Weed received three quotes for various chemicals as follows:

Chemical	Size/Unit	Total Units	Van Diest	Nutrien Solutions	MFA
Remedy Ultra	1 gal/1 gal	144	\$61.44	\$61.50	\$55.00
2,4-D Amine 4	2.5 gal/1 gal	540	\$18.49	\$17.99	\$16.10
Activator 90	2.5 gal/1 gal	180	\$9.74	\$16.50	\$9.25
2,4-D Ester	2.5 gal/1 gal	180	\$24.89	\$26.75	\$24.25
Tordon 22K	2.5 gal/1 gal	180	\$48.57	\$48.55	\$47.75
Pasture guard HL	1 gal/1gal	144	\$97.27	\$97.33	\$105.00

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the following quotes:

144 units of Remedy Ultra from MFA at \$55.00/unit, for a total of \$17,694.72
 540 units of 2,4-D Amine 4 from MFA at \$16.10/unit, for a total of \$8,694
 180 units of Activator 90 from MFA at \$9.25/unit, for a total of \$1,665
 180 units of 2,4-D Ester from MFA at \$24.25/unit, for a total of \$4,365
 180 units of Tordon 22K from MFA at \$47.75/unit for a total of \$8,595
 144 units of Pasture Guard HL from Van Diest at \$97.27/unit for a total of \$14,006.88

The grand total of \$45,245.88 is to be paid out of the remaining Noxious Weed Commodities budget of \$89,000. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve a quote from Midway Floor and Home for carpet tiles and installation in the Appraiser's Office, in the amount of \$2,347.60. Funds are to be paid from the Reappraisal Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioners received a letter from the 8th Judicial District's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). An appropriation request was made for the 2024 budget year. No specific amount was requested; last year's request was \$4,000.00. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Commissioners received the County Attorney's 2024 budget request.

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

- Air Capital Quarry rock was hauled to 2700 Rd. from AA-BB and Q Ave. from 3000-3100
- Rawhide Quarry gravel was spotted in on bad areas on 1800 Rd. from G-J, H Ave. from 1800-1900, H Ave. from 1000-1175, J Ave. from 1050-1100, D Ave. from 900-1000 and F Ave. from 1600-1700
- Mid States Materials Quarry (Wilsey location) road rock was placed on M Ave. from 200-300
- Crossroad box culvert was replaced on 2400 Rd. between D-F and Wilsey base rock was used to cover it; rip rap was placed on the inlet and outlet sides of the culvert
- Channel maintenance was done to Bridge OS-66 (500 Rd. between Q-R); lego blocks were used for stabilization
- Crossroad culvert was installed on 2500 Rd. between G-H; Wilsey base rock and Air Capital Quarry rock were used
- New field entrance culvert was placed on 3100 Rd. between P-Q
- Mowing was done on the White City, Delavan and Council Grove routes
- Chips were stockpiled at Four Mile Rd. and Z Ave. and at the White City mixing strip
- Shoulder and ditch work were done to build the road up on 2300 Rd. from V-X
- 35mph speed limit signs were re-installed on 1000 Rd. and 1100 Rd.; the signs will remain during the construction work on K-177
- Trees were cut back with the boom mower on 2200 Rd. from B-G and on 2300 Rd. from B-D

The following quotes were received for 20, 1400R24 Grader Tires:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Tire Brand</u>	<u>Price</u>
The Tire Shop	Firestone	\$885
	Bridgestone	\$1,060
	Hercules	\$930
	Aduance	\$900
Pomp's Tire Service	Firestone	\$885.34
	Bridgestone	\$1074.43
	Maxam	\$836.53

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the quote from The Tire Shop for 20, Bridgestone tires, for a total cost of \$21,200.00. Funds are to be paid from the Road & Bridge Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the suspension of all work on the Dunlap River Bridge due to state environmental regulations regarding the Madtom spawning season. No penalties shall be assessed to Bridges Inc. for the suspension days. Work shall resume and working days will begin counting on July 17th, 2023. Motion carried.

The Dunlap Bridge will be open to traffic during this suspension time period.

Discussion was held regarding mowing an area of the "County Farm." Darrell Litke is the current leaseholder for the "County Farm". Road and Bridge will visit with Darrell and report back to the commissioners.

Commissioner Barber discussed the area of 2400 Rd. south of Hwy 4; is needing attention.

Chief Judge Ben Sexton, Jan Helmer, Nikki Davenport, Stephanie Petrie, and Loy Smith presented the District Court's 2024 budget request.

Tracy Henry and Maria Ochoa with the Greater Morris County Development Corporation (GMDC) discussed the upcoming Housing Summit that will be held on Thursday, June 22nd at 6:30 PM at the Dealership Building in Council Grove.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-05, a resolution pertaining to the rules and regulations setting forth solid waste disposal fees for the residents of Morris County, Kansas. The resolution establishes an increase of the annual landfill fee for both residential and commercial properties by \$30.00; the residential landfill fee will be \$95.00 per household; the commercial landfill fee will be \$85.00 per business, with businesses that produce larger volumes of trash categorized into higher tiered levels. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 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