

June 14th, 2022

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 14th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Wayne Kohler, David Fox and Jim Barber were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk were present.

Others present: Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Jeff Blosser, Wildcat Construction Project Superintendent, Chris Kinnamon, Wildcat Construction Project Manager, Joe Palic, KDOT Area Engineer, Andrew Adamson, KDOT Engineer Associate, Jeff Falter, and Shelly Lautt were present to discuss the Hwy 177 road construction project. There have been concerns regarding heavy equipment traveling on county roads and bridges that are not able to withstand the weight. A designated hauling route will be developed.

Scott Graves, Morris and Chase County SOS Advocate, and Mary Howler, SOS Crisis Service Director provided a report on services provided in Morris County. An appropriation request for 2023 was made in the amount of \$4,500.00; the same as last year. The appropriation request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the Road Maintenance Memorandum of Agreement with KAW Nation as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund request for a donation in the amount of \$500.00 to the Council Grove High School Bravette Dance Team for their window washing fundraiser. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments. The Noxious Weed, Recycle Center, and Solid Waste proposed budgets for 2023 were presented to the commission.

Zoey Bond, Morris County Chamber Marketing Director asked for permission to use the light pole, generator, and electronic sign for the upcoming Washunga Days festivities.

Chris Blackledge, Emergency Manager, gave a report on Emergency Management. Discussion was held regarding lack of reporting from municipalities for the tornado siren testing.

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

- Repaired F Ave. from 2100-2200 with Rawhide Quarry rock and creek gravel
- Creek gravel was used to patch X Ave. from 400-525, 400 Rd. from AB-CC, 500 Rd. from D-G, 400 Rd. from Dunlap Rd.- AB, AB Ave. from 100-200 on the Council Grove route; 2500 Rd. from M-P and 2400 Rd. from G-H on the Latimer route; 2800 Rd. from G-H, 2000 Rd. from R-U, 2100 Rd. from Q-R on the White City route
- Hauled Wilsey rock to repair AA Ave. from 2800-3000 on the Burdick route
- Hamm Quarry rock was hauled on 2500 Rd. from Q-R on the Delavan route; and on 2400 Rd. from G-H, 2700 Rd. from H-J on the Latimer route
- Repaired hole in culvert on 1050 Rd. between M-P
- Cleaned out tubes and retrieved gravel from ditches on various roads throughout the county from the recent rains
- Placed rip rap on low water crossings at 500 Rd. and F Ave., 400 Rd. between D-F and 1600 Rd. between U-V
- Mowing on county gravel roads

- Shoulder and ditch work done on Y Ave. between 150-200
- Ditch work done at the county fairgrounds
- June 9th the traffic counters were reinstalled on 800 Rd. from H-J and on the Kelso Rd. The Kelso Rd. counter also has a digital speed trailer
- The Picolet gravel permit extension was extended until July 1, 2024

Commissioner Fox discussed ditches that may need cleaned out on J Ave. between 1050-1100.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, gave a report on the Sheriff's Office. Discussion was held regarding the implementation of a K-9 unit for the department. A grant application was submitted for a multi-purpose police service dog, a 120-hour K9 and officer training course and patrol vehicle K9 cage in the amount of \$20,444.37. The grant application has been selected for a subaward through the Northern and Middle States Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Program. The Sheriff's Office will be notified of the exact funding amount awarded within the next few weeks.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the June 7th, 2022 County Board of Commission meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$102,840.98 and employer paid liabilities in the amount of \$95,734.48 Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the amount of \$66,162.99. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 3,910.72
Road & Bridge:	\$ 44,959.70
Noxious Weed:	\$ 5.25
Solid Waste:	\$ 17,287.32

The meeting 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

Wayne Kohler, Chairman

Jim Barber, Member

ATTEST:

Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk

David L. Fox, Member