

June 15th, 2021

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 15th, 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

Jimmy Parker, Logan Zimmerman, Tisha Richardson, Alex Miller, Jim Henry, Brain Burhoop and Matt Palmquist, board members of the Morris County Conservation District, provided a report on services provided in 2020 and plans for future programs that will be offered. An appropriation request was made for 2022 in the amount of \$29,000.00. (An increase of \$1,000.00 from last year's budget request.) This would allow the Conservation District to receive state matching funds in the amount of \$22,456.54. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, provided a report on the Appraiser's Office. Revisions to procedures, roles and responsibilities for the appraiser's office were discussed and reviewed.

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

The commission entered executive session at 9:51 a.m.

The commission returned to open session at 10:01 a.m.

No action taken.

David Owen, Morris County EMS Director, Kevin Leeper, Morris County Hospital CEO, Dr. Laura Siegle, Morris County EMS Medical Director and physician discussed the need for hiring additional EMS personnel to staff a second ambulance. The item will be discussed further.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, provided a report on the Sheriff's Department. Discussion was held regarding remodeling and expanding the Dispatch, Sheriff's Office, and Jail area with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds that Morris County has been allocated.

John Lee, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, provided a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. Waste Management is seeking applications for a full-time Transfer Station Operator. Quotes were received from K-Construction for concrete replacement at various locations at the recycle center.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the quote from K-Construction for concrete replacement at the recycle frontage in the amount of \$13,169.00. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the quote from K-Construction for concrete replacement at the drainage swell in the amount of \$6,079.00. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the quote from K-Construction for concrete replacement at the transfer station frontage in the amount of \$7,030.00. Motion carried.

The commissioners did a walk-through of the Sheriff's Office, Dispatch and Jail area.

Commissioner Barber left the meeting at Noon.

Shelly Lautt, County Road Assistant, and Jeff Blosser, County Road Engineer, gave the following weekly road and bridge report:

- Continue to work on May 26th and 27th storm damage
- Hauled crushed rock from MSM (Skiddy) to the Latimer, Delavan and White City routes
- Cleaned trees and debris out of the OS-99 (Rock Creek Bridge) and are burning trees and brush to reduce the pile size before hauling off the remaining debris
- Reclaiming gravel with the rubber tire excavator on the Dwight, Latimer and White City routes
- Reclaiming gravel on the Council Grove and Dwight routes with the skid loader and the rented rubber tire excavator
- Removed the top and west wall of the box culvert that collapsed on the Parkerville Rd. at 1700 Rd.
- Installed a full train car tube at the Parkerville Rd. and 1700 Rd. location for a temporary roadway
- Received permits from the C.-of-E. and Kansas Division of Water Resources to replace the box culvert and are now waiting on design and right of way drawings to decide how to proceed
- Hauling the rock that was stockpiled at C Ave. and 1800 Rd. to locations on both Dwight routes
- Continue to work on completing the 2019 FEMA flood paperwork

Commissioner Kohler discussed a low water crossing on 1000 Rd. between Z Ave. and AA Ave.

The county will provide a motor grader, skid loader and mini excavator for the Touch-a-Truck event at Washunga Days, as well as use of the Light Plant for the Riverwalk activities.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve Morris County sponsoring the Trail Trolly for 3 hours on Friday and Saturday of Washunga Days in order to provide a SAFE ride option for the evening events. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the June 8th, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the invoice from Rays Apple Market in the amount of \$47.93. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 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