

## **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, provided a report on the Sheriff's department.

Chris Blackledge, County Emergency Manager, discussed the process for making and providing emergency badges for law enforcement, fire departments, medical personnel, first responders, and other agencies throughout Morris County.

Randy Barten, retired sanitarian from Dickinson County, attended via telephone and discussed a contract proposal for the vacant position of Morris County Sanitarian.

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

- Morris County received an award letter from KDOT for the 2021 Cost Share Program. The application for a 50% match in funding for the Dunlap River Bridge Replacement was approved in the amount of \$1,000,000.
- RS-99 Bridge on Y Ave. between 100 and 200 Rd. is closed
- A Ave. from 2200 to Skiddy is closed
- 2700 Rd. from G to H Ave. is closed
- Parkerville Rd. from 1600 to 1700 Rd. is closed (Can't travel east of 1700 Rd.)
- Damages from flooding are still being assessed
- Working to repair and gravel roads as quickly as possible

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-08 declaring a state of local disaster emergency for Morris County due to excessive rain and flooding that occurred from May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Motion carried

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve Schwab Eaton for the designing and permitting for the replacement of a culvert on 2700 Rd. between G Ave. and H Ave. in the amount of \$2,920.00. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve Schwab Eaton for the designing, engineering, and surveying of the box culvert located at Parkerville Rd. on the east side of 1700 Rd., in the amount \$19,660.00. Motion carried.

The commissioners received a letter from the City of White City, requesting a one-mile section of road to be chip-n-sealed for 2021.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve one mile of chip-n-seal recoat for the City of White City. Motion carried.

John Lee gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments. The 2021 Morris County Solid Waste Management Plan has received its annual review and approval from KDHE.

Ty Wheeler, with Kansas Legal Services, presented a report of the 2020 services that were provided in Morris County. An appropriation request was made in the amount of \$6,500.00 for

the 2022 budget. This is \$500.00 less than last year's budget request. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Steve Nelson, resident of Delavan, thanked the commissioners and road and bridge department for a tube that was recently placed in his area.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the utility cost review agreement with Utility Rebate Consultants, Inc. as presented. Utility Rebate Consultants, Inc. will conduct a full analysis of the county's utility bills. The company will receive 40% of any savings or refunds that are created for a 24-month period. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the American Rescue Act Plan. President Biden signed the American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Morris County will be receiving a direct allocation of federal funding in the amount of \$1,091,619.00 to invest in projects that will assist in the recovery from COVID-19. The county will receive 50% of the funding now, and will receive 50% of the funding one year now. Funds must be obligated by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and spent by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. The county plans to wait for additional federal guidance to be released regarding the eligible use of the funding.

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

--Meeting minutes can also be found on the county website: [www.morriscountyks.org](http://www.morriscountyks.org)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
David L. Fox, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

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Wayne Kohler, Member

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Chelsey Schmidt  
Morris County Clerk

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Jim Barber, Member