

June 29th, 2021

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 29th, 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

Harry Maddux, Dave Cosgrove, Sharon Haun, Jan Sciacca, Jan Kimbrell and Kelley Judd, board members for the Morris County Historical Society, provided a report on projects that were completed in 2020. Discussion was held regarding future projects and plans. An appropriation request was made for 2022 in the amount of a minimum of \$10,000.00. This is \$2,000.00 more than the 2021 appropriation. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Corrine Blosser, Register of Deeds, provided a report on the Register of Deed's Department.

Tracy Henry, Executive Director for the Greater Morris County Development Corporation (GMDC), provided a report on services provided in Morris County in 2020. An appropriation request was made for 2022 in the amount of \$25,000.00. This is \$6,500.00 more than the 2021 appropriation. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

John Lee, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, provided a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments.

Greg Watkins, Watko Benefit Group, presented the commissioners with information about the benefit consulting services that their company provides.

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

- Continuing to rebuild the road and install three French drains on 2800 Rd. between C and G Ave.
- Hauled the crushed 1 ¼ inch gravel on CC Ave. from 1300-1400, V to X Ave, V Ave. from 500-525, Hwy 56 to V Ave. and Hwy 56 to R Ave
- Continuing to mow; currently on the Dwight and Wilsey routes
- Picked up brush from storm damage and moved brush piles that were too close to utility lines to burn
- The double 6x6 box culvert for the 2700 Rd. G-H project has been ordered and has a 4-6 week construction window
- Signed the culvert and low water crossing certifications with FEMA for the 2019 flooding paperwork; all projects are in the review process

One quote was received for 3,500 gallons of #2 clear diesel fuel and 4,500 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Diesel</u>	<u>Reg Unleaded</u>	<u>Total</u>
MFA Oil	2.4634/gal	2.3836/gal	\$19,427.90

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the bid from MFA Oil as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the June 22nd, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Department head meeting was held at 2:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were: Jim Barber, Wayne Kohler, David Fox, Bill Kassebaum, Jeff Blosser, Shelly Lautt, Chelsey Schmidt, John Lee, Laura Viar, Ryan Michaelis, Linda Eldridge, Carolyn Wirtz and Jay Simecka.

Items discussed:

- The county has discussed wanting to increase base wages for all county positions and incorporating this cost into future budget planning. Health insurance premiums the past few years have made budgeting base wage increases limited. Last year the health insurance renewal was an 18% increase. This year's health renewal is estimated to be approximately a 12% increase. The county is exploring other health plan options; however, feedback was requested from all department heads on whether majority of employees preferred to remain on the same health plan.
- Discussion was held regarding establishing a sick leave bank for county employees. A policy for administering the sick leave bank will be drafted and further reviewed by the commissioners and department heads.

The department head meeting ended at 2:43 p.m.

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

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to appoint Roxie Smithson to fill the unexpired term for Township Seven Treasurer. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the net payroll and employer paid liabilities of FICA and KPERS as presented, in the total amount of \$84,887.78. 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