

## **June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Chris Blackledge, County Emergency Manager, gave a report on Emergency Management. Chris has been working with the Washunga Days Committee to develop an emergency action plan for the weekend of Washunga Days. The Washunga Days Committee will also be using the county's emergency lighting for the outdoor restrooms area. TBS Electronics, Inc. is programming the Sheriff's Office and EMS channels for the new 800 portable radios; they will then move forward with the fire department's radios.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, gave a report on the Sheriff's Office, Jail, and Dispatch. The department's budget requests for 2024 were presented. Discussion was held regarding the progress, and lack of progress, being made on the Sheriff's Office/Dispatch remodel.

Kevin Leeper, Morris County Hospital CEO, gave a monthly report on the hospital. The Morris County Hospital Board of Directors approved the purchase of the Nuclear Medicine camera. They continue moving forward with plans to implement Nuclear Medicine and Pulmonary Rehab; these services are anticipated to be offered in-house by late July, early August of 2023. These services will be located in the old EMS quarters of the hospital. Kevin thanked the commissioners for their support in purchasing the new EMS station, as it was a needed improvement for EMS and has also allowed for the expansion of these in-house services to be provided at the hospital. The EMS Open House that was held at the new EMS Station on May 27<sup>th</sup> was a successful event. The hospital and clinics continue to advance further into the electronic health record conversion with Cerner.

Jill Burton, Executive Director for Hetlinger Developmental Services, presented a report on services provided for Morris County residents. They serve as the community developmental disability organization for Morris, Chase and Lyon Counties and are currently serving 14 individuals within Morris County. An appropriation request was made for the 2024 budget year, in the amount of \$7,500; this is the same amount as last year's request. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Corrine Blosser, Register of Deeds, gave a report on the Register of Deed's Office and courthouse maintenance. The department's budget request for 2024 was presented.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments. Quotes have been obtained for replacement of the overhead roll-up door for the Transfer Station; insurance has requested quotes be obtained. Travis has visited with the Washunga Days Committee regarding providing trash receptacles, recycling bins and the recycle trailer for the weekend events. Due to staffing shortages the Transfer Station will be open on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The department's budget requests for 2024 were presented.

Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer, gave a report on the Treasurer's Office. The department's budget request for 2024 was presented.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$49,443.80. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 16,061.86
Road & Bridge:	\$ 7,234.76
Special Bridge:	\$ 9,593.60
Reappraisal:	\$ 630.43
Health Dept Flowthru:	\$ 3,607.00
Noxious Weed:	\$ 347.17
Ambulance:	\$ 481.65
Solid Waste:	\$ 5,231.75
Morris County 911:	\$ 955.58
Capital Improvement:	\$ 5,300.00

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll liabilities as presented, in the amount of \$43,115.56. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund Request for the invoice to Rays Apple Market for the April MDT Meeting in the amount of \$142.44. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

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

- Air Capital Quarry rock was hauled to 1700 Rd. from H-J, T Ave. from 2100-2300 and 3000 Rd. from T-V
- Casey creek gravel was placed on 200 Rd. from T-Y and AB Ave. from 200-400
- Mowing was done in the Latimer, Delavan, and White City areas
- Cut up and removed a downed tree on Helmick Rd. between 1300-1400
- Stockpiled chips for chip seal at the Corp and the Four Mile and Z Ave. locations
- Shoulder and ditch work were done on 2300 Rd. between V-X
- The boom mower was used to cut back trees on 2700 Rd. from A-G, C Ave. from 2600-2700, B Ave. from 2400-2600, 2600 Rd. from A-B, F Ave. from 2600-2700 and Clarks Creek Rd.
- Routine grading was done across the county
- Bridges Inc. will be laying asphalt on the south approach of the Dunlap River Bridge today; guardrail contractors are scheduled to start tomorrow
- The department's budget request for 2024 was presented.

PBX Corporation is projected to begin the polymer bridge deck overlays next week. They will start on the RS80 Bridge (located on G Ave. between 2400-2500 Rd.) on Thursday. They will then move to the RS70 Bridge (located on G Ave. west of 2700 Rd.).

Discussion was held regarding a Memorandum of Agreement with the Kaw Nation for temporary storage of the Sacred Red Rock at the County Road & Bridge Site. Kaw Nation would like to temporary store the rock at this location until it is ready to be placed at the Allegawaho Heritage Park. The item was tabled. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, will discuss the MOA language further with the Kaw Nation and the item will be revisited.

Discussion was held regarding safety concerns on 1100 Rd. and 1000 Rd. These roads are the current detour routes for the north half of the Hwy 77 construction project and are being heavily traveled and traveled at high rates of speed.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to temporarily post 30mph speed limit signs on 1100 Rd. and 1000 Rd. Motion carried.

Equipment and dump truck inventory were discussed at last week's commission meeting. In reference to last week's discussion Jeff Falter proposed selling the following county vehicles and dump trucks on upcoming Purple Wave Auctions:

TU-18 (2004 Ford 150 EXT 4x4)

TU-34 (2004 Dodge 2500 Pickup)

TU-42 (1995 Ford L8000 Dump Truck)

TU-51 (2007 Sterling LT9513)

TU-53 (2001 Sterling KDOT Plow Dump Truck)

TU-55 (2003 Sterling KDOT Plow Dump Truck)

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the vehicles and dump trucks, as presented, to be placed on upcoming Purple Wave Auctions. Motion carried.

Amanda Cunningham, CEO and Sarah Stockwell, CFO, of CrossWinds Counseling and Wellness provided a report on services provided in calendar year 2022; 189 residents of Morris County were served by CrossWinds consisting of 4,301 hours of service. These figures do not include the services and screenings provided to inmates through the jail liaison services. An appropriation request was made for the 2024 budget year, in the amount of \$64,000; this is the same amount as last year's request. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Zoey Bond, Council Grove Area Trade & Tourism Executive Director, visited with the commissioners regarding the use of the county's emergency lighting for the upcoming Washunga Days events. The Road & Bridge department will communicate with Zoey regarding the delivery of the emergency lighting. A request was made to sponsor the Trail Trolley for Washunga Days, in order to provide a SAFE ride option for the evening events, in the amount of \$600.00.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve sponsoring the Trail Trolley for Friday and Saturday of Washunga Days, in order to provide a SAFE ride option for the evening events, in the amount of \$600.00. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Barber, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

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David L. Fox, Member

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Chelsey Schmidt  
Morris County Clerk

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Wayne Kohler, Member