

## **March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners David L. Fox, Jim Barber and Wayne Kohler were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Others present: Gary Floyd, Billy Kryger- Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Colleen Anderson, President for the Morris County Senior Citizens Inc., gave a monthly report on the services being provided within Morris County. The Council Grove Senior Center has seen a recent decrease in the number of meals served. The White City Senior Center traveled to Yoder, Kansas to attend the Carriage House Quilt Festival. The center was able to contract with USD 481 for transportation via a school bus and a USD 481 bus driver; 17 seniors attended the festival. The Council Grove Senior Center hosted a Superbowl Watch Party and is planning an upcoming trip to the Topeka Zoo. Regular activities such as Thursday's Bingo, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday's Prayer Breakfast and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday's Game Night and Potluck continue; all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Amanda Cunningham, Linda Johnson and Sarah Stockwell with CrossWinds Counseling and Wellness presented an annual report for 2023. The 2023 budget and financial information was presented. Crosswinds Counseling and Wellness served a total of 174 clients from Morris County in the 2023 calendar year.

Jay Simecka, Morris County Sheriff, visited with the commissioners regarding the progress of the Sheriff's Office remodel project.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. There is a missing part for the Transfer Station scale kiosk; they are waiting for the part to arrive.

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

- Air Capital Quarry rock was placed on Q Ave. from 2000-2200, L Ave. from 2100-2200, 1850 Rd. from V-X, 3000 Rd. from M-P, 2500 Rd. from M-P, 625 Rd. from M-P, DD Ave. from 2900-3100, 2600 Rd. from X-Y, 2600 Rd. from P-Q, Helmick Rd. from 1000-1200, 1900 Rd. from X-Y and V Ave. from 1400-1450
- Mid States Materials base rock was used on Helmick Rd. from 900-1000
- Reshaped roadway on U Ave. from 1200-1250 and finished with Air Capital Quarry road rock
- Reshaped Helmick Rd. from 900-1200
- Reclaimer was used on 2600 Rd. from V-AA, 2700 Rd. from U-BB, BB Ave. from 2200-2750 and 2400 Rd. from U-V
- Shoulder and ditch work was done on Z Ave. from 2700-2800, 2700 Rd. from BB-CC, 2450 Rd. AA-BB, AA Ave. from 2450-2700, 2600 Rd. from X-AA, DD Ave. from 2900-3100, 2400 Rd. from U-V, 2700 Rd. from U-X, X Ave. from 2400-2500 and U Ave. from 2500-2600
- Patched a hole in a culvert with rock and dirt on 2000 Rd. between M-P
- Assisted GeoTech with locating survey markers on H Ave. from 2100-2200
- Installation work for the box culvert on B Ave. between 2400-2600 was completed; grade work was done on the ditches; road was topped with Air Capital Quarry road rock; barricades were removed and the road has been opened
- Road signs that were vandalized have been cleaned and/or replaced

- Submitted final invoice to KDOT for the Hwy 177 detour roads
- Hosted FEMA PDA meeting at the county road and bridge department conference room
- Cost report was reviewed for opening 1 ½ mile of minimum maintenance road on 600 Rd. from H-K

Commissioner Fox discussed the area of 1250 Rd. and AA Ave.

Commissioner Barber discussed the area of 2300 Rd. and H Ave.

Commissioner Barber discussed further cleanup work that is needed at the box culvert on B Ave. between 2400 Rd. and 2600 Rd.

Pauline Sharp, Dave Loewenstein and James Pepper Henry visited with the commissioners regarding the KAW Nation Sacred Red Rock. The rock has been temporarily stored at the county road and bridge department and will be moved to the Allegawaho Heritage Memorial Park. Design plans for the park were presented.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the March 12th, 2024 special commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the March 12th, 2024 regular commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$89,073.39. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 8,380.93
Road & Bridge:	\$ 70,564.81
Special Bridge:	\$ 1,050.50
Reappraisal:	\$ 476.73
Noxious Weed:	\$ 51.39
Solid Waste:	\$ 3,239.80
Morris County 911:	\$ 3,244.26
Equipment Reserve:	\$ 2,064.97

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$110,606.23. Motion carried.

Commissioners reviewed the Morris County General Public Transportation Rider Handbook. Revisions have been made to the handbook to reflect updated policies and procedures, as well as the addition of a parental consent form.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the Morris County General Public Transportation Rider Handbook revisions, as presented. Motion carried.

The meeting was 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**

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**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**