

## **March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 5<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

Chris Blackledge, Morris County Emergency Manager, gave a report on Emergency Management. Discussion was held regarding issues with the emergency dispatch paging system. Alternative emergency dispatch paging systems will be explored. Discussion was held regarding job performance and job expectations for the Emergency Management Position.

Kevin Leeper, Morris County Hospital CEO, gave a report on the hospital and assisted living. The new digital mammography machine is up and running. The hospital plans to hold an open house event on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Jes Pfannenstiel, Loss Prevention Specialist and Marketing Director for Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties (KWORC), presented Morris County with a plaque for receiving the 2022 Exceptional Loss Ratio Award. Morris County was a co-winner for 1<sup>st</sup> place in the contribution category of \$0.00- \$49,999.00.

Kelley Judd, Dave Cosgrove, and Jan Kimbrell with the Morris County Historical Society visited with the commissioners regarding the CCC Building. The county and the historical society have been discussing the CCC building for several years. The building is located in front of the County Road & Bridge Department. The location is not ideal and the building attracts a very minimal number of visitors. The county would like to propose taking down the building and repurposing the stones as a retaining wall on the west side of the Sheriff's Office addition. The Historical Society would like to have several of the stones from the building as well as create an informational piece to be placed where the stones will be repurposed. Further discussion will be held between the county and the Historical Society. Recent work has been done at the Post Office Oak. The county will waive the demolition/dumping fees for the Historical Society at the Transfer Station.

Andrew Benning, county resident, visited with the commissioners regarding platting of the Council Grove City Lake.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. Work on the Transfer Station scale continues. Ziegler Plumbing, Heating, Cooling and Electrical has completed the trenching. TCT will be running the Cat5 cabling from the Transfer Station to the scale kiosk. Travis Scale Company will then be able to install and complete the cable connections to the scale kiosk.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$108,695.36. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$44,031.27. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 25,418.14
Road & Bridge:	\$ 4,175.86
Reappraisal:	\$ 497.62

Health Dept Flowthru:	\$	1,347.00
Noxious Weed:	\$	2,593.41
Ambulance:	\$	507.86
Solid Waste:	\$	774.38
Morris County 911:	\$	8,717.00

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

- Air Capital Quarry rock was placed on M Ave. from 2000-2300, 1900 Rd. from T-U, T Ave. from 1900-2000, 2800 Rd. from K-L, H Ave. from 2825-2900 and 2825 Rd. from J-K
- Rawhide Quarry road rock was placed on C Ave. from 1900-2000, H Ave. 1400-1500, 1500 Rd. from G-H, G Ave. from 1100-1175 and F Ave. from 1100-1200
- A hole in the roadway at Helmick Rd. and V Ave. was filled in until the culvert can be replaced
- Shoulder and ditch work was done on 500 Rd. from D-F, 800 Rd. from D-G, F Ave. from 600-700, D Ave. from 500-700, 300 Rd. from M-P, 1100 Rd. from F-G, F Ave. from 900-1100, CC Ave. from 1400-1500, 1500 Rd. from Z-CC, DD Ave. from 2700-2800, 3000 Rd. from BB-DD, CC Ave. from 3100-3200 and 3100 Rd. from BB-DD
- Two retrievers were in operation on the following roads: 1400 Rd. from Helmick (X)-Z, Helmick Rd. from 900-1200, 1200 Rd. from T-U, 1400 Rd. from Hwy 56-Z, Y Ave. from 1400-1500, 1500 Rd. from Y-Z, 4 Mile Rd. from 1200-1400, V Ave. from 1400-1500, Helmick Rd. from 900-1400, 3100 Rd. from CC-FF, CC Ave. from 3100-3200, 2800 Rd. from BB-FF, DD Ave. from 2800-3100, 3000 Rd. from CC-DD, 2900 Rd. from CC-FF and FF Ave. from 2800-2900
- A new box culvert structure was built and set in place on B Ave. between 2400-2600 Rd.; head walls were installed and lego blocks were hauled to the work site
- Maintenance agreement was signed with Murphy Tractor on MP29
- Shelly emailed Morris County's Winter Storm Impact Statement to Chris Blackledge, Emergency Manager, FEMA Area Coordinator and Operations Chief of Kansas Department of Emergency Management
- Shelly attended a meeting with Union Pacific Railroad, Benesch Engineering and the City of Dwight regarding future work to the railroad bridge, roadway, and pedestrian walkways in Dwight.

Ben Moore, with Ben Moore Studio LLC, attended the meeting via telephone. Discussion was held regarding a change order with Evergreen Design Build LLC on the Morris County Sheriff's Office Project. The proposed change order is as follows:

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| ➤ 7 additional days for relocating 911 cable                  |                              |
| ➤ 45 additional days for move                                 |                              |
| ➤ 14 additional days for restroom                             |                              |
| ➤ Remove exterior paving from project                         | - \$ 57,198.50               |
| ➤ Demolition work for 911 restroom                            | + \$ 786.50                  |
| ➤ Enlarge pat down room                                       | + \$ 2,420.00                |
| ➤ Demo window in dispatch                                     | - \$ 1,123.00                |
| ➤ 10 additional days for modified pat down room (masonry sub) |                              |
| ➤ 21 additional days for ballistic panels                     |                              |
| ➤ Remove testing contingency from contract                    | - \$ 5,000.00                |
|   | <u>                    </u>  |
|   | Total Change: - \$ 60,115.00 |

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the change order with Evergreen Design Build LLC, as presented, and to authorize Chairman Fox to sign the agreement. The original contract

sum of \$953,200.00 will be decreased by \$60,115.00, for a new contract sum of \$893,085.00. The contract days will be increased by a total of 97 days with a completion date of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried. Commissioner Barber abstained.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the annual financial report for Township Nine, 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**

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

**ATTEST:**

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Wayne Kohler, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chelsey Schmidt  
Morris County Clerk

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Jim Barber, Member