

March 7th, 2023

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Jim Barber, David L. Fox and Wayne Kohler were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Dawn Wecker were present.

Chris Blackledge, Emergency Manager, gave a report on Emergency Management. The 800mhz radios for all fire departments have arrived; they have not yet been installed as final approval and review from KDOT is needed. Discussion was held regarding the upcoming burning season; it is recommended to call the Morris County Sheriff's Office prior to any burning being done. The tornado siren test for today has been postponed. The test is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14th, weather permitting. A home in Council Grove was inspected by the State Fire Marshall for arson; decision has not yet been released.

Shelly Lautt gave the following weekly road and bridge report:

- Creek gravel was hauled to V Ave. from 1400-1500, 400 Rd. from Y-DD, M Ave. from 2200-2500, Z Ave. from 1700-1800, 1500 Rd. from Y-Z, Y Ave. from 1500-1600, 1600 Rd. from X-Y, 500 Rd. from D-F, and F Ave. from 500-600
- Air Capitol rock (Delavan location) was hauled to 2900 Rd. from DD-FF, DD Ave. from 2800-2900, 3000 Rd. from X-CC, H Ave. from 1700-1800, 2500 Rd. from R-U, L Ave. from 2000-2200, 2100 Rd. from J-L, 800 Rd. from J-K, and K Ave. from 800-900
- Mid States Materials base rock (Wilsey location) was placed on Parkerville Rd. and 1700 Rd.
- Shoulder ditch work was done on V Ave. from 500-525, Dunlap Rd. from X Ave to 525, 500 Rd. from T-V, and 525 Rd. from V-X
- Millings were spread on Ram Court to fill in the areas holding water
- Moved the rock screener and started clearing trees at the Casey creek gravel site
- Sign maintenance continues across the county
- Purchased the 2022 EC250 Volvo track hoe from Van Keppel for \$200,000; item was previously discussed during last week's meeting; Van Keppel authorized the trade value proposal from the county for the current track hoe
- Shelly Lautt attended the Area Counties Road Departments Meeting in Emporia

Bridge RS330 located on Four Mile Rd. between 900-1000 Rd. was hit by a vehicle and damaged on March 1st. Chad McCullough with Schwab-Eaton has been asked to evaluate the damage and provide an estimate for the repairs.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to advertise for bids on Polymer Overlays for various bridges in Morris County. The clerk will publish bid information on the county website and in the local newspaper. Bid opening will be in the commissioner's meeting room on Tuesday, April 4th, at 1:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the county's leave policy. Clarification for employees is needed regarding the definition of "departing" employment, specifically when pertaining to the leave pay out for employees upon death. The item was tabled.

Jeff Falter attended the District 2 meeting in Salina last week; he reports that all counties in attendance agree to place chip orders sooner rather than later, as prices are expected to increase. He plans to obtain chip bids soon; the county will need approximately 6,500 tons of chips for this year's chip-seal rotation.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. Hess & Sons have started working on removal of the scrap pile. Jan Sciacca with the Council Grove Republican would like to interview Travis for an upcoming article of "Who's Who in Morris County."

A quote from K-Construction was obtained for an addition to the Recycle Center main building. The total cost estimate to provide and install a 20' x 120' x 14' single sloped steel building addition to the north sidewall of the existing steel building is \$212,676.00. The item was tabled.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the February 28th, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$213,883.26. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 25,204.19
Road & Bridge:	\$ 9,834.44
Reappraisal:	\$ 765.54
Noxious Weed:	\$ 450.44
Ambulance:	\$ 165.17
Solid Waste:	\$ 1,287.80
Morris County 911:	\$ 955.58
Bridge Bonds 2020A:	\$ 175,220.10

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$101,038.69. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to appoint Dean Miller to the fill the vacancy for the office of Township Seven Clerk. The four-year term for the position began January of 2023 and will expire January of 2027. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the application to the Board of Tax Appeals of the State of Kansas for tax exemption of the EMS building located at 1447 Ks Hwy 177, Council Grove, Kansas. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

--Meeting minutes can also be found on the county website: www.morriscountyks.org

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS

Jim Barber, Chairman

ATTEST:

David L. Fox, Member

Dawn Wecker
Morris County Clerk, Clerical Staff

Wayne Kohler, Member