

May 23rd, 2023

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Jim Barber, David L. Fox and Wayne Kohler were present. Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, was present.

Commissioners viewed the ceiling in the District Court meeting room and conference room. There appears to be black mold on the duct work above the ceiling. Mold abatement services will be contacted to further inspect the area.

Commissioners viewed the remodel work that was done by Shane's Handyman Service in the Appraiser's office.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the May 16th, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Shandi Andres, Janon Johnson, Lisa Wainwright and Clay Dalquest visited with the commissioners on behalf of the Morris County Fair Board. Buildings at the fair grounds need improvements. The highest priority for improvements is the lighting and ventilation in the beef barn, as well as lighting for the pavilion. Fundraising events are being held to raise funds for needed improvements; currently the board has raised approximately \$14,000.00 through fundraising efforts and private donations. A quote was obtained from Central Mechanical for the lighting and ventilation improvements, in the amount of \$20,300.00. The fair board would like to have the improvements completed before the upcoming fair season.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve funding for the Morris County Fair Board in the amount of \$6,300.00 to complete the fairground improvements to the beef barn and pavilion. Funds are to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried.

An appropriation request was made for the 2024 budget year, in the amount of \$27,500.00 for the Fair Building and \$4,000.00 for the Insurance Premiums; the is the same amount as last year's request. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Melissa Landis, Executive Director of Empower House Ministries, provided an update on services provided. The recovery home for women, located in Emporia, continues to provide stable housing and support services for recovering female addicts. The program has been funded through grant monies, private donations, and appropriations from local county's alcohol tax funds. An appropriation request for a portion of the county's alcohol tax fund was made. The appropriation request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Travis Schweger, gave a report on Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments. The roll-up door at the Transfer Station was damaged by a Hamm's trailer; the damages will be submitted to the county's insurance for further investigation and processing.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$106,382.65 Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 11,553.71
Road & Bridge:	\$ 19,349.51
Reappraisal:	\$ 161.22
Health Dept Flowthru:	\$ 3,752.00
Solid Waste:	\$ 77.40
Capital Improvement:	\$ 2,850.00
Bridge Bonds 2020A:	\$ 68,638.81

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll liabilities as presented, in the amount of \$127,241.93. Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed re-organizing and categorizing the commercial special assessment landfill fees.

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

- Rawhide quarry rock was hauled to H Ave. from 500-800, 500 Rd. from G-H, 700 Rd. from G-H, D Ave. from 1200-1300, J Ave. from 1300-1400 and 1400 Rd. from G-J
- Mid States Materials (Wilsey location) base rock was hauled to 200 Rd. from Y-Z and X Ave. from 1800-1900
- Casey creek gravel was put on 100 Rd. from AB-BB, AA Ave. from 100-150, DD Ave. from 2700-2800 and Y Ave. from 2600-2800
- Cut and removed downed trees that were blocking roadways on X Ave. and 925 Rd. and on J Ave. between 800-900
- Trees were cut with the boom mower on 2700 Rd. from L-P
- Shoulder and ditch work were done on 200 Rd. from Y-Z and 3100 Rd. from Y-Z
- Cleaned out a culvert with the mini-x on 1100 Rd. between B-C
- Reclaimer was run on Y Ave. from 1400-1500, V Ave. from 1450-1400, Helmick Rd., 1400 Rd. from U-X, Four Mile Rd. from 1200-1500, Four Mile Rd. from Z-BB and 2700 Rd. from L-P
- Completed screening creek gravel at Casey's and closed the mine
- Culvert entrance tubes were installed on 1200 Rd. between T-U and X Ave. between 1900-2000
- Began mowing blacktops and roads to cemeteries on all routes
- Chips were stockpiled at Delavan, the Council Grove Fire Station and the county shop
- Jeff and Shelly attended the KCHA Conference in Manhattan last week
- 2010 Freightliner M2 Dump Truck was delivered on May 16th
- Schwab-Eaton has submitted proposals on behalf of Morris County to the Small Bridge Program FY2025 for the OS-34 Bridge, and to the KLBIP FY2024 for the RS-5 Bridge

Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, left the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

After further discussion with the Geary County Road Supervisor, Morris County will agree to *not approve* the request from Wildcat Construction and Schillings to utilize 1000 Rd. from A-C Ave. as an approved haul road.

Two quotes were obtained for various mower blades and parts as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lacal Equipment, Inc.	\$4,065.96
SMS Power Train & Hardware	\$5,270.16

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the quote from Lacal Equipment, Inc. as presented, in the amount of \$4,065.96. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to authorize Chairman Barber to sign contract documents with PbX Corporation for the bridge deck polymer overlay projects. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the Dunlap River Bridge. The Madtom, a small species of catfish, is federally listed as endangered. The Madtom spawning season is June-July. The current work to the Dunlap Bridge must be halted until after the spawning season has passed.

Commissioners agree to grant an extension to Bridges Inc. for completion of the bridge project without penalties.

The meeting adjourned 2:50 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

Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk

Wayne Kohler, Member