

May 24th, 2022

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 24th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Wayne Kohler, David Fox and Jim Barber were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Others present: Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church, AJ Dome, Council Grove Republican

Dan Bacon visited with the commission.

Corrine Blosser, Register of Deed's, discussed courthouse maintenance issues.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, and Ben Moore with Moore Designs reviewed the soil survey that was done for the jail/dispatch expansion. Discussion was held regarding excavating the soil underneath the "jail yard area" and bringing in fill dirt.

Bruce Anderson visited with the commission regarding maintaining the area around the Old Stone Barn. Brome has been planted and the rest has been left as hay. He would like to use the area for a public demonstration using an old stationary press. Discussion was held regarding recent mowing that was done in preparation for the Hooptie-X Racetrack.

Dave Owen, Morris County EMS Director, and Kevin Leeper, Morris County Hospital CEO, discussed plans for moving Morris County EMS to the "old Axe Building" located at 1447 KS Hwy 177 in Council Grove. Morris County Hospital will be funding the remodeling costs for the south half of the building, which will be used as the Morris County EMS Station.

Discussion was held regarding obtaining ambulance bids. The commissioners requested to review the current Morris County EMS fleet to include each vehicle's year, current mileage, average annual mileage, condition, etc.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments. Morris County Recycle and Transfer Station has started a Facebook Page. Implementation of a Noxious Weed Facebook Page is underway. Outside bins have been set outside of the Council Grove location to allow for public drop off during evening and weekends when the Recycle Center is closed. Morris County is now able to accept and recycle lithium ion rechargeable batteries. (power tool batteries, cell phone batteries, etc.)

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve changing the County Health Officer Salary to \$300.00 per month. Motion carried.

Shelly Lautt gave the following weekly road and bridge report:

- Shoulder and ditch work done on DD Ave. between 200-400 and Mid States Quarry 1 ¼" rock was placed on it
- Mid States Quarry 1 ¼" rock hauled on BB Ave. between 2100-2200 and on Z Ave. between 1700-2200 in the Burdick area
- Continued mowing along the blacktops and roads to cemeteries
- Gravel from all sources was used to repair flood damage across the county
- Installed entrance culverts on 575 Rd. and P Ave., Old Hwy 56, and 1700 Rd. and F Ave.

- Water truck was used to assist grading and ridding of potholes on 800 Rd. between D-G, K Ave. between 800-900 on the detour route, and G Ave. between 600-700
- Thrasher Inc. will be looking at low water crossing repair estimate at 500 Rd. and F Ave.
- Jeff attended the Kansas Counties Highway Officials Conference in Dodge City
- Clearance signs were ordered for 1000 Rd. between A-B Ave.

Sealed bids were opened for the Dunlap River Bridge Project and are as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc.	\$2,441,142.55
Bridges Inc.	\$2,334,848.00

The engineer's estimate for the bridge project from Kaw Valley Engineering was \$1,834,476.00.

Those present for the bid opening were: Leon Osbourn, Kaw Valley Engineering, Lance Boyer, Kaw Valley Engineering, Nolan Wild, Bridges Inc., and Chris Rech, A.M. Cohron & Son's, Inc.

Kaw Valley Engineering will review the bids and calculations and report back to the commission next week with a recommendation.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the quote from Thrasher Foundation Repair for the repair of the low water crossing located at 500 Rd. and F Ave., in the amount of \$12,496.35. Funds are to be paid from the Special Bridge Fund. Motion carried.

Road and Bridge sold the following items on today's Purple Wave Auction:

2000 250 Supercab	\$2,600.00
1995 Dump Truck	\$9,000.00
2000 International Flatbed Dump Truck	\$9,100.00
2001 Dodge 2500	\$5,200.00
2003 Chevrolet	\$1,400.00
2005 Chevy 1500	\$2,800.00
Chainsaws	\$ 375.00
Engines	\$ 60.00

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, gave a report on the Appraiser's Office. An application for Disaster Relief for Rural Property Taxes was received due to damage incurred from the April 29th, 2022 tornado.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the application from Cary and Mary Anna Granzow for Disaster Relief for Rural Property Taxes pursuant to KSA 79-1613. The abatement will be prorated for the 2022 tax year. Motion carried.

The reappraisal proposed budget for 2023 was presented to the commission.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the minutes from the May 17th, 2022 County Board of Commission meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the amount of \$111,286.28. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 14,377.53
Road & Bridge:	\$ 62,915.69
Noxious Weed:	\$ 20,513.47
Solid Waste:	\$ 13,154.59
Capital Improvement:	\$ 325.00

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the employee paid liabilities in the amount of \$133,515.90. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS

Wayne Kohler, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jim Barber, Member

**Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk**

David L. Fox, Member