

May 30th, 2023

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, May 30th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Jim Barber, David L. Fox and Wayne Kohler were present. Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, and Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, were present.

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, gave a report on the Appraiser's Office. The department's 2024 budget request was presented.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the May 23rd, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Dee Gieswein, Kendra Levy, Nicole Clark and Jacob Holmes visited with the commissioners regarding interest in opening a daycare in the old train depot.

Ty Wheeler, Managing Attorney for Kansas Legal Services, presented a report on services provided for Morris County residents during the 2022 calendar year. Kansas Legal Services is a private, not for profit, law firm providing services in legal work on behalf of low-income Kansans. An appropriation request was made for the 2024 budget year, in the amount of \$8,000; this is \$500 more than last year's request. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$113,003.38. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 2,360.33
Road & Bridge:	\$ 100,002.32
Noxious Weed:	\$ 1,084.73
Solid Waste:	\$ 3,256.00
Capital Improvement:	\$ 6,300.00

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll as presented, in the amount of \$101,558.16. Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed re-organizing and categorizing the commercial special assessment landfill fees. The current structure of commercial landfill fees is inconsistent for many businesses that produce similar volumes of trash. Residential and commercial landfill fees have not been increased since 2013. The residential landfill fee is currently \$65.00 per household annually; the commercial landfill fee is currently \$55.00 per business annually, with businesses that produce larger volumes of trash set at higher annual fees of various amounts. Trash dumped at the Morris County Transfer Station must be hauled to a landfill by Hamm Waste Services. Re-evaluation of landfill fees has been considered as hauling fees have continued to increase significantly since 2013. The current consideration is to increase the annual landfill fee for both residential and commercial by \$30.00; the residential landfill fee would be \$95.00 per household; the commercial landfill fee would be \$85.00 per business, with businesses that produce larger volumes of trash categorized into higher tiered levels. Further discussion will be held.

Aron Dody, USD 417 Superintendent, discussed the USD 417 School Resource Officer. Previous safety grant funding allowed for the position of a School Resource Officer during the 2022-2023 school year. This funding is no longer available for a future School Resource Officer position. Mr. Dody asked that the county consider an appropriation for the 2024 budget year to

support funding the position of a School Resource Officer for USD 417. The item was tabled and will be discussed further.

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

- Air Capital Quarry rock (Delavan location) was hauled to 2900 Rd. from H-J, 2825 Rd. from H-J, 2700 Rd. from X-Y, AA Ave. from 2500-2700 and 2500 Rd. from AA-BB
- Routine grading was done across the county
- Sign maintenance was done across the county
- Pothole patch was used on potholes on 2800 Rd. and Q Ave., 2800 Rd. from V-X, 2750 Rd. and BB Ave., F Ave. from 1900-2000 and F Ave. from 2000-2100
- Shoulder and ditch work were done on 200 Rd. between X-Z
- A culvert was replaced on X Ave. between 1900-2000
- Finished mowing the blacktops and roads to cemeteries on all routes
- Chips were stockpiled at the Corp.
- Stockpiled gravel at the county shop

Morris County has been notified by the state that they have been selected to receive \$365,000.00 for the High-Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) FY 2025 federal funding. The funding will be used for the eastern part of Morris County's signage project.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the KDOT HRRR Project funding awarded in the amount of \$365,000.00. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber discussed the area of 1700 Rd. and Hwy 4; there are drainage issues that need attention.

Discussion was held regarding the current fleet of dump trucks. 3 of the 10 trucks are not working and have been out of service more than they have been in service. The trucks are used as dump trucks, plows, sanders, etc. Jeff Falter would like to sell the 3 trucks that are not in service and consider purchasing 1-2 newer trucks at a later date. The item was tabled and will be discussed further.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 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