

## **November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Wayne Kohler, Jim Barber and David Fox were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Others present: Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Tracy Henry, Director of Greater Morris County Development Corporation, and Nick Jones, City of Council Grove Administrator, provided a report on projects that the GMDC are working on. They have hired a firm out of Nebraska, RDG Planning, to perform a housing study for Morris County. The study should be completed by late March. The study will cost approximately \$10,000.00. The City of Council Grove has appropriated \$2,500.00 for the cost of the study.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve an appropriation of \$2,500.00 to the GMDC in support of the housing and infrastructure study. Motion carried.

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, was present for the GMDC presentation.

Melissa Landis, Executive Director for Empower House Ministries Inc. and Gayle Taylor-Ford, Executive Director for Therapy Services LLC, visited with the commissioners about services that they currently provide and future plans for providing housing and support for addicts in recovery. Therapy Services LLC currently serves seven Morris County Residents. The Empower House Ministries is working on plans to develop an addict recovery facility that will be located in Emporia, KS. They asked about being considered to receive a portion of Morris County's Liquor Tax Monies in support of their program. The commissioners approve appropriations during the budget process and this will be re-visited at that time.

The November abstract, values and levies have been completed by the County Clerk and submitted to PVD. This was the first abstract, value and levies completed in the new computer software program. Due to a clerical error with the migration to the new software program the solid waste fee for city lake parcels was duplicated. Each parcel at the city lake will need to have one of the solid waste fees abated off of the tax roll and tax statements.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve abatements of the duplicated solid waste fee for the 344 city lake parcels as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to authorize Chelsey Schmidt, Director of Morris County Public Transportation, to execute and sign all documents pertaining to the SFY2023 Public Transportation Assistance Grant to KDOT. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the certification of local matching funds for the SFY2023 Morris County Public Transportation Grant Application as presented. Morris County will appropriate \$46,141.00 for operation and administration of the program for SFY2023. Funds will be made available through the county's General operating fund. In addition, an appropriation of matching funds of \$24,600.00 for the purchase of 2 replacement vans will be made available through the county's Equipment Reserve Fund. Motion carried.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments. Discussion was held regarding chemical pricing. It is anticipated that chemical prices will continue to increase.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the invoice from Rays Apple Market in the amount of \$23.26 for the Morris County Attorney's Office. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the quote from Associated Insulation Inc. for re-insulation of the piping in the courthouse basement storage rooms and boiler room in the amount of \$9,355.00. Funds are to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried.

The November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 City/School General Election results determined that the following races resulted in a tie:

**Dunlap Mayor**

Robert Williams (1 write-in vote)

Ken Minor (1 write-in vote)

**Dunlap City Council (2 members)**

Melvin Eisele (2 write-in votes)

Deborah Cole (2 write-in votes)

Henry Cole (2 write-in votes)

At 11:30 a.m. the commissioners determined the winners of the above races by drawing names at random. Deborah Cole and Henry Cole were present during the drawing.

Robert Williams was drawn as the winner for the Dunlap Mayor.

Melvin Eisele and Deborah Cole were drawn as the winners for the Dunlap City Council.

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

- Continue to mow on the White City and Latimer routes; finishing the west Council Grove routes
- Screened creek gravel at the mine site
- Cleaned ditches on H Ave. from 2000-2100
- Cleaned out culverts on 1100 Rd. from H -G Ave. and 1175 and H Ave.
- Hauled creek gravel to 1850 from V-X Ave., 1800-1850 on X Ave. and 1800-1900 on H Ave.
- Hauled Rawhide Quarry gravel to 1000-1100 on J Ave., 1100-1300 on K Ave. and 800-1175 on H Ave.
- Spotted in gravel on 800 from H-J Ave., 1100 from J-K Ave., Helmick Rd. from U-V Ave. and Helmick Rd. from 1200-1400
- Met with Kaw Valley Engineer and utility companies on relocating lines for the Dunlap Bridge construction project
- Shelly attended the Dept. of Ag- Division of Water Resources meeting
- Resubmitted the detour route for Hwy 77 and estimated costs to KDOT
- Patched the hole in box bridge located at 2000 and M Ave., ½ mile south of the intersection
- Drug 150 AA-BB Ave.
- Spotting in creek gravel on DD Ave. from 2600-3000
- The Parkerville and 1700 Rd. culvert replacement was not selected for the KDOT Cost Share Program

Commissioner Fox asked who maintained FF Ave. Jeff Falter reported that FF Ave. is maintained by Marion County.

Commissioner Barber discussed a low spot and culvert located at 2750 and CC Ave. that needs attention.

Commissioner Barber discussed the roads in the area of 1100 and D Ave.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff and Ben Moore with Ben Moore Studio Architecture & Planning, presented the commissioners with preliminary drawings for the dispatch/jail expansion project. The estimated construction cost is approximately \$1,100,000.00, including a 10% contingency. The construction cost does not include additional survey costs that will be needed. Ben Moore will draw up a contract and list out additional costs and present it to the commissioners for review at next week's meeting. The commissioners are considering using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the project.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the minutes from the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Commission Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Public Health Nuisance Hearing as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 County Board of Canvassers as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve payroll in the amount \$100,858.62. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 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**

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**David L. Fox, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

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**Wayne Kohler, Member**

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**Chelsey Schmidt  
Morris County Clerk**

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**Jim Barber, Member**