

## **November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Jim Barber, David L. Fox and Wayne Kohler were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Dawn Wecker, County Clerk Clerical Staff, were present.

Others present: Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church, and Gary Floyd

Ben Moore, Jay Simecka, and Rolland Trahoon, Chris Grant, Luke Adkins and Sierra Young, all with Evergy, reviewed potential options regarding the power pole located southwest of the Sheriff's Office Remodel and Expansion Project. Discussion was held regarding replacing the existing pole and wires and boring a new line vs utilizing the existing pole, underground line, and wires. The Commissioners, Ben Moore, Jay Simecka and Evergy staff visited the site to further discuss possible pros and cons for each option. The item was tabled.

Jim Sturgeon, Kathryn Miller, Holly Boice, Stephanie Watson, Tracy Henry, Steve White and Trent Siegle visited with the Commissioners regarding interest in applying for Water Project Grant Funding. Jim Sturgeon, President of Rural Water District No. 2, is in favor of applying for the grant funding. Kathryn Miller, Veterinarian at Rocking KM Vet Clinic, is also in favor of applying for the grant funding as she would like to construct a new clinic facility south of Council Grove and there is currently no access to water to this location. Long term project plans would include the installation of a 50,000- 75,000-gallon water tower. The tower would provide service to an estimated 200 customers in Rural Water District No. 1 and No. 2. Greater Morris County Development Corporation and Flint Hills Regional Council are willing to help submit the grant application, and administer the project, however, the Eligible Applicant must be the County. If the grant application is selected and approved, funds would be received and expended through the County's tax identification number.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve Morris County to be the Eligible Applicant for the Water Project Grant Application. Motion carried. A Resolution of Support for the water project grant application will be drafted for next week's meeting.

Greater Morris County Development Corporation is also planning to apply for grant funding that would assist in developing moderate-low income housing. The Commissioners are in support of developing more housing in Morris County and will draft a resolution of support for the grant application.

Commissioners visited with Appraiser, Ryan Michaelis, regarding Residential Property Neighborhood Revitalization.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. The Transfer Station recently had a visit from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; no corrective action items were found. The compost pile consists of mostly leaves. Travis would like to work on moving the compost pile to a different location which would not require frequent burning and allow for more space.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$30,009.96. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 17,874.06
Road & Bridge:	\$ 12,323.53

Reappraisal:           \$     (299.00)  
Morris County 911:   \$     111.37

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll liabilities as presented, in the total amount of \$112,058.64. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the 2024 County Holidays as presented. Motion carried. The 2024 County Holidays are as follows:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday	January 15, 2024
President's Day	Monday	February 19, 2024
Good Friday	Friday	March 29, 2024
Memorial Day	Monday	May 27, 2024
Independence Day	Tuesday	July 4, 2024
Labor Day	Monday	September 2, 2024
Veterans Day	Monday	November 11, 2024
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 28, 2024
	Friday	November 29, 2024
Christmas Day	Wednesday	December 25, 2024
New Year's Day	Wednesday	January 1, 2025

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 County Board of Canvassers, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler did not attend the afternoon session of the Commission Meeting.

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

- Brush crew removed trees, thickets and trimmed trees at the following locations: J Ave. from 2400-2500, 2700 Rd. from F-G, F Ave. from 2500-2600, 2600 Rd. from A-F, 2900 Rd. from B-F, 2800 Rd. from G-H, V Ave. from 1800-1850, 500 Rd. from D-F and Y Ave. from 200-300
- Rocked roads with Rawhide Quarry gravel on B Ave. from 1400-1600, G Ave. from 1175-1400, H Ave. from 1000-1100 and spotted in on Q Ave. from 2900-3000
- Mid States Materials Quarry (Wilsey location) base rock and Air Capital Quarry road rock was put on 250 Rd. from M-P
- Air Capital Quarry road rock was placed on 300 Rd. from P-R and P Ave. from 250-300
- Creek gravel was hauled to D Ave. from 500-600, 300 Rd. from D-F and 150 Rd. from Y-AA
- A crossroad culvert was installed on R Ave. between 2900-3000
- Two driveway culverts were installed; one on R Ave. between 2800-2900 and one on Q Ave. between 2900-3000

- Shoulder and ditch work was done on 1800 Rd. from D-G, G Ave. from 1100-1175, H Ave. from 1400-1500 and 1500 Rd. from G-H
- Mowing was done on the Wilsey, Latimer and White City routes
- Creek gravel was screened at the county shop
- Olgoonik has completed the waterline project at the county shop

The High Risk Rural Roads Signage Project letting date is December of 2024. The advertisement was sent to be published in the newspaper; request for letters of interest went out to five consultants; technical proposals are due on December 6, 2023; evaluation of proposals will be on December 12, 2023; negotiations with the highest ranked firm will be on (or around) December 19, 2023.

A contract for engineering services with Schwab Eaton was presented for the OS-34 Bridge Project located on K Ave. The total cost proposed in the contract is \$76,000.00.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the contract with Schwab Eaton for the OS-34 Bridge Project as presented, in the amount of \$76,000.00. Funds are to be paid from the Special Bridge Fund. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding obtaining a permanent easement with Foye Moloney along B Ave., south of Skiddy. It has been proposed that the County pay \$320.00 in order to obtain a permanent easement.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve obtaining a permanent easement with Foye Moloney in the amount of \$320.00. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding a loader that is still available on the State Surplus. The 2009 John Deere 444K Front End Loader (with bucket, forks and snow pusher) is listed at \$30,000.00. The loader currently has 5,461 engine hours.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the purchase of the 2009 John Deere 444k Front End Loader from the State Surplus in the amount of \$30,000.00. Funds are to be paid from the Equipment Reserve Fund. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding a 2018 CAT 120M2AWD Road Grader with 1,700 engine hours that is available from Foley. Foley has offered an extended warranty for 48 months/4,000 hours for \$276,109.00. An additional trade in offer of -\$58,000.00 has been made for the County's 2013 MP23 CAT Road Grader; making the purchase price \$218,000.00.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the purchase of the 2018 CAT Road Grader and the trade in of the 2013 MP23 CAT Road Grader; for a total price of \$218,000.00. Funds are to be paid from the Road and Bridge Fund. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jim Barber, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

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**David L. Fox, Member**

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**Dawn Wecker**  
**Morris County Clerk, Clerical**

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**Wayne Kohler, Member**