

## **November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</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

Shandi Andres discussed the cleaning of the fair building. The Morris County Fair Board has hired Lacey Autrey to continue the cleaning and maintenance duties that were previously done by Karen Allen. The rental contract for the building has also been revised. The revisions were discussed.

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff and Ben Moore with Ben Moore Studio Architecture & Planning, presented the commissioners with pricing estimates for the dispatch/sheriff expansion project. The current estimate for construction of the project is \$1,091,000.00, including a \$99,000.00 contingency. Discussion was held regarding pricing alternate options and revising areas of the proposed design. The commissioners are considering using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the project. The item will be re-visited on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the quote from Heartland Door in the amount of \$1,325.00 for a new garage door opener and installation at the Recycle Center. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the request from the Morris County Attorney's Office to donate \$500.00 to the Council Grove After Prom Party. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Casaiia Mullen, Hollyn Zeigler and Leigha Barger, freshman at USD 417, did a recent ELA project on identifying areas within the community to support during the holidays. The students selected Public Transportation for their project and held a bake sale at the home basketball game on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The girls raised \$196.32 to donate to Morris County Public Transportation to assist with those in need of transportation over the holidays.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to accept the donation from the USD 417 students, made to Morris County Public Transportation in the amount of \$196.32. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to amend the motion made on November 9<sup>th</sup> regarding the hearing date and time for vacating Maple St. in Delavan. The hearing has been moved from December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Letters will be sent to the adjacent land owners. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$296,739.63. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General Fund:	\$ 49,079.18
Road & Bridge:	\$ 67,488.93
Special Bridge:	\$ 600.00
Reappraisal:	\$ 1,704.88
Health Dept Flowthr:	\$ 39,832.79

Noxious Weed:	\$	315.10
Solid Waste:	\$	18,276.51
Morris County 911:	\$	110.84
Capital Improvement:	\$	14,232.00
Equipment Reserve:	\$	96,548.00
Bridge Bonds 2020A	\$	6,551.40

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

- Completed mowing on all routes
- Hauled Rawhide gravel on K Ave. from 1100-1200 and J Ave. from 900-1050
- Hauled creek gravel on 2700 Rd. from CC-DD Ave. and DD Ave. from 2600-2700
- Hauled MSM gravel on the north White City route
- Hauled crushed gravel on AB Ave. from 100-150 and 2800 Rd. from F-G Ave.
- Hauling gravel from the creek to the screener
- Cut trees and brush on the north western half of the county
- Completed shoulder ditch work on AB Ave. from 100-150
- Reset a culvert on 800 Rd. from G-H Ave.
- Filled in washed areas around culverts on 2500 Rd. and H Ave.
- Attended a site meeting with KDOT on K-4 over Level Creek

Hank White and Nikki Bowman visited with the commission regarding the temporary easement agreement for the Kelso Bridge Project.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to authorize Chairman Fox to sign the Notice to Proceed for the Kelso Bridge Project over Laird's Creek. Motion carried.

The Kelso Bridge Project over Laird's Creek, on the Parkerville road, will begin on Monday November 29<sup>th</sup>. The Parkerville road will be closed, west of the Kelso Bridge.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve a temporary speed limit of 35 mph on the Kelso Road for the K-177 detour, to be effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved that the commission go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matter with Jeff Falter, Shelly Lautt, Bill Kassebaum and Chelsey Schmidt present for 10 minutes. Motion carried.

The commission entered executive session at 1:32 p.m.

The commission returned to open session at 1:42 p.m.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved that the commission re-enter executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters with Jeff Falter, Shelly Lautt, Bill Kassebaum and Chelsey Schmidt present for another 10 minutes. Motion carried.

The commission entered executive session at 1:43 p.m.

The commission returned to open session at 1:53 p.m.

No action taken.

Discussion was held regarding requesting Schwartz Farm to consider providing a Road Bond Issue for 2 ½ miles of 2800 Rd., north of Hwy 56. Jeff Falter will discuss with Schwartz Farm and report back to the commission.

Commissioner Barber discussed a ditch that needs cleaned out on C Ave. and 1800 Rd.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Commission Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Chris Blackledge, County Emergency Manager, provided a report on emergency management. They are in the process of developing a CERT Team for USD 417 Junior/Senior High School.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 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**

\_\_\_\_\_  
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