

November 29th, 2022

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, November 29th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Jim Barber, Wayne Kohler and David L. Fox were present. Dawn Wecker, Clerk Clerical Staff, and Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, were present.

Others present: Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, gave a report on the Sheriff's Office. Discussion was held regarding the need for an 800-mhz radio repeater. The 800-mhz radio frequency is used by law enforcement, EMS, and fire department agencies to communicate. The current coverage for the radio frequency is very poor in many buildings and areas within the county and cities. The installation of an 800-mhz radio repeater would greatly improve radio communications between all agencies. A quote from Ka-Comm Inc. was presented. The total cost for the purchase, installation and programming of one 800-mhz repeater is \$30,244.47. The City of Council Grove has agreed to allow the repeater to be installed and placed on the City of Council Grove's water tower, free of charge.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approved the purchase of the 800-mhz radio repeater as presented, in the amount of \$30,244.47. The funds will be paid from the 9-1-1 Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler discussed reviewing the County's Employee Policy Handbook and scheduling the next quarterly department head meeting.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from November 21st, 2022 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

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

- Shoulder and ditch work was done on the Kelso Rd.
- Mowing was done on the Dwight routes
- Trucks went to Kanopolis for salt; salt was mixed with sand and put in the storage shed in preparation for winter weather
- Reclaimed rock with the retriever on CC Ave. from 100-200, 200 Rd. from Y-AA, 400 Rd. from Y-AA, Y Ave. from 400- Dunlap Rd., 200 Rd. from L-M, M Ave. from 100-250, Old Hwy 4 from 300-P Ave., 100 Rd. from L-T, Q Ave. from 100-200 and 200 Rd. from U-X
- Performed maintenance work on a culvert on M Ave. between 500 Rd. and Old Hwy 4
- Maintenance work was done on equipment
- Darrell Litke has removed the fence along the field north of the fairgrounds at the "county farm"; the county will remove some small trees using the mini- excavator
- The "Sunflower Bridge" is closed due to safety concerns; there have been recurring issues with the barricades being moved and traffic going across the bridge

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the utility permits for Evergy for the replacement of electrical poles and lines in the Dunlap area to the Lyon County line. The work is scheduled to begin in June of 2023 and will take approximately one year for completion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the purchase of a 2008 New Holland tractor on a purple wave auction in the amount of \$32,450.00. Funds are to be paid out of Road & Bridge Capital Outlay Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox discussed the area of AA Ave. between 1600-1700 Rd. needing more rock if possible and the area of 500 Rd. between G-H Ave. needing attention.

Commissioner Barber discussed the area of 2900 Rd.- 3000 Rd. needing more rock and the area of L Ave. going west from Latimer needing ditch work.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Solid Waste Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Solid Waste departments. The recycle drop off at the Wilsey location will now be checked every Tuesday.

Commissioner Barber recommended getting new signs for the recycle drop off at the White City location.

Corrine Blosser, Register of Deeds, discussed courthouse maintenance issues. The lights in the courtroom lobby are not working. Schumann Electric is scheduled to come later this week.

The commissioners received a letter of resignation from Laura Viar as Morris County Attorney, effective January 3, 2023. She has been appointed to replace Magistrate Judge Margaret White. Laura has served as Morris County Attorney for the past 17 years.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the minutes from November 21st, 2022 Canvass of Votes, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$93,463.55 and employer payroll liabilities in the amount of \$16,785.49. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the amount of \$9,540.92. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$	1,144.26
Road & Bridge:	\$	663.17
Reappraisal:	\$	1,227.05
Health Dept Flowthru:	\$	6,048.00
Ambulance:	\$	398.44
Bridge Bonds 2020A:	\$	60.00

A draft of proposed Equipment Reserve expenditures for 2023-2025 was reviewed. The item will be re-visited.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 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

Dawn Wecker
Morris County Clerk Clerical Staff

David L. Fox, Member