

October 10th, 2023

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 10th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Jim Barber, David L. Fox and Wayne Kohler were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Others present: Gary Floyd

Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, gave a report on the Sheriff's Office, Jail and Dispatch. The interior remodeling of the booking area and dispatch will begin soon. Sheriff Simecka will be visiting with the Chase County Commissioners to request housing Morris County inmates at Chase County's jail facility for the duration of the interior remodel.

Tracy Henry, Executive Director of Greater Morris County Development Corporation, Stephanie Watson, Housing and Grant Specialist, and Bill Caton provided a report on current projects. The GMDC received the Federal Home Loan Bank Grant in the amount of \$408,680.00. Funds are being administered to Morris County residents who qualify and have infrastructure repairs needed to their homes. GMDC has received 32 applications so far; 3 applications have been approved and work has been completed such as a new HVAC systems, new roofs, etc. Discussion was held regarding the Moderate-Income Housing Program and the Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credit Program. GMDC would like to apply for grant funding from these two programs. Applications that show NRP or RHID plans being developed and implemented receive higher scorings on the grant application scoring. Discussion was held regarding implementing a residential NRP or RHID plan for Morris County. The item was tabled.

Dave Owen, Morris County EMS Director, gave a report on Morris County EMS and presented the following run statistics for the month of September:

Ambulance calls:	68
Transfers from MCH to other hospitals:	17
Total number of runs:	85
<i>North County:</i>	29
<i>South County:</i>	56
Year to date total runs:	602

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. Prices for recycled cardboard are slowly starting to increase. Schwab Eaton will be visiting the transfer station to look at potential designs for placement of a scale. Hamm's hauling reports for September show that out of 17 trailers, only 3 were under 22 tons, and 4 were over 22 tons. The compost pile caught on fire last Tuesday evening at the transfer station yard. The compost pile will be removed. Moving forward, any contents that would have been placed in the compost pile will be placed in the brush pile. The Transfer Station will release further instruction and information to the public regarding compost.

The Commissioners would like to thank the Council Grove Fire Department, Tyler Yadon, Jeff Falter and Brad Martin for their help in containing and extinguishing the fire at the Transfer Station yard.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the purchase of a \$25.00 gift certificate to the Morris County Chamber for Jeff Falter, Tyler Yadon and Brad Martin, to show their appreciation. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the October 3rd, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve payroll liabilities as presented, in the total amount of \$41,778.07. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$36,051.42. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 15,903.77
Road & Bridge:	\$ 1,396.28
Reappraisal:	\$ 209.41
Noxious Weed:	\$ 351.36
Ambulance:	\$ 573.79
Solid Waste:	\$ 16,661.23
Morris County 911:	\$ 955.58

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

- Mid States Materials Quarry (Wilsey location) base rock was hauled to the county shop stockpile
- Air Capital Quarry road rock was spotted in on 2400 Rd. between T-U and on 300 Rd. between P-R
- Creek gravel was placed on 300 Rd. between Q-R
- Water leak was found and fixed at the Dwight shop
- Shoulder and ditch work was done on P Ave. between 250-300
- Work was done to rebuild/reshape the roads on 300 Rd. from P-Q and 300 Rd. from Q-R
- New entrance culvert was installed on 2400 Rd. between T-U
- Removed a failed concrete culvert on 2100 Rd. between U-V
- Mowing was done on the two Council Grove routes
- Fallen tree was removed from the road on J Ave. between 2900-3000
- Boom mower was used to cut trees back on V Ave. from 3100-3200, X Ave. from 3100-3200, Y Ave. from 2700-3100, 2800 Rd. from X-BB, BB Ave. from 2800-3200, AA Ave. from 3000-3200 and 3000 Rd. from X-CC
- Safety meeting was held and included MSHA Training and employee evaluations
- Jeff & Shelly had pre-construction meeting with Olgoonik Enterprises on the waterline project
- Jeff & Shelly met with Skylar Matthews with the KAW Nation to discuss the next round of funding work
- Jeff and Brad Martin assisted the Council Grove Fire Department with the fire at the Transfer Station the evening of October 3rd

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to authorize Jeff Falter to sign the Utility Permit for the City of Wilsey to perform work along 1800 Rd. located between Section 29, Township 16S, Range 7E. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the proposal from Mid States Materials to crush rock for the county at the Wilsey Quarry location. No action was taken. The item will be discussed further.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to recess the commission meeting and move to the downstairs meeting room to hold the department head meeting. Motion carried.

The commission meeting was recessed and moved downstairs at 1:55 p.m.

The department head meeting began at 2:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were: Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, Jan Helmer, District Court Clerk, Jay Simecka, County Sheriff, Corrine Blosser, Register of Deeds, Lloyd Davies, Information Technology, Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, Shelly Lutt and Jeff Falter, Road & Bridge Directors, Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer

Items discussed:

- County Information Technology Report given by Lloyd Davies
- North Central Kansas County Treasurer's and Register of Deed's will be holding their fall meeting; Morris County will be hosting
- Flu shots for county employees will be offered at the courthouse on Monday, October 16th at 10:00 a.m.
- County Tax Sale will be on November 3rd, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
- Holiday Schedule for 2024
- Employee Christmas Boxes
- Courthouse maintenance
- 2024 Cost of Living increases for county employees has been approved and will be 3%; will take effect January 1
- Annual inventory for all county departments

The department head meeting ended at 2:54 p.m.

The commission meeting was reconvened in the commissioners meeting room and adjourned at 3:04 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