

October 26th, 2021

The Morris County Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 26th, 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.

Candra Good, County Health Nurse, and Dr. Daniel Frese, County Health Officer provided an update on the status of Covid-19 in Morris County. The health department reports that the data is showing a trending decrease in Covid-19 positive cases for Morris County. Aron Dody, USD 417 Superintendent, provided data and reports from the state on Covid-19 outbreaks in schools throughout Kansas and cumulative cases for USD 417. Removing the mask mandate was discussed. The County Health Nurse and County Health Officer expressed hesitancy regarding removing the mask mandate due to the approaching colder weather which would move gatherings and activities indoors. They also reported that the Covid-19 vaccination for children ages 5-11 is anticipated to be approved and available within the next few weeks. The County Health Officer reported that he would like to leave the mask mandate in place until the next 8-9 weeks could be evaluated and allow more time for those children ages 5-11 who wish to do so, may receive the vaccination. The Commission scheduled the matter to be re-visited at the January 11th meeting.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, provided a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments. John Lee was present for the department report. TCT has almost completed the installation of the security camera and system updates. K- Construction has almost completed the concrete work. Upgrades to the department's computers and software programs are being completed.

Discussion was held regarding the landfill fees.

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, presented the commissioners with a Neighborhood Revitalization Program Application from Storage Plus for the construction of additional storage unit buildings.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the Neighborhood Revitalization Application from Storage Plus as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the payment to Morris County Hospital for reimbursement for the additional contract tracer for the Health Department in the amount of \$1,590.27. Reimbursement is to be paid from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the letter of support for Morris County Public Transportation FY2023 grant application to be submitted to KDOT. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the minutes from the October 12th, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$43,257.45 Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General Fund:	\$ 14,454.28
Noxious Weed:	\$ 1,442.06
Solid Waste:	\$ 27,361.11

Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, was not present for the afternoon session.

Shelly Lutt, Jeff Blosser and Jeff Falter gave the following weekly road and bridge report:

- Continue to mow on the Dwight, Delavan, Burdick and south Council Grove routes
- Hauled rock from Rawhide Quarry on J Ave. between 1400-1600 and then south to Parkerville
- Hauled creek gravel to the Wilsey route
- Cleaned ditches on R Ave. between 300 and 400
- Cleaned and graded at the new box installation on 2700 Rd. between G and H Ave.
- Began hauling from the creek again, but are now delayed for the next few weeks due to owner's hunting
- Received another 2019 FEMA payment in the amount of \$81,219.56 for the western 1/3 of the western ½ of Morris County roads
- MSM has notified of a projected 3-8% price increase beginning January 1, 2022
- Ordered 500 tons of scalping to be delivered from the Harshman Quarry at a cost of \$5.00/ton
- Employees Update- Have hired one new employee and have two more applications scheduled to interview

One quote was received for 4,500 gallons of #2 diesel fuel and 3,500 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Diesel</u>	<u>Reg Unleaded</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
MFA	2.8712/gal	2.6187/gal	\$22,085.85

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to accept the fuel bid from MFA Oil as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the Kelso-Bridge Project. The original inspection contract will need to be amended to add more inspection days due to the contractor needing more construction days.

BG Consultants will be submitting an application to the HRRR Project for signage for the eastern half of the county.

Equipment discussion:

- Will wait on looking at tractors until spring
- Still looking for 2, 1-ton trucks
- Plan to look at 2 new blades the first part of 2022
- Pick-up upgrades, if Sheriff's Department may have some

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved that the Commission go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters with Jeff Falter, Shelly Lutt, Jeff Blosser, and Bill Kassebaum present for 15 minutes. Motion carried.

The Commission entered executive session at 2:25 p.m.

The Commission returned to open session at 2:40 p.m.

No action taken.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

A reception was held from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room for Janet Edwards, John Lee and Jeff Blosser.

--Meeting minutes can also be found on the county website: www.morriscountyks.org

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS

David L. Fox, Chairman

ATTEST:

Wayne Kohler, Member

Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk

Jim Barber, Member