

## **September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners David L. Fox and Wayne Kohler were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor and Dawn Wecker, County Clerk Clerical Staff, were present.

Others present: Gary Floyd

Jay Simecka, Morris County Sheriff, gave a report on employee staffing changes. The new radio tower at the Sheriff's Office has been installed; wiring has not yet been started. Construction of the Sheriff's Office and Dispatch Addition/Remodel Project continues to progress; the roof is completed.

Commissioner Kohler discussed the Corp of Engineer's meeting that was held on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The county was well represented and the discussions regarding emergency planning were very beneficial.

Commissioners reviewed the courthouse water usage report from the City of Council Grove. Stroda Plumbing has also been contacted regarding a suspected water leak in the courthouse; commissioners are still awaiting a report/update from Stroda Plumbing.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to appoint Dr. John Price as the Morris County Special Deputy Coroner and to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Morris County and John Price for Special Deputy Coroner, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioners received a letter from Shirley and Kenneth McClintock regarding stone footings of the Council House that are located near 525 Road. There are concerns that road improvements done on X Ave. and 525 Road may cause damage or destruction of the stone footings.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$67,905.87. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 15,463.94
Road & Bridge:	\$ 11,240.20
Reappraisal:	\$ 188.28
Noxious Weed:	\$ 479.38
Solid Waste:	\$ 20,921.41
Morris County 911:	\$ 111.37
Equipment Reserve:	\$ 4,364.89
Bridge Bonds 2020A:	\$ 15,136.40

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve payroll liabilities as presented, in the total amount of \$42,750.72. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

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

Ambulance calls:	53
Transfers from MCH to other hospitals:	18

Total number of runs: 71  
North County: 14  
South County: 57  
Year to date total runs: 517

A new flag pole has been put up at the EMS Station. There have been no further updates on the new ambulance; anticipated arrival date is October of 2025.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. Discussion was held regarding the proposed renewal contract with Hamm Companies. Discussion was held regarding a scale vs. portable scales for the Transfer Station.

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

- Work was done to reshape X Ave. from 525 Rd.- Dunlap Rd.; topped with Mid States Materials Quarry (Wilsey location) base rock
- Road was rebuilt and creek gravel was placed on a portion of 3000 Rd. between Q-R; this portion will no longer be minimum maintenance
- Shoulder and ditch work was done on M Ave. from 250-400
- Leftover chips were hauled to the White City stockpile
- Air Capital Quarry road rock was stockpiled at the County Shop
- Tree was removed from the roadway on CC Ave. and 2050 Rd.
- Mowing was done on Burdick, Latimer and White City routes
- County's road and bridge request for reimbursement from the "Federal Fund Exchange" has been submitted in the amount of \$58,537.01
- The Off-System Bridge Program request and required documents for the OS-34 Bridge have been submitted to KDOT to accept the awarded funding
- Jeff and Shelly held a meeting with Chuck and Jaime from Schwab-Eaton to discuss current projects
- Jeff and Shelly attended the Corp of Engineers Emergency Preparedness meeting that was held at the courthouse on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Two fuel bids were received for 4,000 gallons of clear #2 diesel fuel and 4,000 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Diesel</u>	<u>Reg Unleaded</u>	<u>Total</u>
MFA Oil	3.7368/gal	3.3017/gal	\$28,154.00
Agri Trails	3.8000/gal	3.3700/gal	\$28,680.00

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the bid from MFA Oil as presented, in the total amount of \$28,154.00. Motion carried.

Due to a change in state regulations, the county has six additional bridges that are due for an annual routine inspection and one bridge that is due for a fracture critical inspection. A quote from E.E.S. LLC was presented for performing six annual routine bridge inspections at \$225.00 each, and one fracture critical bridge inspection at \$1350.00, for a total of \$2,700.00.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the bridge inspection contract with E.E.S. LLC for six annual bridge inspections and one fracture critical bridge inspection, in the total amount of \$2,700.00. Motion carried. Funds are to be paid from the Special Bridge Fund.

Commissioners reviewed a bid summary from Schwab Eaton for the Road & Bridge Waterline Project Bids that were received on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to accept the bid from Olgoonik Enterprises for the Road & Bridge Waterline Replacement Project in the total amount of \$93,293.00 and to authorize Jeff Falter to sign the Notice of Award. Motion carried. Funds are to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund.

The meeting adjourned at Noon.

--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**