

September 6th, 2022

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 6th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners Wayne Kohler, David L. Fox and Jim Barber were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk were present.

Others present: AJ Dome, Council Grove Republican, Billy Kryger, Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Chris Blackledge, Emergency Manager, gave a report on emergency management. Discussion was held regarding the need for an 800-radio system for all fire departments in Morris County.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the quote from KA-COMM for replacing four battery back-ups for the tornado sirens, in the amount of \$1,523.10. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to recess the commission meeting and change the location of the meeting to the downstairs meeting room to hold the RNR and Budget Hearing. Motion carried.

The RNR and Budget Hearing was held in the downstairs meeting room at 10:00 a.m.

Those present were: Commissioner Kohler, Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Barber, Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, AJ Dome, Council Grove Republican, Billy Kryger, Jo King and Donald Heller.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed 2023 Morris County Budget. Jo King expressed concerns regarding priorities of the county and specifically stated that she would like to see a higher priority placed on law enforcement funding and staffing. Donald Heller discussed the 2022 Notice of Estimated Ad Valorem Taxes. Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, discussed the requirements from the State for the valuation of real property.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-12 to levy a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the 2023 Morris County Budget as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to adjourn the RNR and Budget Hearing and to change the location of the meeting to the upstairs meeting room. Motion carried.

The commission meeting resumed in the upstairs meeting room at 10:45 a.m.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed and Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management departments. The Recycle and Noxious Weed departments will be short staffed on September 14th. Patrons that may need to purchase chemical on September 14th are encouraged to call prior to coming to the Noxious Weed Department.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve the minutes from the August 30th, 2022 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$96,490.04 and payroll liabilities in the amount of \$16,838.04. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fox (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the amount of \$40,653.72. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 23,266.67
Road & Bridge:	\$ 11,744.56
Reappraisal:	\$ 1,224.75
Noxious Weed:	\$ 149.63
Ambulance:	\$ 600.93
Solid Waste:	\$ 367.18
Equipment Reserve:	\$ 3,300.00

The commission received a letter of resignation from Dr. Daniel Frese as the Deputy District Coroner for Morris County. Dr. Daniel Frese will be retiring as of September 30th, 2022.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to accept the letter of resignation from Dr. Daniel Frese as the Deputy District Coroner for Morris County, effective September 30th, 2022. Motion carried.

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

- Pushed up rock and hauled from the creek at Dean Miller's to the stockpile where it was screened
- Hauled Rawhide Quarry gravel on the Kelso detour route and 1000 Rd. A-C detour route
- MSM Quarry rock was placed on Kahola Rd. from 500-FF
- Field entrance was installed on 3100 Rd. between DD-FF
- Repaired a separated culvert on 2400 Rd. between R-T
- Received K-177 detour reimbursement funds in the amount of \$44,336.22
- Received \$20,000.00 reimbursement from the Federal Highway Administration for unused funds from the 2019 FLAP Project (Guardrail replacement on the Lake Rd.) Morris County initially provided \$75,000.00 for funding the project and only \$55,000.00 was needed for the local match.
- Upon completion of chip seal, the county only purchased 140,169 gallons of RS-1M Emulsion Oil; the approved bid was for 173,585 gallons

Commissioner Fox discussed the quality of rock placed on G Ave., H Ave. and 500 Rd., in the northwestern part of the county. A request was made that after the completion of phase one of the K-177 construction that these roads be improved.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to appoint Commissioner Fox as the Morris County Voting Delegate for the Annual KAC Meeting to be held in Overland Park October 17-19th, 2022. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to appoint Commissioner Barber as the Morris County Alternate Voting Delegate for the Annual KAC Meeting to be held in Overland Park October 17 - 19th, 2022. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 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

**Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk**

David L. Fox, Member