

## **April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners David L. Fox, Jim Barber and Wayne Kohler were present. Bill Kassebaum, County Counselor, and Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, were present.

Others present: Billy Kryger- Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments.

Darrell Litke, county resident, visited with the commissioners and Travis Schweger regarding trash and debris along Hwy 56, east of Council Grove. There has been an increase in the amount of trash and debris along the highway; majority of the trash is coming from individuals hauling trash to the Transfer Station and not properly having the trash secured and/or tarped. The commissioners had discussed this issue during the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting and made a motion to enforce the county policy to charge an additional \$5.00 fee to individuals who transport trash and debris to the Transfer Station and do not have the trash appropriately secured and/or tarped. The Transfer Station has been trying to educate county residents on the enforcement of this policy. Discussion was held regarding various alternatives to try and educate and encourage county residents to be more mindful of their trash and littering throughout the county.

Mallory Lee, Jimmy Parker, Chad Sanford, Brian Burhoop and Trent Blythe, with the Morris County Conservation District, provided a report on services provided in calendar year 2023. \$2,500.00 towards conservation education, \$35,857.00 in State Cost Share Contracts were paid to landowners, \$71,000.00 in revenue to local contractors, 7,500 acres of Morris County were enrolled in conservation programs, 18,000 linear feet of terraces in Morris County were funded, and \$845,297.71 in EQIP program contracts were provided in 2023. The Conservation District also held the Twin Lakes Water Festival, Wildflower Walking Tour, Envirothon, 1 academic scholarship and Soil Health Field Day in 2023. An appropriation request for the 2025 budget year was made in the amount of \$30,000.00; this is \$3,000.00 less than last year's request. The State will match the county appropriation for funding, up to a maximum of \$25,000.00. The request will be considered during the county's budgeting process.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$281,793.21. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 20,525.12
Road & Bridge:	\$ 40,983.98
Reappraisal:	\$ 250.32
Noxious Weed:	\$ 251.56
Solid Waste:	\$ 16,271.13
Equipment Reserve:	\$ 17,990.10
ARPA Funds:	\$ 185,521.00

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve payroll liabilities in the amount of \$135,127.23. Motion carried.

The Commissioners visited the Sheriff's Office to tour the remodel/construction progress.

No bids were received for the Sheriff's Office retaining wall project.

Ben Moore, with Ben Moore Studio LLC, attended the commission meeting via telephone. Discussion was held regarding no bids received for the Sheriff's Office retaining wall. Discussion was held regarding the quote with K-Construction that was approved by the Commissioners on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. The original quote from K-Construction was approved for \$1,702.00 for additional concrete around the 9-1-1 radio tower and an additional \$12,695.00 for the Sheriff's Office west entrance stairway and handrails. It seems there was a misunderstanding between K-Construction and Ben Moore Studio LLC regarding the quote. The quote that was presented and approved on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 did not include pricing for ADA compliant handrails for the stairway. The ADA compliant handrails will cost an additional \$7,296.00.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the quote from K-Construction in the amount of \$7,296.00 for the ADA compliant handrails and to authorize Chelsey Schmidt, County Clerk, to sign the change order agreements with K-Construction. Motion carried.

Jeff Falter, Road & Bridge Supervisor, and Skyler Mathews with the Kaw Nation, visited with the commissioners regarding the interlocal agreement between the County and the Nation for general maintenance of the public roadways and cultural influenced areas on the Nation's Tribal Transportation Program route system located within Morris County. An appropriation from the Nation will be made annually in the amount of \$20,000.00 per year for reimbursement of expenses for maintaining the specified route system. Funds that are not expended in one fiscal year can be carried forward and expended in subsequent fiscal years. The agreement will be from FY2025 to FY2029.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the interlocal agreement between Morris County and the Kaw Nation, as presented. Motion carried.

Steve Sisson, county resident, visited with Jeff Falter and the commissioners regarding safety concerns with a steep hill in the area of 1600 Rd. and AA Ave.

Jeff Falter gave the following weekly road and bridge report:

- Air Capital Quarry rock was hauled to 2500 Rd. from V-X, X Ave. from 3000-3200, 3100 Rd. from V-Y, V Ave. from 3100-3200, 2700 Rd. from M-P, 2800 Rd. from P-Q and BB Ave. from 2200-2300
- Rawhide Quarry rock was placed on 1100 Rd. from H-J, H Ave. from 1100-1175, 1400 Rd. from G-H, C Ave. from 1700-1800, 1800 Rd. from D-F, J Ave. from 1300-1400 and 1300 Rd. from J-M
- Creek gravel was put on 500 Rd. from DD-Kahola Rd., DD Ave. from 400-500, 400 Rd. from AB-CC and 400 Rd. from Z-Dunlap Rd.
- Mid States Materials Quarry AB-3 rock was put on 2600 Rd. from A-G
- Creek gravel was screened at the shop
- Mid States Materials Quarry AB-3 rock and dirt was used for the installation of two entrance culverts on C Ave. between 1700-1800
- Crossroad culvert was replaced on 2700 Rd. between U-V
- Shoulder and ditch work was done on 2700 Rd. from H-K, 2500 Rd. from V-X and 2800 Rd. from P-U
- Ditch grade was surveyed with the transit on 2200 Rd. from C-D
- Hauled TU61 truck to Salina for repairs
- Chip and oil bids were sent out to supplies; bid opening will be May 7, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

- Met with Chad from Kaw Valley Engineering and discussed infrastructure funding; will be submitting the OS-99 (Gail Lee) Bridge to the Small Bridge Program and the RS-70 (G Ave. over Clarks Creek) Bridge to the KLBIP Program
- Ebert Construction plans to move in equipment and start the Sunflower Bridge Project later this week- early next week; the Sunflower Bridge is located at Y Ave. and 1700 Rd.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the utility permit for Enterprise Products to repair a pipeline located on H Ave. between 300-400 and to authorize Jeff Falter to sign the application. Motion carried.

Linda Eldridge, County Treasurer, gave a report on the Treasurer's Office. Quarterly financial reports were presented and reviewed.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the minutes from the April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the SLFRF Compliance Expenditure Report to be submitted to the Treasury, as presented. As of March 31, 2024, Morris County has expended \$643,818.30 of the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the contract agreement between Morris County and the Morris County Youth Rodeo Association regarding the use, management and maintenance of the Rodeo Arena, as presented. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund Request to purchase a Dell Latitude 5430 Rugged Laptop for the Sheriff's Department, in the amount of \$2,166.91. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the letter of engagement with Cindy Jensen, Certified Public Accountant, for financial audit services for the year ended December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$15,000.00. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

--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**

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**David L. Fox, Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

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**Wayne Kohler, Member**

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**Chelsey Schmidt  
Morris County Clerk**

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**Jim Barber, Member**