

**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Morris County Commissioner meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</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: Gary Floyd, Billy Kryger- Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Jamie Johnson, Morris County Health Nurse, gave a report on the health department. Discussion was held regarding the health department's COVID-19 IAP Supplemental 4 Vaccine Equity Grant funding. Jamie has presented the proposal for a double-faced LED electronic sign to the City of Council Grove and received their approval. The proposal will be reviewed with the Morris County Hospital Board before final commitment to purchase the electronic sign is made.

Jamie Johnson and Jeff Falter visited with the commissioners regarding a potential public health nuisance. Complaints have been received regarding a potential public health nuisance at 1892 V Ave., near Wilsey. Jamie has viewed the referenced location, as well as Randy Barten, the Morris County Sanitarian. Photos of the location were presented and reviewed. A letter will be sent to the property owner. If needed, the commissioners will convene as the County Board of Health to discuss the matter further.

Ben Sachs, Race Director for Life Time, visited with the commissioners regarding the 2024 UNBOUND Gravel bike race. This year's primary race date will be Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 with the 350-mile XL riders beginning the afternoon of Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. The event schedule and traffic impacts to Morris County will be discussed further with Morris County EMS, Morris County Sheriff's Department, and the Council Grove Police Department. A checkpoint for riders will be set up at the Council Grove High School. This year's event will be bringing approximately 3,300 riders, from all 50 states and 43 different countries, plus roughly 1,000 support crews. Further information can be obtained at [www.unboundgravel.com](http://www.unboundgravel.com).

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the County Attorney's Diversion Fund Request for the February MDT Meeting invoice to Rays Apple Market in the amount of \$128.29. Funds are to be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve the 2024 Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses for the Council Grove Marina locations at 1025 Lake Rd. and 1002 Lake Rd. in Council Grove. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the 2024 Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses for the Kahola Cantina located at 490 Kahola Rd. in Council Grove. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented; in the total amount of \$99,523.25. Motion carried. The breakdown by fund is as follows:

General:	\$ 17,507.85
Road & Bridge:	\$ 76,566.43
Solid Waste:	\$ 4,502.76
Treasurer Spec. Auto:	\$ 946.21

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved to approve payroll liabilities in the amount of \$133,725.81. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding posting signs at the courthouse entrances to direct individuals trying to access the Sheriff's Office. The new entrance to the Sheriff's Office will be located on the west side of the courthouse, however, until the sidewalk and stairway concrete work is complete this entrance is not accessible. The old sheriff's office entrance, located at the northwest corner of the courthouse is currently under construction and is not accessible to the public either. Individuals needing to access the Sheriff's Office will need to contact the Sheriff's Office at 620-767-6310 and will be met by a staff member outside of the District Court to be safely accompanied through the construction. Offices within the courthouse can assistance individuals in contacting the Sheriff's Office as well.

Travis Schweger, Noxious Weed & Waste Management Director, gave a report on the Noxious Weed and Waste Management Departments. The Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report for 2024 was presented and reviewed.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report for 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

Dan Bacon visited with the commissioners regarding drainage issues located on 100 Rd. (west side of the road), north of the Rock Creek Bridge. The information will be passed on to the Road & Bridge supervisors.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the minutes from the March 19th, 2024 commission meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

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

- Routine grading of roads was done on all routes across the county
- Air Capital Quarry rock was placed on 3000 Rd. from U-Z and Helmick Rd. from 1000-1200
- Rawhide Quarry rock was used on B Ave. from 1500-1700 and H Ave. from 1100-1175
- Creek gravel was put in a soft spot on 2000 Rd. between V-X
- Everett's Trucking hauled Mid States Materials Quarry rock on 2900 Rd. from D-G, C Ave. from 2700-2800, 2700 Rd. from A-D, J Ave. from 3000-3200 and L Ave. from 2800-3100
- Culvert entrance was installed at the Mid States Materials Quarry on 2800 Rd. between C-D
- Installed new crossroad culvert on Helmick Rd. between 1100-1200 to replace the wooden one that failed
- Culvert entrance was installed on J Ave. between 2900-3000
- Shoulder and ditch work was done on 1000 Rd. from T-U and a new driveway culvert was installed
- Reclaimer was run on X Ave. from 3100-3200, 3100 Rd. from X-Y, Y Ave. from 2600-3100 and BB Ave. from 2200-2750
- Hauled out culverts to locations to be installed; welded casing pipes together for the entrance at the quarry
- Shoulder work was done on 1050 Rd. from K-M, M Ave. from 1100-1200, 2800 Rd. from C-D, J Ave. from 2900-3000, 2600 Rd. from V-X, 2700 Rd. from X-BB, AA Ave. from 2800-2900, 2900 Rd. from AA-BB, AA Ave. from 2900-3200 and V Ave. from 3100-3200
- Cut trees and brush on 1700 Rd. and R Ave.
- Hauled and spread two loads of dirt on shoulders, removed tree and did further clean up work at the box culvert on B Ave. between 2400-2600
- Discussion was held regarding a culvert issue on 2200 Rd. between C-D

- FEMA Update: the preliminary information submitted for Morris County has been validated

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the Preliminary Engineering Design Service Agreement with BG Consultants, Inc. for the HRRR Signage Project and to authorize Chairman Fox to sign the agreement. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kohler discussed the area of T Ave. and 1000 Rd.; request was made for trees to be trimmed and ditches cleaned out.

Commissioner Fox discussed the area of H Ave. and G Ave., east of Hwy 177.

Commissioner Barber discussed the clean up work that was done at the box culvert on B Ave. between 2400-2600.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to recess the commission meeting to conduct the Canvass of Votes for the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Presidential Preference Primary Election. Motion carried.

The commission meeting was recessed at 2:07 p.m.

The commission meeting re-convened at 2:41 p.m.

Commissioners viewed the north parking lot area with Ben Moore and Everyg. The proposed parking lot designs were discussed. Everyg will move the power pole, at no additional cost. The tree located in front of the courthouse, on the north side, will need to be removed.

Discussion was held with Ben Moore regarding seeking bids for the retaining wall that will be located along the west side of the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve to publish the Notice for Bids for the retaining wall located on the west side of the Sheriff's Office. Sealed bids will be opened on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. in the Morris County Commissioner's Meeting Room. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 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**