

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 21, 2006

Bob called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with open doors.

Present: Bob Boaldin, Chairman; Allen Tucker, Vice-Chairman; Ron DeGarmo, Commissioner; Eric Witcher, County Attorney; Mary Gilmore, County Clerk

The Agenda was reviewed and approved with additions.

Minutes of the August 7th meeting were read and approved with corrections, as directed by the Commissioners, on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter prepared by Steve Rice, Auditor, regarding the Library's 2007 Budget. The Commissioners directed the Clerk to send a copy of this letter to Virginia Johnson, Librarian, and Ken Wasson, Library Board Member.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve the Morton County 2007 Budget. The Budget was signed by all three Commissioners. The Commissioners also signed the budget forms for the Conservation District, the District Court, the Extension Council, and SDSI (Southwest Developmental Services, Inc.) Also signed was the Payroll Form.

The Commissioners reviewed the KDOT map showing "Traffic on County Major Roads (formerly FAS routes) Adjusted to 2006 Average Daily Volumes" for District Six, which includes Morton County. The most traveled road in Morton County is Highway 51, South of Rolla with an average of 835 vehicles a day.

Supplemental Agreement No. 1 for Improvements to the Elkhart-Morton County Airport was reviewed and signed. This Agreement is for services to provide construction administration, observation, and testing, and the additional services required to survey the infield area adjacent to the Apron during the design phase for the Apron Project. The Commissioners reviewed the Consultant's Supplement and considered the fees to be fair and reasonable based on the Scope of Services to be provided by Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation.

Commissioner Tucker reported he attended the Court Security and Disaster Recovery Project for the Kansas Judicial Branch meeting in Hugoton. A copy of the "Draft Best Practice Standards, June 2006" is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Vienna Lee met with the Commissioners and requested approval for Lisa Thomason to attend the Kansas Passport Training on September 13th in Newton, Kansas. The

Economic Development Office processes Passports for Morton County. Approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Vienna presented the Commissioners a copy of the Santa Fe Trail brochure. Economic Development contributed \$500 towards reprinting the brochure. Vienna requested approval to pay this same amount towards this next reprinting. Approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Allen. This will be paid out of the E.D. Commodities fund.

Vienna presented a sample for the interior doors for the Civic Center. The current plan specified stained wood doors. The sample presented looks like stained wood but is much more resistant to scratching. Ashley Fiss will make a few calls to make sure this different door will not cost more than the stained wood ones.

Vienna reported she attended the KDOT meeting in Garden City and visited with Chuck Oldacker and Larry Thompson. Larry mentioned to Vienna that he noticed an acceleration lane was not included in the Civic Center streets plan. Larry suggested an acceleration lane be constructed on the west side of the highway to prevent traffic congestion. Consensus of the Commissioners was that this was an excellent idea and asked Vienna to relay their approval to Mr. Thompson.

Vienna also reported that the renter in the space next door to the Economic Development Office is now empty and she has had a couple of people express an interest in renting the space. Vienna stated that the area needs new floor covering and also suggested a dropped ceiling be installed, as well as central heat and air. The Commissioners said they would look at that area following lunch today.

Brandi Fleming met with the Commissioners and presented the Morton County Health Department Mutual Agreement of Understanding (for use of a building in the event of a disaster). The building involved is the Fowler Field House. Nancy Crowell, USD 218 Superintendent, signed the Agreement, as did Brandi. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to sign the Agreement. Brandi also presented her monthly Health Department report covering 8/1/06 through 8/21/06.

Brandi reported there is a water leak in her office. Larry looked at it but was not able to determine where the water was coming in at; Brandi said it is on the outside wall. The Commissioners will visit with Larry about this.

Brandi asked the Commissioners who takes care of the signs on the state line road. Brandi stated she and her family have moved into her parents' home and there are a lot of fast moving trucks that use that road. Brandi requested the County put some signs on that road indicating "Children at Play", or some other appropriate signage. The Commissioners said they would look at that road after lunch today.

Bids were opened for sidewalk improvements at the Elkhart Senior Center as follows:

Stiver Construction	\$3900.00
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G & R Woods

\$4000.00

Following a discussion the Commissioners said they will drive by the Senior Center following lunch today.

Larry presented pictures of the air compressor that blew up in his Shop and requested approval to purchase a new one; he said he could get one for \$329. Approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

The Commissioners visited with Larry about the roof leak at the Health Department. Larry said he could not find the source of the leak.

The Commissioners tentatively scheduled their September meetings for the 11th and 25th.

The Clerk asked when the Commissioners wanted to open bids for the two old vehicles we plan to take sealed bids on. Consensus was to open bids on September 25th.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners for their regular monthly meeting. Present were: Charles, Leon, Sally, Larry, Brandi, Vienna, and Charley. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to all who worked at the free Fair Barbeque. Each Supervisor then gave their individual departmental reports.

The meeting recessed at 11:30 for lunch and reconvened at 1:20 p.m. Following lunch the Commissioners drove to the Civic Center site to observe what progress has been made to date, drove to the Senior Center to look at the sidewalk situation, walked through the Economic Development rental building and gave Vienna approval to get estimates for a dropped ceiling, new light fixtures, new floor covering, and central heat and air. Consensus of the Commissioners, however, was that with the improvements to the building, consideration should be given to an increase in the monthly rent. The Commissioners also drove past the Elkhart Lumber Yard on (west) state line road, and drove state line road (east) to better understand where signage needs to be placed to slow traffic where children are at play.

Upon returning to the Meeting Room the Commissioners met with Tim Hardy, City of Elkhart Administrator. Tim said the City has signed off on the Airport Grant to improve the Apron. The Commissioners relayed to Tim the statement made by Larry Thompson, KDOT, regarding the possible need for an acceleration lane west of the highway to prevent traffic congestion. Tim also thought this was a good idea, if the State would pay for it.

The Commissioners and Tim had a lengthy discussion regarding the sewer location for the Civic Center. The Commissioners asked why we would have to go the long route instead of the location accepted in the bids. Tim stated he would take the plan to the Planning Commission on August 28th and get their thoughts on the location and then on September 11th at 7:00 p.m., an official decision can be made.

A call was placed to Vienna asking if Larry Thompson had indicated to her who would pay for an acceleration lane. Vienna said she would contact Larry and see if the State would pay for that item. Vienna did say that Larry had just mentioned that he saw the plan submitted for approval by KDOT and he just didn't see a west "passing lane." He did not mention who would pay for it.

Tim said the City of Elkhart is waiting to turn over the deed to the land until they get a plat of the Civic Center site. The Commissioners stated they cannot get the area platted until they get the sewer and water plan approved by the Planning Commission!

Charley presented a bill from May for work done for the Civic Center streets and sewer and water lines. The bill did not indicate what kind of work was done, only that it was for the Civic Center. Consensus of the Commissioners was that since we do not use Pete Earles anymore, just pay the bill and write a note to Mr. Earles that this is the last check he will be receiving from Morton County.

Charley mentioned he visited with Bob and Sonia Davis about the road situation in Richfield. Charley said that the bindweed on the roads will need to be sprayed now and again in the spring before any consideration can be given to resurface the roads. Bob Davis asked if the County could spray the roads. Leon Ellis was present during this part of the meeting and stated that he has a real concern that the chemical he uses for bindweed will kill some trees and would like a written release before he considers spraying. Charley also told the Davis' that the City of Rolla paid for the materials for their roads and the County provided the equipment and labor. Bob said the City has no money to help with the expenses. No decision made at this time.

The Commissioners reminded Charley that there are several projects that have been on his list for a long time and are still not completed. They feel that if someone asks if the County can do a project we need to let them know one way or the other if we can or can't do it. If we can do the job we need to let them know we can and when they can expect the job to be done, then do it.

Charley said he visited with Tony McBride about the Rolla flooding situation. Tony will get back to Charley this week or early next week with a bid for five cement culverts. This will, hopefully, remedy the situation.

Leon commented on the Richfield streets again. There are quite a few trees that will need to be trimmed before Leon can get a boom under the trees to spray the weeds. Leon also presented the Commissioners a copy of his Monthly Work Log for July.

The Commissioners asked Charley if he would put some signage on the East state line road – Children at Play, or something else appropriate, to curb the speed of the traffic on that road. Charley said he has some signs and will put them up.

Kevin Shook met with the Commissioners to give the golf course report. Kevin reported that Underground Specialists are interested in giving us a bid to bore for the water line

needed to get more water to the golf course. Kevin said he should have a bid this week or next.

Kevin stated they have been busy aerifying the greens today. Kevin also mentioned that he was the featured Golf Superintendent in the Kansas Grass Roots Magazine, Super Spotlight Section. Commissioner DeGarmo said he would like a copy of the article as did the Clerk.

At this time representatives from Rolla met with the Commissioners regarding their recent flooding. Present were: Mike Davis, Lupe and Roseann Garcia, Jenny and Darrel Ellis, and Alfred Garcia.

Ron informed the group that Tony McBride has looked at the area that flooded and has suggested concrete culverts, double the size currently in place. Alfred Garcia said the present culverts are just not big enough and all of the damage done to private property is at the expense of the homeowner. Homeowners insurance will not pay because the area is not designated a flood zone. The area affected cannot be designated a flood zone unless the City participates in a program. Mr. Garcia pleaded for some help because, he stated, the value of their homes is now zero. Mr. Davis said he couldn't sell his home now if he wanted to because of the damage done to his home. Lupe Garcia stated that a couple of years ago when we had a heavy rain the County knew the culverts could no longer do the job they were supposed to do; the culverts were installed in the 1960's. Roseann Garcia said they lost a lot of equipment that Lupe needs to make his living as a welder. They also lost a lot of personal items, pictures, etc. These are lost forever. Mike questioned if the County could have done something earlier or sooner, knowing that the culverts were inadequate. Commissioner Boaldin said the County will get some engineers to look at the situation and help us determine what needs to be done to divert some of the water. Bob placed a call to Vienna to see if she would find out what the County's poverty level is; there may be some funds available to help those affected. Jenny stated that Deb Schnurr told her that to qualify for a low interest loan, 25 homes have to have been affected at the first floor level. Jenny had photos she took of the flooding and shared them with the Commissioners. Roseann had a newspaper that showed the high water while it was still raining. The Commissioners said they sympathize with those affected by the flooding and will do what they can to prevent this from happening again.

Larry Simons returned to the meeting and reported that Mr. Koski said he would fix what needed repaired, except for the air conditioning, on the vehicle being considered for the Airport Courtesy Car. Motion was then made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to purchase the vehicle.

At this time two representatives with Tri-County Electric entered the meeting and had some questions concerning electricity at the Civic Center. Bob left the meeting to help with their concerns/questions.

Further discussion took place concerning the two bids received for the sidewalk improvements to the Elkhart Senior Center. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to accept the lowest bid from Stiver Construction in the amount of \$3900.

There being no further business on the Agenda, the Commissioners drove to Rolla to inspect the flooding damage and the culverts.

Upon returning to the Courthouse motion to adjourn was given by Allen, seconded by Ron.