

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 7, 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 July 17th, July 18th, July 24th, July 26th, August 1st, and August 2nd meetings were read and approved with corrections, as directed by the Commissioners, on a motion by Ron, seconded by Bob.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

Larry Simmons met with the Commissioners and reported that the air conditioning unit in the Sheriff's Department needs a new compressor; cost of the compressor is \$1300. Larry stated that the cost of a new unit would be \$5500. Following a short discussion consensus of the Commissioners was to put in a new compressor. The Commissioners asked Larry to check the efficiency rating of the current air conditioner vs. a new unit.

Sally Akers entered the meeting and reported that Micha Aranda will be attending a CIC Users Meeting in Salina this week. The van is scheduled for this trip but Micha would like to go on to Lansing to see her brother, she hasn't seen him for two years. Sally said the meeting is scheduled to end Thursday afternoon and she isn't sure if Micha would return home on Saturday or Sunday. A discussion took place. Consensus of the Commissioners was for Micha to take her own vehicle and for Sally to pay her mileage; only from Elkhart to Salina and back.

Brandi Fleming met with the Commissioners and requested approval for Pam Baldwin to attend the Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect November 7-9 in Wichita. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen. Brandi also requested approval for Pam and Marla to attend a billing seminar on September 7th in Garden City. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Brandi presented Mimi Perido's contract to Eric for his review. Following his review, Eric recommended the Commissioners sign the contract. A copy of this will be on file in the Clerk's Office following Mimi's signing.

A discussion took place concerning the need for a generator for the Pandemic Flu refrigerator. No action taken at this time. Brandi stated a Bioterrorism practice exercise is being planned and they will need a speaker phone. She will check into the costs

involved. Brandi said that "Khem" Khemraj will be training the volunteers prior to the exercise.

The Commissioners approved new weather stripping on the west entrance door of the Health Department.

The Budget Hearing for the 2007 proposed budget was held at 10:30 a.m. with members from the Morton County Library, Virginia Johnson, Ken Wasson, and Cindy Hittle present. Virginia expressed her concern that the Library's budget was reduced from what was presented. Virginia also distributed a printed list of "budget concerns." Virginia stated that the Library needs a significant increase for their 2007 Budget, even though the Library has a fair amount in savings, or they will lose their State Aid money and have to cut services and hours of operation. Consensus of the Commissioners was that they would like to visit with Steve Rice before making any change to the published budget. Virginia also said they would get together and attempt to come up with more concrete figures that are needed.

Deb Schnurr entered the meeting and asked the Commissioners' advice regarding replacing the ballasts on the lights at the EMS garage. Elkhart Lumber Company has indicated they would reduce the amount of the ballasts if the County replaces all vs. a few at a time. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to replace all of the ballasts.

Deb also requested approval for her and Tony to attend the October 7th Kansas Board of EMS 2006 Annual Educators' Conference in Garden City. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Approval was given on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron, for EMS to serve a light lunch at the Morton County (FAD) Foreign Animal Disease Planning Kick-Off Meeting on August 17th at 12:30 in the Hospital Classroom. The workshop will be conducted by E-Fm (Emergency & Facilities Management.)

Vienna Lee entered the meeting and requested approval to attend the KDOT "Local Consultation Workshop" to be held on August 17th in Garden City. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Vienna reported that she received correspondence from wKREDA and there is a possibility that the Morton County NRCS office will be closed and consolidated with a neighboring county.

Dr. Graham reported to Vienna that one of his patients complained there was no rail in the restroom to assist the individual in getting up from the toilet. The Commissioners indicated they will have Larry evaluate the situation and install a handrail. Larry is the ADA Coordinator.

Vienna requested approval to give the Rodeo contractors for the Fair this year complimentary rounds of golf; we did this last year. There would probably be about 10 people playing golf. This request was approved.

Vienna indicated she has about 11 people who have agreed to help with the free Fair Barbeque on Saturday night. She could use more help.

Larry Simmons reported to the Commissioners that he has jsut installed new weather stripping on the west entrance door at the Health Department.

A discussion took place concerning an inquiry from Jack Tenbrook's insurance agent asking if the County would pay for a new windshield for Mr. Tenbrook. Mr. Tenbrook was following a county truck (truck had tarp on it) and a rock hit his windshield and had to be replaced. Following a discussion consensus of the Commissioners was they would not consider paying. Allen said he would see Mr. Akers and let him know this decision.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve a request from the Treasurer to make a line item transfer of \$761.12 from her Contractual budget to her Commodities budget.

The Commissioners reviewed information and a bid from Image America for Orthophotography to be included in the E-911 grant application. Following a discussion consensus of the Commissioners was to use the bid they already accepted for GIS.

The Clerk presented letters of support from the City of Elkhart Administrator and one from the Elkhart Fire Department to be included in the E-911 grant application.

Allen reported that the County does owe the \$347 for the FSA program year 2005. He stated that their clerk made a payment to the County that was out of order. Approval was given to make this re-payment.

Eric presented an Application for Change of Zoning for the Civic Center site. The Commissioners are requesting this area be changed to C-2 (Commercial 2). The application was signed on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form, the FY2007 form for the Cimarron Basin Community Corrections, and reviewed the contract letter of confirmation from OXY, USA.

Allen stated he would be able to attend the meeting with District Judge Kim Schroeder regarding courthouse security throughout the District on August 10th in Hugoton.

Notice was made that the Elkhart Senior Center applied for a grant from the Cooper-Clark Foundation to purchase a steamer in the amount of \$3507.85 and received the grant.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. A covered dish luncheon was held in the Meeting Room in honor of Susan Slief (Health Department P.A.), Diana Morissee (EMS Billing Clerk), and Valerie Smith (Register of Deeds Deputy). Susan and Diana are moving out of the County and Valerie has resigned her position.

Following lunch the Commissioners and Clerk drove to the downtown storage building to see if room can be made to house supplies required in the event of a Pandemic Flu. They also observed the deterioration of the parking lot at the Health Department/Extension building, and drove to the Clubhouse to inspect areas that need re-painting. A discussion took place concerning the possibility of the Extension Agent taking care of the weeds around the building since that office does not have to pay any rent or lease.

Steve Rice met with the Commissioners at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the Morton County Library's 2007 Budget Request. Steve said he would review the budget in depth and address his findings in a letter to the Commissioners.

A call was placed to Ashley Fiss, Architect for the Civic Center. Ashley stated she has made several calls concerning the slab where the building will sit. Ashley is concerned that since the slab has sat with no activity there may be some deterioration. Terracon has indicated they would conduct another core sample test. Ashley also reported that trenching may start as early as August 15th. She has not heard anything yet on the rebar and the Contractor is waiting for the anchor bolts. Eric informed Ashley of the application to change the site to Commercial 2 Zoning.

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners and expressed his appreciation for allowing him to attend the Caterpillar seminar in Peoria, IL. He said it was very informative.

Charley presented a letter of appreciation from the City of Rolla to the Morton County Road Department for assisting with their street maintenance. Also presented was the Road Department's monthly report for July.

Charley mentioned that he has been in contact with the company who will bring in the asphalt plant next year and showed Steve the Civic Center site (parking lot area), the Whistle Stop Park paths, and the Richfield roads. Charley said he has attempted to get hold of Sonia Davis for her to let Richfield know that the City of Rolla bought the materials for their roads and the Road Department did the overlay. Perhaps this is something Richfield can consider.

Charley reported he visited with Chuck Oldacker, KDOT, and they are not in favor of doing anything to help avoid accidents on the old Highway 27 curve leading to the Bypass. The Commissioners instructed Charley to put some speed bumps/rumble strips in the area before vehicles round the curve. Hopefully, this will help some. The Commissioners also suggested perhaps a solar light would work on the "stop ahead warning sign."

Charley mentioned that Doc Ellis and a crew made a 14 ft. wide road behind the Morton County Care Center last week as requested by the CEO.

The Commissioners told Charley that Tim White asked if the County would be interested in purchasing some of the rock that Broce Construction left over in Colorado. Charley said he will contact Tim and have him show him the rock. Tim also asked where we were presently getting our rock and how much we have to pay for it.

The Commissioners mentioned to Charley that the parking lot at the Doctors Clinic in Rolla needs some attention. Charley said he will take a look at it.

Leon Ellis met with the Commissioners. Leon reported he is trying to catch up on some spraying. The Commissioners complimented Leon on the fine job that Mrs. Hayes is doing with regards to spraying the roads. Leon said that Gwen taught her what to do and he, too, is pleased with her work.

The Commissioners signed the letter to the Kansas Department of Agriculture informing them that Morton County has decided to utilize the current Noxious Weed Control Plan. The Plan has been re-evaluated and no changes are needed at this time.

A short discussion took place concerning wildlife control and when that program starts.

Kevin Shook entered the meeting to give the golf course report. Kevin reported there was some vandalism at the course over the weekend. Several flags were pitched up into some trees, some flags and rakes thrown in the pond, a cart sign was in the fairway. He thinks they have located everything now but someone rode their bicycle across one of the greens; no permanent damage at this time.

Kevin said the pump motor that went down last week is now back and working. The other motor also went down but is repaired now. As of this date the golf course has only recorded 5" of rain in their rain gauge this year. We need some rain pretty bad.

A copy of the July 5th Point Rock Golf Club Advisory Board Minutes was distributed for the Commissioners' review.

Kevin stated that he has the summer help scraping the doorways at the Clubhouse in preparation for painting.

Larry Simmons returned to the meeting and reported he has inspected the Economic Development Building where Dr. Graham has his office. Larry said he will install a rail in each bathroom to assist those with ADA needs.

The Commissioners mentioned to Larry that he will need to do some "cleaning out" at the storage building so that when the supplies for the Pandemic Flu arrive they can be stored in that building.

A call was received from Mark Rude, Groundwater Management, regarding the water issue at the golf course. This area is now closed to new appropriations. Mr. Rude stated that in general terms it is going to be very difficult to convince anyone to open this area up for new appropriations. There is a one-half mile limitation for transferring water rights but Mark said he would need more facts. Mark stated that GWM makes recommendations to David Pope; Mr. Pope makes the final decision. When asked why Morton County is on the GWM Agenda this week Mark said it is because of the letter Kevin sent to the Governor and the Chief Engineer. Mr. Rude said it would be appropriate for anyone interested to attend the GWM meeting in Garden City at 9:00 a.m.; it may help the Board if someone could give them a detailed description of what we are trying to do to get additional water. Mr. Rude stated that application forms requesting to change some existing water rights that would allow that water to come to the golf course are on-line on the State's web page. Mark said he would be happy to assist someone in filling out the application. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Rude for his time and assistance.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned on a motion from Allen, seconded by Bob.