

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 27, 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 November 13, 2006 meeting were read and approved with corrections, as directed by the Commissioners, on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of sending a notice to the Morton County Conservation District Board notifying them that the County will not fund their budget in 2007 until they get their Audit deficiencies corrected. Discussion only, no action taken at this time.

Bob stated he met with Neil, of Kirkham-Michael, regarding the sewer and water lines for the Civic Center. Neil said he has been working with Tim, of SEDCO, to get the plat ready. He also said he will get the State permit for us. A discussion then took place regarding where to place the fire hydrants.

The Commissioners reviewed the Christmas invitation sent to each department and the Retirees. All of the Commissioners indicated they and their spouses will attend the party on December 15th. Bob said he has already ordered the apples and oranges for the "goodie" sacks. He will purchase the candy next week.

A discussion took place concerning free drink tickets for the Party. Consensus of the Commissioners was to give each attendee two tickets for free drinks, either alcoholic or non-alcoholic. The drinks will be paid for by the Commissioners.

Vicki Peacock entered the meeting and requested approval to hire a full-time/part-time person. This employee will not work more than 1000 hrs. per year. Approval was given to begin advertising this position. Hourly wage will be based on experience.

Vicki mentioned that she still has the funds in the "Veterinary Clinic Fund" and asked the Commissioners if they want her to refund it. Nineteen people donated a total of \$7,185.37 to help get a Veterinarian. Approval to refund the donations was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

John Wire, Great Plains Development, Inc., met with the Commissioners and reviewed the benefits of using GPDI as well as the Kansas Department of Commerce CDBG program categories and application dates. Also reviewed were the Counties and Cities who have benefited from the CDBG funds and what those projects included. The Commissioners asked if the Civic Center sewer and water lines would qualify for CDBG assistance. Mr. Wire said they would qualify. The Commissioners further asked if the acceleration/deceleration road work would also qualify. Mr. Wire said he would check into this matter. The Commissioners did ask for an application to be sent to them to apply for funds to assist with the Civic Center's sewer and water line project. The Commissioners further asked if Great Plains has funds available to help with parking lots. John said he will check on that too.

John mentioned that Morton County's Enterprise Zone is current until August 2007. Mr. Wire also mentioned that the Board Members currently representing Morton County are Allen Tucker and Ted Harder. With no objections voiced, Allen and Ted were re-appointed to the GPDI Board.

Mr. Wire left the GPDI Membership Agreement for the Commissioners to review and consider, also the bill for the County Membership Dues for calendar year 2006. Motion to sign the contract and pay the annual dues in the amount of \$699.20 was given by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Brandi Fleming met with the Commissioners and asked the Commissioners what method of payment they want for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant (formerly the Bioterrorism Grant). Consensus of all was to continue as we have done in the past.

Brandi presented the November Health Department report for the Commissioners' review.

Brandi mentioned that ICS #300 and #400 will be required courses for some Emergency Preparedness individuals. Brandi indicated she would pay a stipend for those who have to attend the seminars out of her Bioterrorism grant funds. The Seminars are scheduled for February 6-7.

Brandi reported that she visited with Susan Slief, P.A. regarding working part-time at the Health Department during those times that Mimi Perido, P.A. has to be out of town. Susan indicated she is not sure she will even be back to Elkhart after the first of the year. The contract, therefore, is on hold at this time.

Brandi stated she still has plenty of flu vaccine available. Anyone wanting a shot just has to go to the Health Department, no appointment needed.

Eric presented Resolution 2006-8 (Resolution Setting The Morton County Sheriff's Salary Beginning January 2007), as requested by the Commissioners. Following a short discussion motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to approve this Resolution. The salary for the incoming Morton County Sheriff will be \$46,000 per year.

No appointment was made to the Southwest Regional Juvenile Detention Center Advisory Board. Ron said he would ask Kent Hagman, Rolla Police Department, if he would be interested in serving in this capacity.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners for their regularly scheduled time. Present were Leon, Charley, Deb, Brandi, Larry, Vienna and Sally. Each Supervisor gave the report for their respective department.

The Commissioners reported that they will open bids for the Assisted Living Project on Tuesday, November 28th at 1:00 p.m. The Commissioners also mentioned that the Employee Performance Evaluations will be due in the County Clerk's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 15th so copies can be made for the Commissioners' review on December 18th.

A discussion took place concerning the Grand Prizes for the Christmas Party. Consensus of the Commissioners and the Supervisors was to give "Elkhart Bucks" as follows: (1) \$25; (1) \$50; (1) \$100.

Deb Schnurr met with the Commissioners and suggested a "welcome" rug be purchased and used when an air ambulance is called. A rug will add a lot more security when they are lifting a patient into the plane. Consensus of the Commissioners was that this is a good idea. Deb will try to get a rug like other counties use.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. Following lunch the Commissioners drove to the Civic Center site and observed the progress being made. They also observed the Airport Apron, and drove the old highway 27 leading to the bypass. The Road Department has placed some rumble strips on that road warning drivers there is a stop sign ahead.

Upon returning to the Courthouse the Commissioners met with Charley McKinley. The Commissioners reviewed with Charley the Notice from the City of Elkhart regarding Annexation of Property into the City of Elkhart. A short discussion took place.

Charley mentioned that the two new Mack trucks should arrive this week or next.

A discussion took place concerning constructing the Civic Center parking lot. Charley said that both Steve Heft and J&R Sand have expressed an interest in the project.

Charley mentioned that some of the 2007 Summer projects include sealing nine miles up by the CIG plant, the Whistle Stop Park, the Civic Center parking lot, the Taxiway off Runway 17-35 up to the cement apron, and an area near the spray pad that can be used by the Forest Service plane.

Charley stated he will visit with Kirkham-Michael about the size parking lot needed for the Civic Center and the number of parking spaces to plan for.

Leon Ellis met with the Commissioners and submitted the Noxious Weed Accounts Receivable list. The Commissioners directed Leon to not sell any chemical to individuals whose bills are overdue. Once the overdue bill has been paid, the individual(s) will be sold chemicals on a cash basis only. Eric will contact the individuals who have delinquent accounts.

Leon reported that Joe Liekum is back in the business of cleaning up old metal at Landfills. He will be contacting him again to help clean up the Morton County Landfill. A discussion took place concerning the cement at the Landfill. The Commissioners expressed their approval for Leon to contact someone to crush the cement in 2007. The Landfill will have to sell \$165,000 in crushed cement to make their 2007 budget work.

A discussion took place concerning the cost of wildlife control. Leon said he has checked with counties around us and found that we are in line with what the others charge.

Leon requested approval to purchase some snake chaps to be worn while treating wildlife. Approval was given.

The Commissioners reviewed the Nex-Tech and IBM Hardware/Software Maintenance contracts for 2007. All appeared to be in order, noting that the cost is the same as last year (\$7,692.57.)

A call was placed to Ed Engles, Nine-One-One. Bob informed Ed that the State wants to know how much of the funds requested in the grant application would be used for wireless phones vs. hardwire phones. Ed told the Commissioners that everything quoted is to bring Morton County into Phase II wireless. Bob asked Ed if he would put this in writing.

The Clerk mentioned that she has not received any paperwork for seismograph work that was supposed to have already started. Ron said he will check on this.

Loren Youngers entered the meeting and presented the Commissioners a letter of resignation from Deputy Brian Peitz, effective December 15, 2006. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to regretfully accept Brian's resignation.

The Commissioners reviewed Field Report #11 for the Civic Center from Fiss Architecture.

Addendum #3 for the Assisted Living Project was reviewed.

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

