

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 4, 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 September 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

Approval was given for the Clerk to apply for a credit card to be used when making reservations at hotels for the Commissioners. The card will only be used when the hotel will not Direct Bill the County.

Field Report #7 for the Civic Center was reviewed.

The Clerk presented the contract between Morton County and Hay-Rice & Associates to perform the 2006 Audit in the amount of \$17,500. Motion to sign the contract was given on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron. The Commissioners also signed the Payroll Form and the Service Agreement with Kansas Drug Testing, Inc.

The Clerk presented the Treasurer's monthly report in her absence.

Tracie Nixon met with the Commissioners and requested approval to transfer \$6000 from her IT Contractual budget to Commodities. Approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Tracie also requested approval to purchase a new backup tape drive and tapes (cost is approximately \$1000) and backup SCSI cards (approximately \$800). Approval for these purchases was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Tracie reported she has not been able to put the Commissioner's Minutes on the web site yet because she has been getting all of the equipment ordered and installed in preparation for the Pandemic Flu mock disaster coming up soon.

The Clerk reported that she visited with Matt Jacobs, Bucher, Willis & Ratliff, concerning the slope corrections needed from the Airport Taxiway to the Apron. Mr. Bieker said the severity of the slope was not indicated in the survey performed. The FAA does not have a problem with us making the corrections. The cost, however, is approximately \$25,000. Although the Grant for this project is a 95%/5% grant, the

County may have to pay the entire amount up front and then get reimbursed from the State as funds are available. Matt said we will definitely get reimbursed 95% of the cost, it may just take a year to get it, the additional money is based on first come, first served.

The Commissioners discussed the water crisis at the golf course.

The Commissioners asked Loren Youngers to come to the meeting. A discussion took place concerning Anadarko having problems with Alton Hipp when they attempt to drive down the road passing his house to check their well. Darrell Smith has mentioned that Mr. Hipp threatens the drivers and sometimes blocks the road. Loren said he would visit with Mr. Smith for further details.

Vienna Lee entered the meeting and reported that she talked to Ashley Fiss, Architect for the Civic Center, and Ashley has been to the site and is pleased with what has been done so far. Ashley told Vienna that we should be able to get the fascia the same color as the roof; they will just bring the roof down in front at no additional cost. Ashley said she now expects the building to arrive the first part of November.

Vienna requested approval to attend the workshop "Regional Approaches to Economic Development" on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in Great Bend. Cost of the workshop is \$75. Approval was given on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Vienna mentioned that she is getting ready for the longest tail feather contest. Neil Gillespie, Economic Development Director in Stevens County, told Vienna that a representative from Gander Mountain is interested in coming to southwest Kansas and trying to put together a hunting package. Neil asked if Morton County would be willing to help, along with Stevens County, pay the travel expenses. Vienna said the landowner would get a percentage of each hunt booked. Following a short discussion consensus of the Commissioners was to not participate; this is a private business venture.

Larry Simmons met with the Commissioners and reported that the overhead door at the Morton Building needs a new seal (approximately \$100). Larry said he would be going to Amarillo this weekend and could pick it up. Approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Ron mentioned that he noticed some seismograph work is being done just northeast of Rolla in Stevens County. Bob said that if they intend to come into Morton County they will have to have a Morton County seismograph permit.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Eric to KCAMP regarding a claim.

A discussion took place concerning the bill presented for payment from Kirkham-Michael. After visiting with their office approval was given to pay the bill in the amount of \$600.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Following lunch the Commissioners drove the CIG road, observed the work being done at the Airport and the Civic Center. They also drove the curve leading to the bypass and noted that neither rumble strips nor bumps have been placed to warn drivers of the upcoming stop sign. They did, however, notice the two red flags that have been attached to the "stop ahead" sign. Bob said he has had some taxpayers tell him that the reason some of the road projects have not been done yet is because of budget constraints at the Road Department.

Upon returning to the Courthouse the Commissioners met with Charley McKinley, Road Supervisor. Charley presented his monthly report for September.

The Commissioners informed Charley that they drove the CIG road and thought it was fine for now. This road is on the list to be primed and sealed next year. Charley said he may, however, have to add a 2 ½ inch asphalt lift to the road. He also plans to seal 2<sup>nd</sup> Street road and County Road D.

The Commissioners asked Charley if he has told anyone he cannot do some projects because of budget constraints. Charley said he has not said anything like that. He is, however, watching his budget so he will have enough budget to buy a new grader and a couple of trucks.

Charley said he still has the guys out mowing. He also reported the paint striper should be here next month. The paint will be here next week.

Charley said he visited with Waylon Forbes with Treco. They can bore under a road with water. The water bores a round hole. This might be something to think about for Road D's culvert; also for County Road J in Rolla. He thought we could try it on County Road D first. The company can do as many as four culverts in a day. We would need 30 inch culverts; all the Road Department has are the oblong culverts and all are smaller than the 30 inches needed. Approval was given for Charley to get an estimate for County Road D.

The Commissioners said they drove the curve leading to the bypass. They stated they want some rumble strips before the "stop ahead" sign. The Commissioners said they have some real safety concerns. Charley stated that McBride has an asphalt saw that could do the job but he would like to try some crack filler first; it dries fast. Charley said he could also put another "stop ahead" sign up before you get to the State's "stop ahead" sign.

Charley reported that the meeting in Liberal Tuesday night was very good. The meeting was related to Kansas One Call. Ray King was the Presenter.

Loren Youngers, Darrell Smith and Charley McKinley visited with the Commissioners about the quarter section road that goes by Alton Hipp's house. Mr. Hipp insists this is not a section road. Mr. Smith said that Anadarko has been using the road since 1979. Mr. Hipp stops the drivers and harasses them and leaves them harassing phone messages.

Mr. Smith said he hopes to find the road is a county road. There is a railroad crossing that was done in the 50's. The well was drilled in 1979 and Anadarko has used that road since then. The drivers try to go the long way in to check the well but when it is wet and they are hauling salt water they need to use the "Hipp" road. This well is one of Anadarko's best leases.

At this time motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to go into executive session at 1:25 p.m. for 25 minutes for Attorney/Client privilege. Present during this session were the Commissioners, County Attorney, Loren Youngers, and Darrell Smith. No action taken after coming out of executive session.

Gwen Rodriguez gave the Noxious Weed/Landfill report. Gwen presented the September Work Log for the Commissioners' review.

The Commissioners asked when the wildlife control program will start. Gwen said the season is October 1 to March 15.

Gwen reported that the State is conducting a pesticide sweep. This means that old chemicals can be taken to the Dodge City or Hays sites for disposal. This is free for landowners and homeowners. The County will have to pay to dispose of their old chemicals; we have approximately 20 lbs. Following a discussion approval to get rid of the County's old chemicals was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Gwen reported that she feels some farmers must think the Noxious Weed Department is a bank! She stated she has over \$22,000 in accounts that are past due. This week she sent out bills totaling \$31,000. The Commissioners asked Gwen to work on a procedure to treat noxious weeds with a plan to get the money owed for the chemicals. Gwen said she will check around and see what other counties are doing. The Commissioners made one suggestion: pay upfront and then get the chemicals. Gwen said with the outstanding amount due there is not enough in the budget to order chemicals for those farmers who are good at paying their bills. The Commissioners reviewed the list of past due accounts as follows: John Tucker (\$6,214.82); Neptune & Howe c/l Steve Hittle (\$1,761.17); Troy Coen (\$995.14).

There was no golf report because Kevin was out of town.

Loren Youngers met with the Commissioners. The Commissioners asked Loren about the old vehicles being stored at the Morton Building. Loren said he is waiting to hear from a bank on Kim Denton's truck. He will check on the status of the other vehicles and then perhaps the County can take sealed bids on them.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to go into executive session at 3:10 p.m. for 10 minutes, to discuss a personnel issue. Present were the Commissioners, County Attorney, and Gwen Rodriguez. No action taken after coming out of executive session.

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