

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 16, 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 October 4, 2006 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.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the water crisis at the Golf Course.

Nancy Crowell, USD 218 Superintendent, met with the Commissioners. Nancy distributed information concerning a new running track to include improvements to the football field's natural drainage swale. The current track has been in place for at least the past 19 years. The estimates presented included four proposals. Ms. Crowell stated they cannot afford to go with the "best" proposal but are in hopes to install the one costing \$451,580. Nancy indicated that if the District can dig out the old track they could save as much as \$40,000. Ronnie Anderson and Andy Bane have said they could do some of the tearing out of the old track. USD 218 has other items that need constructed or replaced; the lights on the football field, a new bus barn, a new roof on the high school (within the next five years). Nancy asked if the Commissioners would consider helping the school out in any way at all. The number of track meets held at the USD 218 track are dwindling due to the deterioration of the track. Last year only eight schools participated in the Glen Cunningham Relays. The State has informed the school that the sooner the better to get a new track. Following a discussion the Commissioners stated they will take a look at the track following lunch this day. Ms. Crowell thanked the Commissioners for their time and said they would appreciate any consideration regarding the new track.

At this time Wayne Paris and Dan Busby met with the Commissioners. Wayne said they are going to be doing some seismograph work in the Morton County area and had some questions concerning the list of what is to be presented to the Clerk prior to receiving approval. A discussion took place. Mr. Paris presented the Commissioners a copy of a small map indicating the areas the seismograph work will be conducted; a larger, more detailed, map will be included with the other necessary paperwork to be delivered to the County Clerk.

Eric presented a Public Utilities Easement to be conveyed by Morton County to the City of Rolla, a 10 ft. wide strip of land adjoining the street right of way for Washington Street, across Lot 14, Block 8, City of Rolla, for the purpose of installing underground

electrical transmission lines. Motion to sign this Easement request was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

A discussion took place concerning the future of the drug dog. Bob mentioned that Loren said neither of the past handlers does anything with the dog. Eric stated the County could suffer a liability if the County attempts to use the dog for the purpose of a drug check because neither one of the past handlers, nor the dog, have been certified; Loren had denied a previous request for the handler and dog to get re-certified when the request was made. The Commissioners expressed their concern for the future of the drug dog. No action taken at this time.

A discussion took place concerning addressing the rural areas for E-911. Bob stated that many counties have their Appraiser's Office do this. He will visit with Susie sometime this day.

The Commissioners reviewed a bill for Architect Fees for the Assisted Living Construction project in the amount of \$40,808.55. Approval to pay this bill was given on a motion from Ron, seconded by Allen.

A discussion took place concerning when the bids are to be opened for the Assisted Living project. Ron stated he was told they would be opened on November 17<sup>th</sup>. A call was placed to Leonard Hernandez, CEO. The Commissioners mentioned to Leonard that the bids for the Assisted Living would have to be opened at the Courthouse by the Commissioners, since it is a county-owned facility. Mr. Hernandez said he understood that and will plan to be at the Courthouse on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Charles Hull met with the Commissioners and reviewed the remaining balances in his budget. All looks good at this time.

The Commissioners signed the contract with Kansas Drug Testing, Inc. for the Drug and Alcohol Testing (non-regulated) Service Agreement. The DOT/FMCSA Agreement was signed at the last meeting.

The Road Petition from Pioneer Communications was reviewed and approved on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

The Commissioners signed the letter to Mike Rottinghaus, FAA, approving Supplement No. 2 for the FAA Grant for the construction of a new Airport apron.

A discussion took place concerning the day to canvass the November 7<sup>th</sup> General Election. The law allows the canvass to take place either the Friday or Monday following the election. Consensus of the Commissioners was that since the Veteran's Day holiday is on the Friday following the election, they would canvass on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

The November meetings were tentatively set for November 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Lynn Fowler entered the meeting and asked when the Road Department was going to do something to the road by the Lumber Yard to keep it from flooding. He also suggested the County might want to consider installing a guardrail in that area. The Commissioners stated they have informed the Road Supervisor that this needs done.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners for their regularly scheduled meeting. Present were Leon, Charles, Kevin, Larry, Brandi, Sally, and Loren. Each Supervisor gave their individual departmental reports.

Following the Supervisor's meeting, Brandi submitted her monthly report for September.

Sally met with the Commissioners and expressed her concern that the Deed conveying property from USD 218 to the County is wrong. Following a short discussion Eric said he would take care of this matter and have the Deed corrected.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch and reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

The Commissioners drove to the Civic Center site and viewed the work done on the Airport Apron, drove to the Assisted Living site and behind the Long Term Care Unit, looked at the parking lot across from the Hospital, drove by the Health Department parking lot and the area where vehicles are being stored next to the Morton Building. They also walked the EHS track to observe the deterioration, and observed the work being done to the Economic Development rental building on Morton Street.

Leon Ellis met with the Commissioners and reported he has contacted a company about removing the concrete at the Landfill but has heard nothing back from them yet. Leon did mention, however, that while he was mowing some people approached him about taking out all of the metal at the Landfill. Leon stated it is too late for us this year but we may be able to use them next year.

A discussion took place concerning the need to budget next year for new wells to be drilled at the Landfill as plans are being made to open new cells.

Brandi Fleming met with the Commissioners and requested approval for Pam Baldwin to attend the seminar "Medications and Breastfeeding Women", in Garden City on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Bob.

Brandi mentioned that the Four State Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise will be held via video conferencing on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Elkhart High School from 8:00 to 12:00. She will keep the Commissioners informed of any changes.

A call was placed to Leonard Hernandez regarding opening the bids for the Assisted Living Units. Leonard said the Notice to Bid was going out on October 18<sup>th</sup>. A date of November 28<sup>th</sup> was then set for opening the bids. Bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room.

A call was placed to Gary Baker. Gary indicated he could contact the water board to have them test a well site to get additional water to the golf course. He is currently awaiting information from the State and said he should have that by Wednesday. Gary would like to hear from Topeka before he proceeds any further.

The Commissioners reviewed a draft contract between Morton County, Ernest Barnes and Darren Buck. A discussion took place. The contract is for the purpose of purchasing water rights/acre feet from Ernest Barnes. Motion to sign the agreement was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, with an instruction to the County Attorney to retain the contract in his possession until which time Gary Baker has instructed the Commissioners that it is okay to circulate the contract.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Eric to Gary Baker indicating where a water well possibly could be drilled to transfer water rights from Ernie Barnes' well to it and then from that well to the Morton County Golf Course well.

Kevin Shook met with the Commissioners and requested approval for him and Don Grasz to attend the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Turf Grass Conference November 28-30 in Topeka. Motion to approve this request was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Bob.

A discussion took place concerning a new mower for the golf course – a budgeted item for next year. Kevin stated they have tried a new John Deere but can't get a TORO demonstrator until mid November.

A discussion took place concerning a road in Rolla that is in dire need of repair. Quite a bit of the road has been washed out and there may be need to put a culvert on that road.

The Commissioners visited with Jeff Milburn about the possibility of him maintaining the rural E-911 addresses. The Clerk will give Jeff a copy of Ed Engels' business card.

The Commissioners signed a Change Order for the Airport, the letter approving Supplemental #2 for the FAA Grant, and viewed the area where the pictures of the past Commissioners will be displayed.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was given by Ron, seconded by Allen.