

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 2, 2007

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 March 19, 2007 meeting were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

The Clerk reported that she visited with Karen Hutton, Housekeeper for the Courthouse, and she plans to return to work this afternoon. Consensus of the Commissioners was that it was no longer necessary to hire someone part-time.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, that Morton County will pay its pro-rated share to Pioneer Communication for the circuit to the selective router located in Ulysses to the Entrada (E911.)

At this time motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to go into executive session from 9:40 to 10:00 for attorney/client privilege. Present were the Commissioners and the County Attorney. No action taken after coming out of executive session.

The Clerk reported that Tim Hardy notified her that the County needs to deed some of the Assisted Living property to the City to allow the City to extend 3rd Street. Eric said he will take care of this.

A discussion took place concerning the requested weather related delay days for the Assisted Living project: January 28 days; February 28 days; March 5 days (as of 3/29).

Vienna Lee met with the Commissioners to discuss possible incentives for the ALCO project. No action taken at this time.

Consensus of the Commissioners was to canvass the City/School General Election on Monday April 9th at 8:30 a.m.

Notice was made that the next WEKANDO meeting will be held in Hugoton on April 26th at 9:00 a.m.

The Clerk mentioned that the Treasurer has received an email from the Kansas Department of Revenue indicating that the State Assessed Property value for Pioneer

Energy Cooperative has been reduced. New values have not yet been certified to the counties involved, but Morton County will lose approximately \$18,000 in tax revenue because of this reduced value.

Information from John Pinegar was reviewed regarding the WEKANDO counties cooperatively creating a Port Authority for the purpose of promotion and developing the general welfare and economic development of its members and the State of Kansas. A short discussion took place.

A discussion took place regarding the possible need for additional airport hangars. The Commissioners asked Eric if he would contact his father-in-law and get some information regarding the costs involved. Eric stated he will try to have the information ready for the next meeting.

Sally Akers entered the meeting and requested the Commissioners consider constructing some handicapped parking spaces closer to the Courthouse building. A discussion took place. The Commissioners then left the meeting room and inspected the area in question. A call will be placed to Ashley Fiss to see if she can look at the area and come up with a drawing and costs for the project. This is an item that may have to be included in a future budget.

Upon returning to the Commissioners room Sally mentioned that she has been told the Courthouse needs new wiring and a new phone system. Sally said you can't replace the present phones with new phones, only rebuilt ones. She has some rebuilt phones and has been having problems with them. Bob said he will attempt to get a cost for a new system. This is an item that will have to be included in a future budget.

A short discussion took place concerning the rental golf carts and equipment currently being stored in an airport hangar. If some new hangars are constructed there will be no need to move the golf carts and equipment; they can remain in the hangar.

At this time Pat LeClerc, BCBS Representative, entered the meeting and presented an invitation to the Commissioners to her retirement reception to be held on Friday, April 20th from 4:00-6:00 at the Garden City Plaza Hotel. The Commissioners congratulated Pat on her retirement, stated they have enjoyed working with her and wished her well.

Justin Holliday, Sheriff, met with the Commissioners and reported that Simplex has completed their inspection of his department's alarm system; one alarm didn't work but a work order has been issued. Justin stated that the department is now in compliance with the State.

Justin also reported that the new drug dog should be here in another month and that the department has been working on E911.

A call was placed to Ashley Fiss regarding the generator for the Civic Center. A discussion also took place concerning the water line bid for the Civic Center. Kirkham-

Michael will handle the bidding and plan distribution in addition to the plans and specs for the project. Ashley mentioned that April 29th is the contract completion date for the Civic Center at this time. However, additional weather days will have to be considered.

The Commissioners asked Ashley if she would look at the Courthouse and help come up with a new handicapped parking plan and costs involved. Ashley agreed to meet with the Commissioners on Tuesday, April 3rd at 9:30 to look at the area.

A call was placed to Gary Baker regarding the County's application to transfer water rights to the golf course. Gary said the application will go before Ground Water Management on April 11th at 9:00 a.m. The Commissioners and Kevin will plan to attend.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form, approved and signed Change Order #3 for the Civic Center, approved Pay Application #3 for the Assisted Living Facility, and approved the Road Petition from Nadel & Gussman on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. Following lunch the Commissioners drove to the Civic Center site.

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners. Also present at this time were Andy Pinkley, Scott Shrauner, Chad Herron, Thon Boaldin, Dixie Boaldin and Johnny Boaldin. A lengthy discussion took place concerning the state line road. Johnny Boaldin stated that the traffic that goes past his house is tremendous. Scott said he lives closer to town than Johnny so he doesn't have near the problems Johnny has. Scott said he knows the Road department has made an effort to help make the road better by putting caliche on it and then Dana Baldwin keeps it graded. However, when the road gets wet you can hardly stay on the road. Thon wondered if some rock and sand would help but that might mean broken windshields. Johnny said it is not the best road and paving that road would sure be nice, it definitely needs improved. He appreciates the work already done but it is still a bad road. Thon stated that the Commissioners have changed in Oklahoma and the County might have better cooperation if Morton County and Texas County were to cost-share the project.

Andy mentioned that he also appreciates all the Road department has done. He said the traffic has increased so much in the last five years. Andy said a lot of the semi-trucks drive 60-70 mph and he is afraid someone will get killed; perhaps some speed limit signs could be posted.

Thon stated it is dangerous when you meet a truck on the state line road because they don't move over. He worries about his wife because she drives to town a couple of times a day with the children.

Johnny stated that the trucks also drive that road late at night and he is very concerned. He further stated that the longer it is put off, the more it will cost. Johnny asked the

Commissioners if they would consider asphaltting the road – “Surely they won’t have to live like this forever.”

The Commissioners asked the group if they have contacted Oklahoma yet about the road. Commissioner DeGarmo stated that legally, from the center line, half of the road belongs to Oklahoma. The group has not contacted Texas County. Ron asked Charley if he would put a traffic counter on the state line road (West) and compare the outcome with other roads in the County.

Scott stated that probably the biggest obstacle will be dealing with two States and two Counties. The Commissioners asked Thon if he would visit with his Oklahoma Commissioner and report back.

Scott asked if the road can’t be asphalted, is there anything else that can be used to help it. Charley said he was hoping that what they have already put down would have helped the situation. Charley stated that to asphalt that road would cost approximately \$929,560. This does not include road base preparation, trucks, graders, loaders, packers, tractors, or personnel to operate the equipment; they have already spent almost \$400,000 in an attempt to improve that road.

Consensus of all present was that Charley put a counter on the road, then visit with the Texas County Commissioners and see what we are looking at. The group then left the meeting.

Charley presented the Commissioners a copy of his March monthly report. Charley also mentioned that they are finishing the Rolla cement culverts with hot mix.

Charley mentioned that Kirkham-Michael should have the blueprints finished this week for the highway work to be done in front of the Civic Center.

A discussion took place concerning removal of the Airport sign. No action taken at this time.

A discussion took place concerning a letter received from KCAMP, the County’s liability insurance carrier. It appears that the Senior Citizen Centers and the Museum should not be covered by the County’s liability insurance since they have no control over those Boards. The buildings are covered under the County’s insurance because the County owns the buildings. However, any liability inside the buildings or on the grounds should be covered by insurance carried by the Senior Citizens Centers and the Museum. The Clerk was asked to inform these entities of the above.

Joe Hartman entered the meeting and informed the Commissioners that Morton County will receive \$1,151,861 from the USDA Forest Service under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. Under the Bankhead-Jones Act these funds are used for school or road purposes, or both, in the County.

Leon Ellis met with the Commissioners and reported that the cement crusher is at the Landfill and running. Cost to crush the cement is \$10.79/ton. A discussion took place concerning how much to charge the public for the crushed cement. No action taken at this time.

Leon mentioned that the “metal man” should be at the Landfill soon. He has indicated he will pay the County \$30/ton for the metal retrieved. Leon said he is not counting on that since other counties have indicated the man did not pay them anything.

Brandi Fleming entered the meeting and reported that Kristi Winters has submitted her resignation as an RN for the Health Department. Her last day will be May 23rd. Kristi’s husband has accepted a position in another state. The Commissioners regrettably accepted Kristi’s resignation and approved Brandi to begin advertising immediately for an RN.

Kevin Shook and Tate Grasz met with the Commissioners. Kevin presented the Commissioners a letter from Larry Flatt, Flatt Golf Services, Inc., regarding the location of a new Forward Tee for Hole #7 to be used by the ladies. A discussion took place. The Commissioners asked Kevin to check with Ben Pate to see if he can visit with the ladies before we do anything. This is an item that will have to be put on hold until we see if our application for water rights is approved.

At this time Julie and Darren Buck met with the Commissioners; Ernie Barnes was unable to attend this day. Eric presented the Deed for the Oklahoma property to be signed over to Ernie Barnes. Julie and Darren signed the Deed and the Clerk gave them their check. A check in the amount of \$3000 will be written to Ben Pate for his work as a Broker for this transaction. Ben has indicated he will give his check to the golf course to help with the expenses of building the new Tee for Hole #7.

The Commissioners asked for a copy of the IT job description to review.

Bob mentioned that he and Ron are planning to attend a meeting in Salina regarding keeping the Morton County FSA office open.

Notice was made that there will be no Construction Meeting on April 4th regarding the Assisted Living Facility.

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