

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 20, 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; Wanda Davis, Deputy County Clerk.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved.

Minutes of the August 6th meeting were approved as read on a motion by Ron and seconded by Allen.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

Bob signed the payroll form.

Allen made a motion, seconded by Ron, to approve a road petition for Epic Touch Company.

A short discussion took place regarding the policies and procedures for the Civic Center, and also the rent of the building. Eric will get with Mary and they will have it ready for the next commissioners meeting. Eric will also have a Resolution for these items for the next meeting.

The Commissioners reviewed a bill from Ashley Fiss for Orr Construction for the Civic Center in the amount of \$76,727.00. Ron made a motion, seconded by Allen, to pay this bill.

The Commissioners signed Resolution 2007-8 (A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORTON COUNTY, KANSAS, PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE MORTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN) and Resolution 2007-9 (A RESOLUTION EXEMPTING MORTON COUNTY, KANSAS, FROM FILING FEES IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS.)

The Operating Plan for Fire Control Agreement between Morton County and the Cimarron National Grassland was reviewed and signed by Bob.

The Airport mowing contract was reviewed. The contract was originally with Troy Barnett but he has since sold his equipment to other people. After visiting with Kevin Shook, Golf Superintendent, this afternoon, Eric will draw up a new contract.

Karena Meek entered the meeting and reported to the Commissioners that the State is now requiring all District Court offices to have the Information Network of Kansas link

in their office and be available to the public. The State will charge \$1.00 for each search, with .25 cents going to the County.

Budgets were signed for the Extension Council, the Conservation District, the Fair Association, District Court, and SDSI.

Tracie Nixon came to the meeting to report on the E911. The system is up and running and the “bugs” are being worked out. The new recorder works fine but there are problems with the console. No documentation can be found in the sheriff’s office for the recorder to support the system. The Sheriff’s Office is still looking for this.

Tracie also reported the server room is getting too hot when the air conditioning is shut off at nights and on the week-ends. The Commissioners will look at this room later today to see what can be done.

Leonard Hernandez, CEO at Morton County Health Systems, came to the meeting to give a report on recent surveys and deficiencies and the census for the facility. There is a waiting list for the assisted living. The nursing home has 55 residents as of today. This past week-end he interviewed a person to be a Facility Manager at the nursing home. The Assisted Living Facility will be licensed as a separate facility to receive better reimbursement.

Edgar White stopped by the meeting to see if there is an opening date yet for the Civic Center. Joe Edwards, a professional fiddler, will be in Elkhart on September 19th & 20th. The Commissioners thanked Edgar for that information but said they didn’t think the building would be ready by then.

A call was placed to Pinegar-Smith to check the status of the bill regarding County Attorney/District Attorney. KLPG met on August 17th and Derek Schmidt, a proponent, was there. Doug, with Pinegar-Smith, said there was not much support for the bill but those in favor of the bill wanted to get a dialog started.

Brandi Fleming came to the meeting to request approval for Pam Baldwin to attend a Healthy Start meeting in Hugoton on October 24th. Ron made a motion to approve this; Allen seconded.

Brandi also brought a contract to be signed by the Commissioners. This contract is an amendment between KDHE and Morton County Health Department for the emergency preparedness and response.

Tony Hoyt entered the meeting to make a recommendation regarding radio equipment and pagers. He recommended that one person be responsible for the inventory and maintenance of radios and pagers for all departments. Right now there is no accountability for the equipment. This would not be a new position and Tony says he would have the time to do this. He said the equipment is good but the potential is there

for improvement. The Commissioners said they would mention this idea at the supervisors meeting to see how the departments feel about it.

At this time the Supervisors came to the meeting. Those attending were Charles Hull, Charley McKinley, Leon, Justin, Tony, Brandi, Larry, Kevin, Vienna, Tracie, and Deb.

Tony explained the radio/pager inventory plan. Everyone was in agreement that this would be a good idea. Tony also told about the new equipment that EMS now has; a utility vehicle and trailer to take to ballgames and rodeos to help in transporting patients from the field to the ambulance.

Brandi reported that the Health Department has been busy with school physicals. The State previously "required" all kindergarten and 1st graders to have a booster shot for Chicken Pox, but not enough vaccine is available! Now, they are "suggesting" the booster and not requiring it.

Justin reported that the silver expedition now has signage identifying it as a law enforcement, K-9 unit. He also said since the first of the year there have been 178 cases and 60 inmates have been in the jail.

Tracie said the new E911 system is up and going.

Larry has been working on the lawn and around the building.

Kevin reported that the last tournament of the year was this past week-end. A writer from Golf Digest was here a couple of weeks ago. He was on a mission to play golf in 5 states in one day. He played in Springfield, Elkhart, Boise City, Clayton, and Dalhart and was very impressed with the Elkhart course. The article will be in the magazine soon. Also, with the hot weather, the course is using more water than usual.

Vienna said there would be a WEKANDO event in Hugoton on Thursday morning. Governor Sebelius and Senator Jerry Moran would be there to introduce plans for an ethanol plant in the community. Bob will attend. Alco is looking good. Larry Thompson with KDOT doesn't have a problem with it and Wally is to get a new plan to Larry. Subway is now open at Convenience Plus. The Great Horse Race participants will be in Elkhart on September 6th. As of now there are 35 teams from across the United States entered.

Charley McKinley said the asphalt plant should be in today. They will be in Rolla on Friday and it should take just one day to do the streets there. Dana has been busy with the parking lot at the civic center.

Leon reported they are still spraying bindweed and Johnson grass.

Charles Hull said so far this summer it has been quiet and he hopes it stays that way.

Eric has been keeping busy with the cases that Justin brings to him.

Bob mentioned putting the police report in the paper is good communication with the public.

Ron said the barbeque at the Fair went well. There weren't as many fed this year as in years past.

Deb mentioned again about the new utility vehicle and said they had brought it to the courthouse and it was parked out front for everyone to see.

Bob commended everyone for the cooperation among the departments.

The meeting recessed at 12:00 pm for lunch. Following lunch, the Commissioners drove to the civic center and walked through and then drove to the Assisted Living construction site. The meeting reconvened at 1:00 pm.

Charley McKinley reported that he has received two proposals from Dick Bennin for hauling and mixing millings and sand. One proposal was on the Grasslands to a Merit Energy tank battery and another site was for stock piling. Charley agrees this is a good deal. There will be no contract. There is no hurry for these projects so he will do this in the spring. Ron made a motion to go ahead with these projects. Allen seconded.

Charley reported that the loader motor is doing well.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the acceleration/deceleration lane at the Civic Center site. Charley has been talking to Chuck Oldaker, KDOT. Chuck has said the State has no money for this project. Charley said that if the Road Department constructs it, it will not be to State specifications and he is not sure they would allow that to happen.

Charley says they will be sealing the streets in Rolla on Friday.

Bob asked Charley about the signs on the Road Department building. Charley will check on this.

Charley has signed up for a trip to the Volvo factory in Canada on September 26th. This will be a three-day trip.

Leon came to the meeting and reported he had called the State Inspector. He told her all the paperwork was done. She advised him to take pictures and send to her. He hasn't done this yet but will get it in the next day or two.

The Contractor for the Assisted Living project has ordered 600 tons of crushed cement.

Deb Schnurr asked permission to attend a KEMA meeting in Hays on September 9th & 10th. She did not go last year and feels she should attend this year. Ron made a motion, seconded by Bob, that she attend.

Deb reported that Scott Power made a donation of \$636 towards the purchase of the trailer for the utility vehicle. The balance of the trailer and the tracker will be paid out of the Special Ambulance fund. Both Expeditions have hitches to pull the trailer. The Commissioners asked Deb to be sure to recognize Scott Power publicly for their donation.

Morton County EMS has been invited to attend a meeting in Baca County on August 31st. This meeting is to talk about radio equipment with other counties in the tri-state area. Other counties attending will be Stanton and Cimarron.

Three EMT's attended the Sports Clinic in Garden City over the week-end. Deb mentioned that EMS will be losing four EMTs due to people returning to school and moving.

Deb and Tony reported that Tony's Expedition has been in the shop for repairs quite a bit lately. They are requesting to buy a new vehicle. This would be a 4 door pick-up, ¾ ton, with a topper. This vehicle would be able to haul more equipment and would be able to pull the trailer. After some discussion, Bob made a motion, seconded by Allen, to buy a new vehicle. It will be paid for out of the Special Ambulance fund. The Commissioners told Deb to get bids from Elkhart Ford and from Koski.

Vienna entered the meeting and presented Resolution 2007-10 for the Commissioners review (A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF THE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN AND REQUESTING THAT THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE & HOUSING DESIGNATE THE COUNTY OF MORTON AS A NON-METROPOLITAN REGION.) This Resolution was signed on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Vienna stated she has done all she can for the horse race. Since this is the first time this has ever been done, the organizers keep changing their minds about what needs to be done.

Vienna has visited with Mike Shannon and David Watkins from Seaboard about housing in Elkhart. Seaboard is considering building up to twenty single family dwelling housing units. They are not requesting any funding from Morton County, just ideas.

The Rodeo stock contractors were very appreciative of the free golf passes for Saturday morning.

Tim Hardy came to the meeting and reported to the Commissioners information regarding a meeting with KDOT for a geometric improvement grant that Elkhart City has applied for. They will meet at 10:00 am at the parking lot at Jim-N-I's. He also said the water for the civic center was being tested today.

Kevin Shook met with the Commissioners and gave the golf course report. The summer help is gone now and he and Don are staying busy.

Kevin reported he had mowed at the airport. He said it took him 4 ½ hours to mow and 2 hours to weed eat around the lights and the terminal. He estimates it would take 2-4 hours to spray weeds. Kevin said there were quite a few lights that were either not working or broken along the runway and taxiway. Kevin's main concern about doing this mowing is that it would tear up his golf course mowers.

Kevin told the Commissioners about a work day that is planned for the Greensburg golf course. The Greensburg golf course is maintained by volunteers and they are all busy with the rebuilding of the City of Greensburg following the May 5th tornado. The Kansas Golf Course Superintendents have scheduled September 20th as a work day for any course superintendents, and others, to help get their course back in shape. Because Don's daughter and her family live in Greensburg, Kevin and Don would like to go to Greensburg that day to help out and show their support. Consensus of the Commissioners was that they should go.

A call was made to Ed Johnson to tell him about the Airport lights. There was no answer at Carpet Plus so a message was left for Ed to return the call.

Justin Holliday entered the meeting and reported he has nothing new to report since he gave his report in the Supervisors meeting. He said the inmate count today was eight.

The Commissioners asked Justin to review a voucher for a fuel purchase in Boise City. This voucher did not have a receipt attached to it for the charge. After reviewing the voucher it was determined that the charge was incurred when a dog was taken to the Veterinarian at Boise City. This should have been an Elkhart City bill, not County. Justin said he will take care of this right away.

The Commissioners went to Tracie Nixon's office to see what could be done to help keep equipment cool in there during the hot summer months. It was suggested that she find a portable refrigeration unit. She will check on this.

Gwen Rodriguez, Amy Hayes, and Frank Davis entered the meeting. A motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to go into executive session for 15 minutes, from 3:05 pm to 3:20 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. At 3:20 pm Ron made a motion to go back into executive session for another 15 minutes. At 3:35 pm the meeting returned to open session. Gwen, Amy, and Frank then left the meeting. No action was taken.

Tracie checked on the internet and she could get a refrigeration unit but a credit card would be needed to make the purchase. The Commissioners agreed to have her use one of their county credit cards.

Myrna Barnes and Eugene Higgins came to the meeting, representing the Museum. They reported that repairs to be made to the furnace in September should get them through the rest of this year. The two also reported that there will be a fund raiser held to help raise funds to put insulation in the Museum ceiling. It is hoped this will help lower the fuel bills. Seaboard has donated the meat for this fund raiser. A free-will donation will be taken at the food stand at the horse race.

Myrna and Gene also presented a bid for the painting of the barn and asked if the County could help with this project. The balance needed would be about \$1600. After reviewing the balances of several different budgets, it was determined there was not any extra money to help out with that project. Bob volunteered to personally make a donation to help complete this project.

At 4:00 p.m. Ron made a motion to go into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss a personnel matter. At 4:20 p.m. the meeting returned to open session. No action taken.

Charley McKinley called to report he could not get a straight answer from Tri-County Electric regarding moving the pole at the Civic Center. The Commissioners called Tri-County and talked to Rick Wayman. Rick said he was waiting for a call from an electrician. Bob told him the work was done and we needed to be put on the schedule for next week. The Commissioners then called Kent Boaldin and he said he was done with his part and, indeed, everyone was waiting on Tri-County.

There being no further business Ron made a motion to adjourn at 4:30 pm. Bob seconded.