

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 6, 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; Mary Gilmore, County Clerk. Eric Witcher, County Attorney, had an out-of-town hearing this morning.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved with additions.

Minutes of the July 23rd and August 2nd meetings were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

The Public Hearing for the Solid Waste Management Plan was held with the following in attendance: Bob Boaldin, Allen Tucker, Ron DeGarmo, Mary Gilmore, Charley McKinley, Gwen Rodriguez, and Leon Ellis. The five-year plan was reviewed and discussed. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to approve the plan. A copy of this 5-year plan will be on file in the County Clerk's office for public review. The Resolution will be prepared and signed at the next Commissioners' meeting. Gwen distributed a copy of the Landfill "Time Line" for Plan reviews as well as a list of those serving on the Morton County Solid Waste Planning Committee.

A discussion took place concerning the position of Events Coordinator for the Civic Center. All felt it was time to begin advertising the position. The Clerk will place ads in the Tri-State News, the County's web site, and on the Elkhart Cable and Pioneer Communications Cable to run two weeks. Consensus of the Commissioners was that the salary will depend on experience and they will take applications until the position is filled. Applications and job description will be picked up at the County Clerk's office.

Vienna Lee met with the Commissioners and requested approval to give the rodeo contractors free golf passes, six or seven. Vienna said this is something we have done in the past and the fellows really brag about Elkhart everywhere they go and how well they are treated here. Approval was given on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Vienna reported the Strategic Plan is due the first of September. She will have a Resolution prepared for the Commissioners' approval at the next meeting.

Eric Witcher entered the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Vienna asked the Commissioners if they have ordered the food for the free barbeque at the Fair on Saturday evening. Nothing has been ordered and no one told the County to

order anything. Vienna will follow-up on this as well as make sure there is enough help to serve the meal.

The Commissioners advised Vienna that they will begin advertising for an Events Coordinator this week and will accept applications until the position is filled. Applications will be taken for a Maintenance person at a later date.

Vienna mentioned that Jennifer Sensley is now the CD for the Farm Service Agency and will remain so as long as that office is open in Elkhart.

The Public Hearing for the 2008 Morton County Budget was held at 10:30 a.m. with no one present for objection. Motion was then made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to approve the 2008 Budget as prepared. The Budget was then signed. A copy of this is on file in the County Clerk's office for public review.

Tom Fuhrmann entered the meeting and presented the Commissioners a binder comparing the total assessed values by class (Real Property, State Assessed, Oil & Gas, Personal Property), for Morton, Grant, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Kearny, Stanton and Stevens counties. A lengthy discussion took place concerning where Tom feels the valuation for Oil & Gas might be heading in the upcoming years; 71% of Morton County's valuation comes from Oil & Gas. Tom also shared some of what he learned at the recent "Guide" meeting he attended.

Vicki Peacock met with the Commissioners and recommended hiring Tiffany Hayes for the full-time position in the Treasurer's Office. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to approve hiring Tiffany at a salary of \$1750/mo. because of her prior experience and education.

Vicki mentioned there will be a mandatory driver's license meeting in Garden City. All in her office will have to attend. The meeting will be held two different days so some will attend one day and the others the next day.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form and the Notices of Appointment for Dallas Bressler, Calvin Perkins, and Gregg Daniels to serve on the SouthWest Area Agency on Aging Board.

Sally Akers entered the meeting and reported that the Commissioners can now pass a Resolution that would exempt Morton County from paying a registration fee for any documents filed in the Register of Deeds' office on behalf of Morton County. Eric stated he could have the Resolution ready for the next meeting. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to pass such a Resolution.

The Commissioners signed the Capital Outlay Budget Request Form for the Register of Deeds to purchase a 500 sheet drawer for her InfoPrint printer. Also signed was Change Order #2 for the Assisted Living Facility, the Change Orders from the Appraiser's Office, the application of Derya Barton (Part-time Dispatcher in Sheriff's Office, \$8.50/hr.), the

application of Amanda Wray (Full-time Deputy in Sheriff's Office, \$2300/mo.), and the application of Tiffany Hayes, (Full-time employee in the Treasurer's Office, \$1750/mo.)

The Commissioners approved paying Kirkham Michael \$4,763.47 for engineering services for the Civic Center sewer and water extension on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Pay Application #7 to Orr Construction Management in the amount of \$241,831 was approved on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed the letter of engagement from Hay-Rice & Associates for their assistance in preparing the 2008 Morton County Budget on a motion from Bob, seconded by Ron.

Following a short discussion, and on the advice of the County Attorney, motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, that the County not approve any expenditures for having a mural painted on the East wall of Rick's Video building.

The Road Petition from Meis Electric was approved on a motion by Allen, seconded by Bob. Motion was also made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve paying Contractor's Progress Estimate #1 to Underground Specialists for the sewer and water extension for the Civic Center.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch. Following lunch the Commissioners drove to the Assisted Living construction site, walked through the Civic Center, drove to the Health Department to inspect the overgrown foliage, and drove to the Airport terminal building where they noticed the weeds around the building have not been trimmed down.

Upon returning to the Courthouse the Commissioners met with Charley McKinley, Road Supervisor. Charley presented his July Road Report and mentioned that the asphalt plant is scheduled to be here this week. Charley stated that once everything is in place, he expects to get everything done in three weeks. He did mention, however, that he needs to visit with Chuck Oldacker about how the road at the Civic Center will tie in with the Highway. Charley also stated that if the City of Rolla doesn't get the rock they need for their roads the County may not be able to help them with their project. Charley estimates it will take about 2 ½ days to do the Rolla roads.

Leon mentioned that he will need to sterilize the ground at the Civic Center prior to the Road Department laying the asphalt for the roads. It will have to be a very calm day for Leon to use the chemicals for the sterilization.

Charley mentioned that he has had a couple of calls from people in Dana's territory. Charley has Dana Baldwin helping with preparations for the roads at the Civic Center and wants to keep him at that site. He will have David McKinley help out with Dana's territory for now.

Charley reported that he received a quote from Foley Equipment for repairs to the Caterpillar; \$10,237.31 for a new engine.

Charley mentioned the culverts for the Civic Center will cost approximately \$6000. These will be paid out of the Road Department's budget.

At this time motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to go into executive session from 1:45 – 2:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Present during this session were the Commissioners, County Attorney, and Leon Ellis. No action taken after coming out of executive session.

Leon reported he has completed the bookwork required by the State as a result of violations recently received at the Landfill. The Commissioners reminded Leon that the State Inspector has indicated she will return to re-inspect the Landfill on August 13th and they expect all of the violations to be completed by that date.

Leon reported he expects the cost for repairs to the Caterpillar to be around \$2500.

Kevin Shook, Golf Superintendent, met with the Commissioners and reported he had 38 junior golfers enrolled in this year's Junior Golf Program. Today was the last day of the program and he had a cookout for the kids, as well as drawings for prizes. Each enrollee also received a cap and some golf balls.

Kevin reported that Morton County's water application has been approved. Bob said he filed this document in the Register of Deed's Office. There is a typographical error in the document that will have to be corrected but this will not prohibit Kevin from utilizing the extra water. Kevin said he will continue to send in monthly water usage reports for the rest of this year; he has twenty-four million gallons he can now use until the end of the year.

A discussion took place concerning the mowing at the Airport. The Commissioners asked Kevin if he thought he might be able to take on the added mowing. Kevin stated he will look at the Airport and perhaps mow it once to get a feel for how long it will take to do the mowing and report back at a future meeting.

The Commissioners approved paying the invoice from Fiss Architecture for work done towards the Civic Center in the amount of \$2317.50 on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Justin Holliday, Sheriff, entered the meeting and reported that Sam Walsh, a current inmate, had to have surgery recently. The expenses incurred for this surgery will have to come out of the Sheriff's budget. Justin distributed information he received regarding Correct Care Solutions, a group endorsed by the Kansas Sheriff's Association and the Kansas Association of Counties. This group assists counties and cities in their efforts to save money when met with high medical bills incurred by prisoners. Justin said he will

submit Sam's medical bills to this group for review to make sure we are not getting overcharged. Cost per claim reviewed by Correct Care Solutions is \$17.50.

The Commissioners asked Justin if he got all of the donated items for the Greensburg tornado victims delivered. Justin stated that very little of the items were used and the deputies who were supposed to deliver the remaining items did not do so. He and his staff had to unload the camper in the garage area and everything will have to be taken to Garden City to the Goodwill. The Commissioners asked if there were food items in the bags and Justin said he thought there probably were. He will go through all items and make sure the food has not exceeded the expiration date. The Commissioners also asked if he thought any "varmints" may have gotten into the items. Justin said it is possible because they do leave the large garage door open. Ron asked when he could get the donated items to the Goodwill. Justin said he hopes to do so very soon.

A discussion took place concerning Jason San Souci's upcoming visit. A meeting has been scheduled for August 8th in Elkhart. Everyone felt they could meet between 9:00-9:15.

At this time the Commissioners reviewed the IT Manager's July 23rd to August 6th Activity Report and the list of scholarships awarded by the Men's Golf Association. The Commissioners also reviewed a letter received from Carolyn Turner. A lengthy discussion took place.

The Clerk reminded the Commissioners that they have a Construction Meeting at the Hospital Classroom on August 8th at 10:30.

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