

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 17, 2007

Bob called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 approved as submitted.

Minutes of the November 26, 2007 meeting were approved as read.

Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to increase the full-time employees' wages by \$100/mo; the new base salary will be increased to \$1700/mo. Employees paid by the hour will receive a .75 increase and the new starting hourly wage will be increased to \$9.00/hr.

The Clerk presented a bill for crushed cement from the Morton County Landfill to the City of Elkhart in the amount of \$2520. Tim Hardy, City Administrator, informed the Clerk that he was only authorized to pay \$1400 of the bill. He has asked if the County would consider cost-sharing the expense; the project was the alley behind the Pizza Hut, next to the golf course. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen, to pay the balance to the Landfill (from the General Fund to the Landfill.)

A discussion took place concerning the punch list for the Civic Center. Consensus of the Commissioners was that once the punch list is completed they will do another walk-through.

A discussion took place concerning dedicating the new water and sewer lines at the Civic Center to the City of Elkhart. Eric will check into what we need to do. Eric also stated that the City will have to maintain the street in front of the Civic Center, but the County will have to maintain the parking lot.

Ron gave an update on the emergency preparedness meeting recently held at the EMS Building. The Civic Center will serve as the emergency shelter with the Fair Office to be designated the command center. The Commissioners will discuss further with Deb what items are still needed. Consensus of the Commissioners was that a trailer should be purchased to store the cots because there is limited storage space within the Civic Center.

The application of Tammy Hendricks was approved on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron. Tammy will be a full-time Dispatcher with a starting salary of \$1700/mo.

Change Order #3 for the Assisted Living Facility, in the amount of \$582, was reviewed and signed on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

The Commissioners approved payment to the Morton County Health System, for architect fees and other items related to the construction of the Assisted Living Facility, in the amount of \$32,593.59 on a motion by Ron, seconded by Bob. Payment Application #11 to Orr Construction, for the Assisted Living Facility, in the amount of \$356,150 was approved for payment on a motion by Ron, seconded by Bob.

The Commissioners signed the Accounts Payable Warrant Registers, the Payroll Warrant Registers, the Payroll Forms, the Community Corrections Application for FY 2007 Unexpended Funds and the Change Orders from the Appraiser's Office.

Sally Akers, Register of Deeds, entered the meeting and presented the application of Lynette Shrauner to fill the full-time position in that Department. The application was approved on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen. Starting salary will be \$2083.33/mo. because of her prior experience.

The Commissioners asked Sally if she has heard anything from SEDCO regarding the plat for the Civic Center; she has not. The Commissioners will contact Tim Hardy to see if he has any information about the plat. Once the final plat is signed and recorded, the Deed to the property will be signed over from the City of Elkhart to Morton County.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to purchase a trailer for the Road Department from Berry Tractor and Equipment in the original bid amount of \$42,247 (with trade-in). A trailer was located that could be delivered in April as opposed to August.

A discussion took place concerning Clint Thomason's request for consideration to cross a road in Section 16 (G). The Commissioners will have Charley McKinley take a look at it.

At this time the Commissioners presented Frank Davis, equipment operator at the Landfill, a money tree containing contributions given at the County Employees' Christmas Party. Frank expressed his sincere appreciation for everyone's generosity and said the money will surely help with some of the expenses while he wife undergoes treatments.

Kevin Shook met with the Commissioners and reported that no one contacted the County Clerk to have their name placed on the ballot for the Golf Advisory Board. The Commissioners asked the Clerk to put this item on the January Agenda.

Kevin mentioned that the Clubhouse was rented out a couple of times for Christmas parties.

Leon Ellis gave the Commissioners a copy of his November Work Log. Leon reported he is in the process of treating wildlife.

Pay Application #16 for the Civic Center was presented for approval to pay. Approval was given on a motion from Bob, seconded by Allen.

Pete Woods, Pete Woods Excavating, entered the meeting to discuss a bill he received from the Landfill for crushed cement that was used in the Assisted Living Facility project. Pete reported he is not getting paid by Orr Construction so he can't pay the Landfill bill. He further stated that he is at his 15% retainage now. The Commissioners will contact Bryan Young, Architect, and see if we can withhold the amount owed to Orr to pay Pete's bill.

At this time the Commissioners opened the one sealed bid received for the Highway Property as follows:

Duckwalls-Alco (for 2.5 acres)	\$120,000 Cash
	\$1,000 Earnest Money

After publishing this property for sale three times in the local newspaper, and receiving no petition against the same, motion to accept this bid was given by Bob Boaldin, seconded by Allen Tucker. A building will be constructed within one hundred sixty (160) days from the receipt of any and all building permits, including permits issued by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT.)

A call was placed to Bryan Young regarding Pete Woods' statement that Orr Construction is not paying him and he cannot pay his bill for the crushed cement until he gets paid by Orr. Bryan said Mr. Woods' contract is between him and Orr Construction and that the County needs to just sit tight, it will get worked out.

Charlie Tucker met with the Commissioners about items needed at the Civic Center (floor mats, ice melt, etc.) Charlie also reported that the red painted stripes in front of the Civic Center are coming up in chunks. He visited with RK Painting and was told that the temperature outside is prohibitive to do anything at this time but will re-stripe first thing in the Spring. Rick also told Charlie that the red paint is a different type of paint than the yellow that was used for the parking spaces and it may have been too cold when they painted the red.

Charlie asked the Commissioners if he needed to contact Jon Ryman about the need for door locks at the Civic Center. The Commissioners did ask if Charlie would contact Jon.

Charlie reported that Mark Morell (floor man) will be here today around 11:00 to start on the event floor. The Meeting Room is scheduled for December 24th, but that should not affect the work on the event floor. Also, Eads is scheduled to come on Thursday, along with the "Controls" people, to hook up the two big furnaces that didn't get hooked up.

Charlie mentioned he has some rental issues for the rooms at the Civic Center. An individual recently contracted one way and then utilized the facility other than what was specified. She also said there would be no alcohol and then alcohol was served. Consensus of the Commissioners was to retain all deposit money.

Charlie reported he went on a tour last week to visit both the Grant County and Garden City Civic Centers. Grant County stated they take all use fees and deposits up front. The Commissioners recommended setting up a special account to deposit these funds so any refund money will not have to come out of the Civic Center's budget. They will visit with Steve Rice about this.

Charlie discussed the "Booking" software that Finney County uses. The cost for the software is \$1365 but is extremely helpful; an additional \$1100 for the "Fast Book" software. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Bob, to purchase the software.

Charlie said that Angie, at the Finney County Civic Center, told him about an upcoming convention to be held January 3-6 in Topeka; the Kansas Fairs and Festivals. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, approving attendance at this meeting.

The water softener is still not hooked up at the Civic Center. The Commissioners asked Charlie to let Ashley Fiss know about this. Also the front handicapped door is still not working properly, as well as another door in the hallway. Ashley needs to be informed of these items as well.

Brandi Fleming entered the meeting and presented an Amendment to the Contract between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Morton County Health Department in the amount of \$5397.48. The term of the contract is extended to August 8, 2008. The contract was signed by the Commissioners. Brandi also gave the Commissioners a copy of her 12/01 to 12/17 Encounter Report.

Brandi reported she will be conducting an evaluation of the Health Department's maintenance contract. She may need to consider contracting with a different service.

Resolution 2007-14 was reviewed and signed: A Resolution Appointing a Licensed Professional County Engineer on an "As Needed Basis." Mr. Jon B. Halbgewachs, Kirkham Michael, will serve as Morton County's Engineer.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Allen Glendenning, Attorney with the Law Offices of Watkins Calcara, Chtd. regarding the claim that Ernest and Marsha Barnes have made that the County Landfill is responsible for their truck and trailer catching fire due to the escape of an ember from a pile of wood/tree limbs. County employees have indicated to KCAMP, the County's Liability Insurance Carrier, that the burn pile had been extinguished and the ashes spread prior to the fire. There was also some information indicating that the source of the ignition may have been from the truck itself; it was having electrical difficulties prior to being parked where it was at. Mr. Barnes has asked the County for \$25,000 to replace his truck and trailer. This claim has already been denied by KCAMP.

The Commissioners reviewed the pictures of the damages to the new refrigerator that was delivered to the Civic Center. Vienna had ordered this item and is working towards getting the matter resolved and the refrigerator replaced.

The Commissioners reviewed the Architect's Field Report regarding the Assisted Living Project and an email from Ashley Fiss regarding some items previously discussed that still need attention at the Civic Center. Ashley pointed out that the punch list given to Jon Ryman is still not completed but Ken Kure with Orr Construction assured her that they will complete the punch list.

There being no further business the Commissioners adjourned on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron. The Commissioners and Vienna then left for Ulysses to attend a special meeting of WEKANDO.