

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 5, 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 with additions.

Minutes of the January 22, 2007 meeting were read and approved on a motion by Allen and second by Bob.

Ron made a motion to approve and sign the contract with Lee Construction for the cement crusher. Allen seconded.

The payroll form and the Fireman's Relief form were signed.

Leonard Hernandez came to the meeting to discuss the Long Term Care Unit. Also present were Sandy Bane and Teresa Harder.

Leonard explained that as of 1/24/07, the Long Term Care Unit is in compliance with KDHE. He read a statement that he will release to the Tri State News. He said that a new Director of Nurses has been hired and she will begin March 5, 2007. Debra Sopenfield comes from Canadian, Texas. She has had four years experience in a care center setting and has had 0 deficiencies in those four years. The Commissioners expressed their concern over how this deficiency happened in the first place and want to be assured that something like this will never happen again. The Commissioners informed Mr. Hernandez that he needs to go to the Care Center more often and be kept informed of how things are going. There should be no surprises like this ever again.

He said he had received calls from the CEO's at Dighton and Johnson care centers and they had had the same surveys with the same results.

Leonard said this care center is in compliance with staffing. There has been disciplinary action taken regarding the wound care of a resident. He said resident care is a priority in the Health Care system.

With regards to the problems with the survey, most of the problems were with paperwork and were addressed before the surveyors left.

Before leaving the meeting, Leonard said he would be glad to meet with the Commissioners at any time if they have questions. The Commissioners said they would like to meet again with Leonard and with the Board of Trustees of the Hospital. A date and time will be arranged. Leonard left the meeting.

Teresa and Sandy stayed at the meeting to ask questions and answer questions regarding the Care Center. This was very informative exchange of information. Before they left, the Commissioners thanked both Sandy and Teresa for their time.

A call was placed to John Pinegar regarding the Interlocal Agreement. He explained that the Department of Revenue was behind this being passed as a law. The people in Topeka want there to be no questions from the public in case bonds will be issued. This will have a higher level of confidence for the public. How the tax dollars and revenue are distributed is also a part of this law. The method of distribution can vary with each project.

Larry Simmons came to the meeting to discuss the snow blower. The one he had requested is not available at this time. He will contact John Deere and see what is available.

Deb Schnurr came to the meeting to review the bid for the generator for the EMS. After talking with Kent Boaldin, she recommends the 15 k.w. generator. The bid is \$5250.00, not to exceed \$5,500.00. This bid includes installation. Ron made a motion, seconded by Allen, to accept this bid.

Deb presented a copy of a certificate certifying that Tausha Espinoza had completed the requirements of medical claims & billing specialist. Deb recommended that Tausha be given a \$1.00 per hour raise. Bob made a motion to give the recommended raise. Ron seconded.

There will be a storm spotter class on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners agreed to have Deb provide a meal to those attending.

The cots are in and are stored at the old Scott Power building. They will be paid for out of the EMS budget.

Deb had gotten bids from Nusser's and Elkhart Auto Parts for automatic starts for the Expeditions. During the cold weather there were times when they were unable to get into their vehicles because of the freezing conditions. The bids were:

Nusser's	\$203.50 per unit
Elkhart Auto Parts	\$175.00 per unit

Deb said Tony could install these. Allen made the motion, seconded by Ron, to purchase the units from Elkhart Auto Parts.

After the snow storm and the ambulances had been stuck in the snow, Tony has welded toe hooks on all the ambulances.

FEMA will be here again this week for more meetings.

A call was placed to Gary Baker regarding the water issue for the golf course. He said everything should be at Eric's office. Gary feels confident that everything will happen before the water is needed.

A call was placed to Ernie Barnes to come to the meeting this afternoon. There was no answer so a message was left.

A call was placed to Ed Engel regarding the E911. He will meet with the four counties on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in Hugoton.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 pm.

Two representatives of Venture Corporation came to the meeting to discuss bids for road projects. Present were Kip Spray and Lenny Hill. They had been told they would be able to bid on Morton County road projects. They do asphalt work throughout the State and have an asphalt plant in the area. They presented a map showing projects they are working on and projects they will be bidding on in the area.

Allen made a motion, seconded by Ron, to go to executive session for 10 minutes for attorney/client privilege from 1:15 pm to 1:25 pm.

Following executive session, Eric explained that there was a tentative contract with Heft and Sons for an asphalt plant, but it had not yet been formalized. Kip & Lenny were told that their bid would be considered if the Heft contract does not materialize. Venture Corp. said they would send someone to go over the project with Charley later this week and would turn in a bid in the next 1-2 weeks. Lenny & Kip then left the meeting.

Charley gave the January road report.

Charley again discussed the request from Oxy regarding building a road. Eric suggested that Oxy talk with land owners. Charley said he had given all this information to Terry Yoder regarding this matter.

Charley has told USD 218 that the Road Department will do the work they had requested.

Leon told the Commissioners he had been to a Weed Directors meeting. The prairie dog issue was the big discussion.

Leon requested an executive session to discuss personnel. Bob made the motion and Ron seconded there be a 10 minute executive session from 1:55 pm to 2:05 pm.

No action was taken following executive session.

Leon said he will spray in Richfield when the trees are trimmed.

Kevin came to the meeting for the golf course report. He will be giving a presentation to the Lions Club on Monday. He will attend the FEMA meeting this week.

Kevin has demo'd a couple of mowers. He has budgeted for some new equipment, but will wait to see how the water issue is resolved. He and Don have serviced all present equipment as if they are going to use them again this year.

Justin Holliday came to the meeting. He recommended that Leo Carrillo be hired as a new deputy. He also recommended a salary of \$2000.00 per month. Ron made the motion to accept Justin's recommendation. Allen seconded.

This move will open up a full time dispatch position. At this time the part-time dispatcher will cover the schedule until a full time person is hired. Justin will keep the part-time position and will be advertising for the next two weeks.

Justin told the Commissioners he has contacted G & G Electronics of Guymon to check and repair the wiring problems on the new pick-up. He also said he would do away with the extra fuel cells in the pick-ups.

Justin told the Commissioners that Santos, the retired K9, had had surgery on an ongoing foot injury. On a motion by Ron and second by Bob, the County will cover these medical bills.

Justin has been researching information for a new K9. He recommends a dual purpose dog. He has a man in the Kansas City area looking for a dog that would be a good fit for Morton County. The dog would cost \$8000. A guy in Sublette would train the dog and the handler for a fee of \$1000. Bob made the motion, seconded by Allen, to pay for the dog and the training out of the Diversion fund. Justin will contact Mary Gilmore when she returns about liability through KCAMP.

At this time, Justin discussed Shelby Chapman. She had previously been told that if she kept up her certification she would be recommended for a raise. She is current in her certification and he is now recommending a \$150 per month raise base on this certification and her experience. Bob made the motion for this raise and Ron seconded.

Bob told Justin that law enforcement will be involved in the installation and training of the E911 system. Justin said his department will be ready whenever they are given the word.

Justin told the Commissioners that Larry and Shelby have been helping him clean the garage area. They are going through closets, storage areas, etc getting rid of old radios and equipment. He wants to make this area more secure.

Ron commended Justin for his part of the presentation at the town hall meeting last week.

Allen also commended Justin for this and mentioned that Eric and Judge Volden did a good job explaining to the public about the sentencing guidelines.

Ernie Barnes came to the meeting to discuss the water rights contract.

Bob made a motion, seconded by Allen, to enter an executive session for 20 minutes, from 3:40 pm to 4:00 pm for attorney client privilege.

Following executive session, it was discussed that Eric will meet with Ernie tomorrow to finalize the contract for the purchase of water rights for the golf course.

A bill from Kirkham Michael was reviewed. The Commissioners requested a detailed breakdown of services.

Allen made the motion, seconded by Ron, to enter in to a contract with E911, Inc. The contract was signed.

There being no further business, Ron made the motion to adjourn at 4:15 pm. Allen seconded.