

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 22, 2007

Bob called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with open doors.

Present: Bob Boaldin, Chairman; Allen Tucker, Vice-Chairman; Eric Witcher, County Attorney; Mary Gilmore, County Clerk. Ron DeGarmo, Commissioner, was out of town this day.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved with additions.

Minutes of the January 8, 2007 meeting were read and approved with corrections, as directed by the Commissioners, on a motion by Allen, seconded by Bob.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

A call was placed to Gary Baker regarding Morton County's water rights application. It is hoped that the Water Board will approve transferring water rights from one of Ernie Barnes' wells to the golf course; the County needs an additional 90 acre feet. Ernie and Gary have visited and Gary said Ernie mentioned to him that the County is willing to trade a quarter of land for the water rights. However, with the increase in corn, it may be necessary for the County to pay Mr. Barnes an amount in addition to the trade of land. All of this is contingent on whether the State will approve the plan.

Nancy Crowell, USD 218 Superintendent, met with the Commissioners and presented the timeline for USD 218's Track Project, Football Field Sprinkler System, and Stadium Lights. USD 218 has asked the Commissioners if the County could remove the old track, curbing, long jump runways, high jump runways, pole-vault runways and the pits; also chop up the old grass on the football field. Ms. Crowell stated that the area will be available for the County to move in with its equipment on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. In the event Elkhart has athletes qualify for the State Track Meet they have contacted USD 217 and received approval to use their facility for track practice. Nancy said it is important for USD 218 to know if May 14<sup>th</sup> will work because other contracts are scheduled according to that date. The Commissioners said they will visit with Charley McKinley this afternoon about this project. Nancy asked the Commissioners to let her know.

A call was placed to Ashley Fiss regarding the need to include a generator in the plans for the Civic Center. Ashley was not available and the Commissioners left a message for her to return their call.

Motion to approve the Road Petition from Chesapeake Operating, Inc. was given by Bob, seconded by Allen (this was previously signed.)

Bob mentioned that Pinegar/Smith is asking Morton County for a fee of \$30,000 (\$2500/mo) to write legislation allowing the four-county Economic Development group

to not only put money into a special Economic Development fund, but for the four counties to share in the revenue of any business venture that develops due to the efforts of this special group, Western Kansas Development Organization (We Kan Do.) This item was tabled pending information received at the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting in Hugoton.

Deb Schnurr met with the Commissioners and presented the 2006 Year-End Runs Report; Deb compared 2006 with 2005. The Commissioners expressed their thanks and appreciation for such an insightful report.

Approval was given to purchase 50 Converta Cot Portable Beds from Elkhart Lumber to be used in the event Morton County has another disaster and needs to set up a shelter. Cost of each cot is \$33.50 plus freight. Motion to approve the purchase was given by Bob, seconded by Allen.

Deb also presented a bid from Boaldin Electric and Refrigeration for a generator for the EMS building. Three estimates were given. Consensus of the Commissioners was for Deb to visit further with Kent to make sure we get the size generator that will meet our needs.

Deb mentioned that representatives from both FEMA and the State were in Morton County on January 15<sup>th</sup> to assist us in estimating the expenses incurred during the recent disaster caused by the snow and ice storms. Deb said they will meet again in Hugoton on January 25<sup>th</sup> to further discuss reimbursement to the City and County.

At this time the Supervisors met with the Commissioners for their regular monthly meeting. Present were Leon, Charles, Charley, Kevin, Vienna, Sally, Larry, Brandi and Deb. Each Supervisor gave their individual departmental reports.

The February Commissioner's meetings were tentatively scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners and presented an email from Justin Mader, Kirkham-Michael, regarding surveying the Civic Center acceleration/deceleration project. No firm date was set for the survey.

The Commissioners shared with Charley the USD 218 timeline for tearing out the old track. A discussion took place. The Commissioners emphasized to Charley the importance of being able to let the Superintendent know if the County can or cannot begin the project on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Charley said he will visit with Joe Davidson and Mike Gilmore, School Board Members.

A discussion took place concerning some of the Road Department's summer projects. Charley said he will have to purchase the 3/8 inch rock from Holly, Colorado, for some projects.

Charley mentioned that Terry Yoder, OXY, USA, asked if the County would consider constructing a two mile, 24-7, road so that they can get to their proposed wells. A lengthy discussion took place. Consensus of the Commissioners was that there is already something in place to legally open a road and OXY would have to follow that statute. The County has turned down so many other requests for, basically the same reason that we cannot in good faith do for one and not others. Request was denied.

The contract between Heft & Sons, L.L.C. was signed on a motion by Allen, seconded by Bob. Heft & Sons will have an asphalt plant in Morton County approximately April 1, 2007.

Leon Ellis met with the Commissioners and reported that Lee Construction is currently crushing cement in Lakin but should be at the Morton County Landfill to crush cement in approximately 30 days.

Susie Lewis entered the meeting and presented bids for a new digital copier/fax machine. The two bids were from Stanfield Printing. Following a discussion motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to purchase the Minolta Bizhub C250 Digital Copier Fax at a cost of \$13,753.35.

Another call was placed to Ashley Fiss regarding a generator for the Civic Center; no answer. The Commissioners left a message for her to return their call.

Sheriff Justin Holliday met with the Commissioners and reported on FEMA reimbursements that might be available. Justin also reported that he located the disc that has the County Policy for the Sheriff's Department. He has made the necessary changes; he is also currently in the process of writing a Taser Policy.

Justin mentioned that he is one Deputy short and has visited with one of the applicants to see if he is still interested in the position; Leo Carrillo. Leo is currently a Dispatcher and will have to attend the Academy for 14 weeks. This will leave a full-time Dispatcher position to be filled. At this time we have a part-time Dispatcher that may be interested in the full-time position. Justin said he has had several people ask about a part-time Dispatcher position. A discussion took place concerning the recovery time for the Dispatchers after they have to work five to six days in a row. He would like to look into the possibility of four days on and then four days off. Justin will work up a "ghost" schedule to be reviewed to determine the amount of overtime this type of schedule might cause. The concern would be that the County is not budgeted for more overtime. No action taken on any of the above.

Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to go into executive session from 2:25 to 3:00 for attorney-client privilege. Present during this session were the Commissioners, County Attorney, and Sheriff Holliday. No action taken after coming out of executive session.

Brandi Fleming entered the meeting and requested a signature for the Morton County Health Department Mutual Agreement of Understanding (for use of building in the event of a disaster) between Elkhart City Hall and the Morton County Health Department. The form was signed on a motion by Allen, seconded by Bob. Brandi also submitted the January 1, 2007 – January 22, 2007 Health Department monthly report.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form, reviewed the list of those who paid their taxes under protest, signed the Change Orders from the Appraiser's Office, signed the application for a Cereal Malt Beverage License for Homero Pando, Jr., signed Change Order #1 for the Civic Center (\$516), and signed the Semi-Annual Report for Great Plains Development, Inc.

Larry Simmons entered the meeting and requested consideration to purchase a new snow blower at an approximate cost of \$1200. The Consensus of the Commissioners was to get additional bids and present them at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

At this time Leonard Hernandez and Cezar Lopez from Morton County Health System met with the Commissioners at their request. The topic of discussion was the letter received from the Kansas Department On Aging regarding the health survey done at the Long Term Care Unit on January 11, 2007. A lengthy discussion took place. Mr. Hernandez stated that the deficiencies cited will be corrected and emailed to KDOA Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>; the date given in the letter to correct the deficiencies is February 3<sup>rd</sup>. After February 3<sup>rd</sup> another survey will be conducted to ensure the deficiencies have been corrected. Plans have been made to replace the current MDS Coordinator (Medical Data Set) and to hire a Director of Nurses for the Long Term Care Unit. The Commissioners asked Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Lopez to plan to meet with the Commissioners on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and report whether or not KDOA accepted the proposed corrections.

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