

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JULY 23, 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; Mary Gilmore, County Clerk

The Agenda was reviewed and approved with additions.

Minutes of the following meetings were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen: July 2, 2007; July 9, 2007; July 11, 2007; July 17, 2007; July 18, 2007.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

A call was placed to Eric Nordling, Royalty Owners Association, asking what the going cost is when a company purchases an easement. Eric stated that this cost usually runs \$20-\$30/rod; OXY USA only wants to pay the County \$7.50/rod. In further review of where OXY wants to put their salt water tank/site it was discovered that the site is actually a future Landfill pit site. This will be discussed with Mr. Simmons.

Henry Helmke entered the meeting and reported that SKADAF in Liberal had three referrals last year from Morton County. Henry said he appreciates the County's support of SKADAF all these years. The Commissioners thanked Henry for coming and expressed their appreciation for the help SKADAF has been able to give Morton County residents.

At this time Steve Rice met with the Commissioners regarding the budget. A lengthy discussion took place and additional changes made to the 2008 proposed budget. Consensus of the Commissioners was that they do not want to increase the Budget more than one mill. After much deliberation and additional cuts in the proposed budgets it was determined the best that could be done was to increase the 2008 County Budget by 0.85 since the overall county valuation has decreased. All felt each department could get by with their budgets as they were cut. Steve will make the necessary changes and get the Notice of Budget Hearing form to the County Clerk for publication this week. The Commissioners signed Resolution 2007-7, A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROPERTY TAXATION POLICY OF THE BOARD OF MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WITH RESPECT TO FINANCING THE 2008 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR MORTON COUNTY." This Resolution must be published because the 2008 Budget will increase 0.85 over the 2007 Budget.

Mr. Ivan Simmons, representing OXY USA, Inc, met with the Commissioners to discuss the Owner/Tenant Damage Agreement for property owned by Morton County. The Commissioners informed Mr. Simmons that the site that OXY USA is looking at for their

salt water tank/site is a future Landfill pit site and asked if OXY would consider running the lines east and then north, as a reversed "L" shape. Mr. Simmons said he didn't think that would be a problem but he will have to contact Houston to get a new drawing approved. Based on the information given by Mr. Simmons motion was made by Ron, seconded by Bob, to sign the Agreement and accept the \$7.50/rod.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning the recent KDHE inspection of the Landfill. Six violations were cited. The Commissioners were extremely concerned that if these violations are not corrected prior to the August 12th follow-up visit, the County might be in danger of losing its permit to operate. All of this will be further discussed with Leon Ellis this day.

Payment Application #13 to Orr Construction for the Civic Center was reviewed and approved for payment on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Brandi Fleming met with the Commissioners and asked if the County has a "priority list" in the event the phone lines go down. Brandi stated that the Health Department needs to be on this list with the local phone company. Bob stated he knows there is a priority list but will check to make sure the Health Department is included.

Approval was given for Pam Baldwin to attend the 31st Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect to be held in Topeka November 6-8 on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Brandi presented the Health Department monthly report for the Commissioners' review.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners for their regular monthly meeting. Present were Charles Hull, Charley McKinley, Leon Ellis, Brandi Fleming, Tracie Nixon, Vienna Lee, Larry Simmons, Sally Akers, and Justin Holliday. Each gave their individual departmental reports.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch. Following lunch the Commissioners drove to the Civic Center site, drove to the Health Department to view the foliage overgrowth, and drove County Road "C". A taxpayer living on Road "C" had visited with Commissioner Boaldin and asked if there was any possibility that road could be paved since there is now a new business located on that road. This item was tabled at this time.

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners and stated that the Fair Board has asked if Charley would hold off any road preparations at the Civic Center until after the Fair is over. Consensus of the Commissioners was that we are getting so far behind now that we need to move forward. If the dirt is blowing too badly during the Fair, Charley said he could have a truck water down the area.

Ivan Simmons entered the meeting. He visited with the Houston office and they have no problem with re-routing the salt water line as proposed above.

Leon Ellis met with the Commissioners. The Commissioners expressed their grave concern over the KDHE non-compliance report they received. The Commissioners reminded Leon that there are only two weeks left before the re-inspection. The following violations were reviewed:

- #1 Failure to provide at least six inches of daily cover
- #2 Failure to maintain one foot of intermediate cover on areas inactive over 60 days
- #3 Failure to maintain grade and thickness of intermediate cover to prevent erosion
- #4 Failure to conduct monthly gas monitoring per operational plan
- #5 Failure to maintain slopes no steeper than 2:1 slope
- #6 Failure to provide operational safety programs to employees

Following a lengthy discussion Leon assured the Commissioners that he would have all of the violations corrected before the next inspection. The Commissioners stated that they fear Morton County may be in danger of losing its permit to operate if the deficiencies are not corrected. Leon stated he will make sure all is taken care of.

The Commissioners asked what happens at the Landfill and Noxious Weed departments when Leon, Gwen and Amy all go to a conference at the same time. Leon said he probably will not have all three of them go again because Frank has to leave the Landfill and sell chemicals as needed; this has been previously discussed with Leon.

Leon stated there is still something not right with the Caterpillar and he will have to contact someone to come back down and get it taken care of.

In reviewing the Landfill 2007 budget, it was determined the Commodities fund is over budget by \$290.92. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to approve a transfer of \$10,000 from the Landfill Contractual budget to Commodities.

Kevin Shook entered the meeting. Kevin said he talked to Mike Myers, GWM in Garden City, and Mr. Myers thinks the Chief Water Engineer in Topeka will sign our water application that will allow Morton County to transfer water rights from Ernie Barnes to the Golf Course. At this time Kevin said he is watering, just not a lot. He does know that the Chief Engineer took another week of vacation and the water application is not signed yet.

Kevin reported there were 66 golfers entered in the tournament held this last weekend. There is also a couples' night scheduled for Friday and a Women's Tournament on Saturday. Kevin said his summer help will be leaving around the first part of August; they have really been good help and hopes they will be interested in returning next summer to work at the Golf Course.

Justin Holliday, Sheriff, met with the Commissioners. Justin stated he received three applications for the full-time position of Sheriff's Deputy and only one of those was

already certified, Mandy Wray. A lengthy discussion took place concerning Mandy's previous employment with the Morton County Sheriff's Department. Following this discussion Justin recommended hiring Mandy. She will be on a six months probation. No application was received for a signature and a salary was not agreed on. Justin said he will have Mandy fill out a new application and get it to the Clerk for the Commissioners to sign. The Clerk asked Justin to have Mandy call the Payroll Clerk and schedule an appointment to do her paperwork.

A discussion also took place concerning hiring Deyra Walsh as a part-time Dispatcher. Motion to approve this hire was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen. Salary will be \$8.50/hr. The Clerk asked Justin to have Ms. Walsh call the Payroll Clerk and schedule an appointment to do her paperwork.

A call was received from Ashley Fiss. Ashley said she would be at the Civic Center at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow and could meet with the Commissioners regarding the parking lot and the lights in the parking lot. Allen and Ron will be attending a meeting in Hugoton that same day but Bob said he would meet with Ashley. Allen and Ron said they may be able to meet briefly before they leave for Hugoton.

Justin mentioned that Claude Melton has contacted him and Mr. Melton is interested in working as a part-time Deputy. Mr. Melton is a certified officer in Oklahoma but currently works for CIG. In order for Mr. Melton to become certified in Kansas he would have to attend a one week, 40 hr, reciprocity school. This item was tabled at this time and the Commissioners asked Justin to visit with Jeff LaRue to see if he is still interested in working part-time. If Jeff is not interested the Commissioners would again consider Justin's suggestion to have Mr. Melton attend the reciprocity school and work part-time for Morton County.

Vienna Lee entered the meeting and introduced Susan Bunce. Susan is the artist who was commissioned to paint the mural in Whistle Stop Park. A proposal was presented to paint a mural on the east wall of Rick's Video building. Total cost of the project is \$9,900. Colorado East Bank and Trust would pay Shorty McCarter to prepare the wall (repair large cracks and removal of tar and nails, \$700.); Rick's Video would donate the scaffold to be used. Susan requested consideration for the County to pay the balance of the project. A discussion took place. This item was tabled at this time.

A call was received from Tim Hardy. Tim reported that Underground Specialists, the company contracted to install the sewer and water lines at the Civic Center, took out the City's dump station and they need that replaced before Fair time. The Commissioners placed a call to Curtis Hauser. Mr. Hauser will be at the Civic Center site in the morning.

The Annual Peopleware Agreement between Computer Information Concepts, Inc. and Morton County was reviewed and signed on a motion by Bob, seconded by Allen. This Agreement was reviewed by the County Attorney prior to being signed.

The Commissioners reviewed the FAA information, effective July 5, 2007, regarding the Morton County Airport. The report indicated that the asphalt on Runway 4/22 was in fair condition, the markings faded and in fair condition. The asphalt on Runway 17/35 is in fair condition and the markings faded and in poor condition.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form and reviewed Field Report #32 from Ashley Fiss, Architect for the Civic Center.

The Clerk reported that Morton County has one workers compensation claim that is still open with KWORCC.

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