

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JULY 9, 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 June 25, 2007 meeting were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

A short discussion took place concerning a pickup truck that would meet Charley McKinley's needs. Charley's truck was totaled in a recent accident. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to purchase the used truck from Countryside Motors at a cost of \$20,000.

Curtis Houser, Kirkham-Michael, met with the Commissioners. Curtis said he had been up to the Civic Center site and no one was working on the water/sewer lines. The company was supposed to begin that work today. Curtis also asked the Commissioners about working on some Airport projects. The Commissioners said they would visit about this and let Curtis know something later today.

Bob mentioned that he visited with Kent Fowler and Kent agreed to sign a statement that he has no problem with the County purchasing water rights; Kent has a household well located on his property. This statement was required to be provided before Topeka would sign Morton County's application to transfer water rights to be used by the golf course. The statement was faxed to Gary Baker who has been handling this application. Bob said we are out of water and Kevin is now using the pond. He is watering the entire course, just not very much. If the application is not signed soon he will have to resort to watering only the greens.

Bob reported that he visited with Bob Johnson. Bob Johnson has been repairing the windows at the Airport Terminal building. Mr. Johnson's original estimate for the repairs was \$500; he has told Bob Boaldin that the cost will now be approximately \$1200. There was damage that could not be seen until after Bob removed the wood around the windows. Consensus of the Commissioners was to accept this new estimate of \$1200.

The Commissioners asked the Clerk to check into the cost of installing a key card pump at the Airport so pilots can get their own fuel as they need it. Ron stated that he visited with a pilot who mentioned the Morton County Airport has not gotten very good

comments on a website the pilots use to rate Airports. He will attempt to get a copy of this review or the website.

Curtis Houser returned to the meeting. The Commissioners said that because of Morton County's long standing working relationship with Bucher, Willis & Ratliff, they feel it is best to continue utilizing BWR for their Airport projects. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to continue working with BWR. Curtis said he will inform Eric Johnson about this decision.

A call was placed to Gary Baker regarding the water crisis at the golf course. Gary said he visited with Kevin on Friday and we sure need to communicate to Topeka the amount of water left for watering the course. Gary will contact Topeka today and said he should know something before the end of the day.

A discussion took place concerning the chair the Commissioners have been "testing". Consensus was that they all like the latest chair. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to purchase three new chairs for the small Courtroom.

Karena Meek entered the meeting. Judge Volden's court recorder is broken again. The Chief Judge has indicated that if all four of his counties go together we can get a new recorder for \$4650 each. A short discussion took place. The recorder could be paid out of the District Court Contractual budget. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to approve this purchase.

Luann Watson met with the Commissioners. Luann mentioned it was brought to her attention that the Dermot CO-Op had a problem with their septic system and they didn't have anyone to inspect the site before installing a new system. Luann said there is a chain of command in place and all they would have had to do is call the office and get the phone number of a contractor. She understands that Randy Edelman did the inspection in her absence. Consensus was that Luann needs to make this information more available to the public. Since the incident happened on a weekend, and her office is closed on weekends, there would still not have been any way to get information regarding a contractor. Luann said she would place an article in the newspaper and also on the County's web site.

Luann then requested the Commissioners contact someone higher up than Harold Klaege with NRCS about not closing the Elkhart office. Luann said Mr. Klaege is just trying to force her husband, Tim, to retire early and she feels this is age discrimination. Luann gave the Commissioners a list of NRCS Officers and their phone numbers. The Commissioners indicated they have been doing all they can in an attempt to keep the Elkhart office opened. Luann thanked the Commissioners for their time and left the meeting.

The Commissioners signed the Semi-Annual Report from Great Plains Development, the Payroll Form, the Change Orders from the Treasurer's Office, reviewed and discussed three drawings from Ashley Fiss for new handicapped parking at the Courthouse (2008

budget item), signed Change Order #4 for the Civic Center, the signatory page on the Cimarron Basin Community Corrections FY08 Funds and the FY08 Carry over Funds, the 2007 Schedule of Insurance (estimate) Production Report, approved Payment Application #6 to Orr Construction for the Assisted Living Facility on a motion from Ron, seconded by Allen, and reviewed and approved and ACIP Data Sheets for improvements to the Airport on a motion from Bob, seconded by Allen.

Vienna Lee met with the Commissioners and reported that she sent an email to all parties concerned regarding keeping the NRCS Office in Morton County opened. Vienna said she and Tammy Hardy sent an alternative plan to be considered, per NRCS' request. She is in hopes a meeting can be set up in Morton County with Senator Steve Morris, Mr. Klaege, and others, to discuss the alternative plan vs. closing the Morton County office.

Deb Schnurr met with the Commissioners and requested Tausha Espinoza, Billing Clerk, attend the Ambulance Billing Medicare Workshop in Ulysses on July 19th. Approval was given on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron. Deb also requested that Willie Furr and Marie Wright attend the KEMSA Conference August 17-19 in Wichita. Approval was given on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Deb mentioned she will be attending a meeting in Garden City for the ODP Grant on July 10th.

Deb reported the Land Trekker should be delivered August 15th. The 12-14 ply tires will have to be ordered locally.

Curtis Houser entered the meeting and reported that Underground Specialists has informed him that they are loading all of their equipment today and should be in Elkhart on Tuesday to begin work on the water/sewer lines. The Commissioners thanked Curtis for this update.

The Commissioners re-appointed Dallas Bressler, Calvin Perkins, and Gregg Daniels to the SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen. Ron said he will visit with the three and advise them of the importance of attending the meetings.

No action was taken at this time on the request for a letter of support from Harvest America Corporation.

The letter from Jon Halbgewachs, Kirkham-Michael, was reviewed. Jon said the cost for Curtis Houser to come to Elkhart twice a week to oversee the water/sewer project would be \$13,000. Consensus of the Commissioners was that they want someone here to supervise the project and approved the cost.

Larry Simmons entered the meeting and reported that Dave Thomas will be at the Courthouse in August to do the annual maintenance to the front sidewalks and steps. Larry also asked the Commissioners for their thoughts concerning the overgrowth of

foliage in front of, and on the side of, the Health Department. Consensus of the Commissioners was to tear everything out but the trees. They said they would drive by the Health Department following lunch this day.

Brandi Fleming met with the Commissioners and requested approval for both her and Rhianna to attend the Teens and Tots Workshop on August 10th in Garden City. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Bob.

Brandi mentioned that the Health Department has had to increase their charges for pathology services and pills due to the recent increase in Medicaid reimbursements.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch. The Commissioners hosted a pizza lunch for the Rolla Quiz Bowl students, their coaches and Superintendent. The students were recognized and congratulated on their success. The Commissioners also thanked Vienna Lee for putting the lunch together.

The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners and discussed sealing the walking paths at the Whistle Stop Park. The estimated cost for the preparation, patching and patch materials, prior to sealing, is \$2500; cost for preparing and seal coating the walking paths with “Star Seal Supreme” is \$8,853.00. Total cost for the project is \$11,353.00. Charley has visited with Tim Hardy, Elkhart City Administrator, and he said all the City might be able to come up with is \$5000 towards the project. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, for the County to pay the remaining balance of the project. Charley said he will visit further with Tim and make sure the City sprays the weeds on the paths before the sealing starts.

Charley presented his June Road Department Report for the Commissioners’ review.

Leon Ellis stated that the City needs to continue to spray the walking paths after they are sealed to keep the weeds from breaking through again.

The Commissioners and Leon discussed the need to spray the areas where the parking lots and roads will be located at the Civic Center. Leon said he will get with Charley on this.

A discussion took place concerning the need to re-route the electricity from the pole to the Museum. The Commissioners said we need to coordinate this with the Museum. Charley said he will get hold of Hancock Electric or Boaldin Electric today to see if one of them can do the job.

A discussion took place concerning sealing the Richfield City narrow city streets. Charley said he visited with the Mayor and determined that because the streets are in such bad condition the only thing to do is to chew up what is there and start over. The

Mayor said Richfield City has a meeting Tuesday night and they will talk about the need to get the trees trimmed prior to the road work.

Leon reported that the Caterpillar is broken down again! The mechanics are on site now making the needed repairs. Costs for the repairs will be approximately \$3000 plus travel expenses.

The date of August 6th at 9:00 a.m. was scheduled to hold the Public Hearing for the Solid Waste Management Five-Year Plan Review.

Leon mentioned that Caterpillar wants to treat him to a factory tour in Illinois August 14-17—all expenses paid.

Kevin Shook met with the Commissioners and reported the water meter is not working and it will have to be repaired. He also reported he only has 1,000,815 gallons of water left to pump. With the meter not working he will have to keep track of the number of hours he runs the water. He is watering everything at this time, just not as long. He will take the meter to Gary Baker to get it repaired.

None of the Commissioners were interested at this time in serving on the NACo Board of Directors.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter of apology from Tyler Acosta for damaging County-owned property. Also reviewed was the IT Manager Activity Report for June 25-July 6.

Steve Rice entered the meeting and presented the Commissioners a rough draft of the proposed 2008 Morton County Budget. A lengthy discussion took place. Individual Departmental Budget Hearings will be held July 17-18. Changes will be made to budgets during that time; the Clerk will notify Steve of these changes. The revised budget will then be published and the public hearing scheduled.

Justin Holliday entered the meeting and reported that Brent Buser's last day was July 6th. He has appointed Allen Clark to be his new Undersheriff at a salary of \$3100/mo. (\$17.80/hr). Justin said he has begun advertising for the Deputy position and has received one phone call of inquiry.

Justin also reported that there are currently ten prisoners in the County's 12-bed facility; nine males, one female.

Justin mentioned there is a bad leak in the bull pen. He will notify Larry and have him contact someone to make the repairs.

At this time the Commissioners discussed items that need to be included in the 2008 Budget that were not included in the draft from Steve Rice. These notes will be further discussed during the budget hearings.

The Commissioners then left the Courthouse and drove to the Civic Center and did a walk-thru, drove to the Airport to view the work done to the windows by Bob Johnson, drove by the Health Department to look at the overgrown weeds and groundcover, viewed the street corner improvements made at the EMS building, and drove to the Assisted Living Facility to view the progress being made.

Upon returning to the Courthouse the Commissioners called Gary Baker to find out if he had an update on the County's water application. Gary said he visited with Topeka today and the Interim Director does not see any problem getting the application signed within the next two weeks. Gary was advised that there is no need to file an extension on the request to transfer water rights.

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