

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 19, 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 March 5, 2007 meeting were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

The Clerk reminded the Commissioners of the WEKANDO meeting on March 22nd at 9:00 a.m. in Hugoton. Bob and Ron said they would not be able to attend. Allen said he would attend.

Vienna Lee and Tammy Hardy entered the meeting. The Commissioners reviewed a cover letter that will be included with Morton County's proposed alternatives, as requested by Bill Fuller, State Executive Director, Kansas FSA State Office, to closing the Morton County FSA Office. Alternatives to be recommended include:

- Morton County could pay the utilities and rent of the current building.
- Morton County could purchase and update the current building to meet ADA requirements.
- FSA could hold a percentage (currently 2%) of the Farmers Program Payments to pay for the cost of Morton County's total Operations, including wages of employees and CED.
- Stevens County could consolidate with Morton County in the current building. Stevens County would have more options of what office they want to go to.
- Morton County might consider building a new office in Morton County (perhaps in Rolla) and Stevens County could consolidate with Morton County.

Bob will leave for Washington this afternoon and hand-deliver the above alternatives to Jerry Moran, Sam Brownback, and Pat Roberts. It is hoped that some strong support can be gained and reconsideration will be given to keep the Morton County FSA Office opened.

At this time a discussion took place concerning the renewal of Morton County's Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Plan. Beginning June 1, 2007 there will be four tiers of enrollment: Employee, Employee and Spouse, Employee and Child, and Family. The premiums are actually down \$10,594.20 for the 2007-2008 policy period. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to renew the BCBS policy. The Clerk mentioned that

the employees' deductible currently is to be met during a calendar year. However, beginning June 1, 2007 the deductible will run June 1 through May 31, 2008. This year only, however, BCBS will allow the employee's deductible and co-insurance to be carried over from January through May.

Janice Hollis met with the Commissioners and presented the reduced drawing of the proposed Rolla Main Street Mural. The actual size of the mural will be approximately 11 ft. x 79 ft. A discussion took place concerning the proposal. Ron mentioned that Rolla City has indicated they would donate \$500 towards the mural. Janice stated that the wall will need some preparation before she can start. She has visited with Larry Hagler and he would be able to do the needed work to the wall. His work will be in addition to Ms. Hollis' bid. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Bob, to accept Janice's proposal for the mural in the amount of \$4975. The mural will be paid out of Economic Development's Contractual budget.

Brandi Fleming entered the meeting and gave the Commissioners a copy of the Health Department's March 1-19 report. The Department has seen 168 clients so far in March.

Brandi mentioned that the Health Department did not meet their Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for 2007 and will most likely have to pay the State back \$1694.

Deb Schnurr met with the Commissioners and reported that the Ford Expedition that Tony Hoyt drives is in need of new tires. Deb received tire bids as follows:

-Nusser Oil	Kelly 10 ply	\$107.39 each no add-on
-D's Tires	BFG 10 ply	\$116.00 each \$11.29 Labor \$3.50 to balance \$2.00 for disposal
	Total	\$132.79 each

Following a short discussion motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to accept the proposal from Nusser Oil.

Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen, for Deb to attend the Management and Operations seminar May 2-3 in Clay Center, Kansas.

Deb mentioned that EMS Week will be celebrated in May. She has budgeted \$400 to purchase items for the event. Consensus of the Commissioners was for Deb to let them know what she has planned to purchase before they give their approval for the expenditure.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Present were Charley, Brandi, Deb, Larry, Vienna, Kevin and Leon. Each Supervisor gave their individual departmental reports.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form, the Change Order form from the Appraiser's Office, and reviewed and approved Payment Application #9 for the Civic Center in the amount of \$39,400, and approved Proposal #4 for the Civic Center.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. Following lunch the Commissioners drove to the Civic Center construction site and did a "walk-thru". They also drove to the Assisted Living site to view the construction that has started at that site.

Eric Witcher did not return to the meeting at this time.

Leon Ellis entered the meeting to discuss the need to replace the tracks on the 2002 Caterpillar at the Landfill. Following a lengthy discussion motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to approve installing the Cat SystemOne at a cost of \$30,374.66.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed the HWS contract in the amount of \$2,338.52 to perform groundwater monitoring at the Landfill in April.

Leon reported that the company who will crush the cement at the Landfill should be here next week. Leon hopes we will be able to screen the dirt as the cement goes across.

Leon presented the application of Clifford Rankin to fill the part-time position at the Landfill. Based on Leon's recommendation motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to hire Mr. Rankin at a salary of \$7.50/hr.

Leon mentioned that they have been working on the spray trucks and are just about ready to start spraying weeds.

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners. Charley reported that he had a couple of guys look at the deterioration of the airport runways to determine if they can be repaired but they felt the runways and taxiways were too far gone. The Commissioners asked Charley to get a bid to re-lay the runways and taxiways.

At this time Tim Lewis and Larry Simmons entered the meeting. The Commissioners asked Larry if he could use some help since Karen Hutton has been off work with a broken ankle. Larry said he hadn't thought about hiring someone but knows he hasn't been able to clean the Courthouse like it should be and take care of the outside work too. The Commissioners asked Tim if he would be able to help out just until Karen is able to return to work. He said he could start right away. A discussion took place concerning wages. Tim said he would prefer to be contract labor instead of a part-time employee. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to contract with Tim to work 20 hours a week at a salary of \$11.00/hr. Larry said he would get keys made for Tim and show him around.

The Commissioners re-appointed Ken Hagman as Morton County’s representative to the Southwest Regional Juvenile Detention Center Advisory Board on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter received from KCAMP, the County’s Liability Insurance, indicating that the County Attorney needs to contact the Hospital immediately and demand that the County Commissioners be added as “additional insureds” to the policy covering the facility. This will have the effect of providing insurance protection to the Commissioners for lawsuits against the hospital that also name the Commissioners. This is a common practice.

County Attorney, Eric Witcher, returned to the meeting.

The Commissioners asked Eric to contact the hospital regarding the above letter and request to have the Commissioners added to the Hospital’s insureds. Eric said he would take care of the matter.

At this time Tate Grasz and Kevin Shook met with the Commissioners to give the golf course report. Also present at this time was Miss Samantha Garcia (Kevin’s daughter).

Kevin reported that Regina Caldwell has taken over managing the Club Memberships and cart sheds and requested a salary increase for her added duties; the County Clerk performed these duties for the last five years. Following a discussion motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen to increase Regina’s wages to \$7.75/hr.

At this time bids for a new greens mower were opened as follows (all bids include a trade-in):

John Deere	2500B Riding Greens Mower	\$23,495.00
Kansas Golf & Turf	Jacobsen G-Plex III Greens Mower	\$18,000.00
Toro	Greensmaster 3150 Greens Mower	\$23,398.99

Following a discussion motion to purchase the Toro was made by Allen, seconded by Ron because at this time all of our mowing equipment is Toro and the reels will interchange with the Greensmaster 3150.

At this time a discussion took place concerning some of the golf members wanting a tee box constructed in the water. The Commissioners instructed Kevin to contact Larry Flat, the designer of the course, and ask him to look at the area and engineer it. The Commissioners also asked for Mr. Flatt’s recommendation to be put in writing. Consensus of the Commissioners was that they don’t want to construct anything that could possibly be a liability risk to the County. Having a professional golf course designer give his opinion on such a project would relieve the County of this liability.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to go into executive session from 2:25 to 2:35 to discuss a personnel matter. Present were the Commissioners, County Attorney and the Sheriff. No action was taken after coming out of executive session.

Justin Holliday, Sheriff, mentioned that he had Tracie Nixon look at the jail computer and it appears the computer may need to be replaced. Justin also mentioned that the Sheriff's Department is now on a schedule with Simplex to conduct regular inspections of the department's fire alarm system.

Justin stated that he and his staff, and Larry Simmons, have been busy cleaning out and cleaning up the Department. Justin invited the Commissioners to take a tour of the Department when they have time to see for themselves how much cleaner and organized the downstairs is.

The Commissioners asked Justin to designate someone to serve as a contact person in the Sheriff's Department during the installation of the E911 equipment. Justin said he would probably designate Lyndi Rowe as that person.

At this time the Commissioners and Clerk left the meeting room and toured the Sheriff's Department. The Commissioners commended Justin on how nice the department looks and encouraged him to keep up the good work.

A short discussion took place concerning contracting with Tim Lewis to help Larry with the cleaning until Karen Hutton can return. Eric asked when he was hired and did we advertise the position. The Commissioners indicated they gave their approval for Tim to work earlier this day and no the position has not been advertised. Eric stated that anytime there is a vacancy to fill within the County the position must be advertised. Eric then placed a call to Tim Lewis explaining the County's policy and encouraged Tim to apply if the position is advertised.

Darren Buck and Ernie Barnes entered the meeting at the Commissioners' request.

Eric stated that the purpose of this meeting was to attempt to come up with a date to transfer ownership of property owned by Darren Buck to Ernie Barnes. The County will purchase the property in the amount of \$114,630 and then deed the property to Mr. Barnes. Mr. Barnes, in return, has agreed to transfer water rights from one of his wells to the County to be used at the Golf Course. Eric stated that the State has control over when the County might get the approval for the transfer of water rights. Gary Baker expects that the County will know by the end of April or first part of May. Daren said it is time to treat the weeds now if either he or Ernie is going to grow a crop on the land to be purchased. Darren asked if they are talking "if" or "when" the State will approve the transfer; if it is "when" just close the deal now and Darren will go on down the road and Ernie can take possession of the land now. Eric said that if the County writes a check to Darren now and Ernie takes possession of the land, if the State turns us down on the transfer of water rights the County has to have a way of getting its money back. Ernie said if the Department of Water Resources denies the County's application, he will allow

the County to have water at a rate of \$0.90 per 1000 gallons until the County has recouped \$114,630, which said funds were used to purchase the Oklahoma property from Darren Buck. Eric said he will have the contract regarding the above ready for the April 2nd meeting for both Ernie's and Darren's signatures. The Clerk will also have the check ready for that meeting. Darren then left the meeting.

Ernie mentioned he needs a longer culvert in his driveway; the cattle trucks are running over them and smashing them. He also mentioned he has some old used casing if the County wants to buy it. The Commissioners said they would have to visit with Charley about that. Ernie further mentioned he would like to have some old millings or the old High School track material for his driveway. The Commissioners stated they already have plans for the material but there will soon be available for purchase the crushed cement at the Landfill.

The April meeting dates were tentatively set for April 2nd and 16th.

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