

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 7, 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; Mary Gilmore, County Clerk. Eric Witcher, County Attorney, was not available this day.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved as presented.

Minutes of the April 24, 2007 meeting were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

A call was placed to Leonard Hernandez regarding a rumor that the Drs. Iway are moving to Kansas City. Mr. Hernandez stated it is his understanding that the Iways have bought a home in Kansas City, but in talking to Dr. Belino Iway, there are no plans to move for two to three years. Dr. Iway told Mr. Hernandez that they will not leave the hospital stranded and will give the Hospital plenty of notice when they are ready to leave so they can search for an Internist and a Psychiatrist.

The Clerk requested approval to purchase a new heavy use shredder for the Courthouse in the amount of \$2199.99. The Clerk and Treasurer have agreed to spend some of their Capital Outlay budget on this item. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Bob, to approve this purchase.

Resolution 2007-6 was reviewed and approved to sign on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron; (A RESOLUTION Approving an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement under KSA 12-2901 et seq., and amendments thereto, by and between The Board of County Commissioners of Grant County, Stanton County, Morton County and Stevens County to Jointly Establish and Conduct a Comprehensive Program to Promote Economic Growth and Development at any location or locations within the Four-County Area in accordance with the provisions of KSA 19-4101 et seq., and amendments thereto.)

Notice was made that there will be a Bioterrorism exercise on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-2:00 at the Health Department. Lunch will be served.

The Commissioners reviewed Proposal Request #5 for the Civic Center as presented by Ashley Fiss, Architect. A discussion took place.

The Commissioners signed the Notice of Appointment for Joyce Sagebiel as Taloga Trustee. As Trustee, Joyce will serve on the Elkhart Cemetery Board, a position vacated when Pat Vandervort moved.

Tracie Nixon entered the meeting and presented the Commissioners a job report from April 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 5<sup>th</sup>. A discussion took place. The Commissioners informed Tracie they would like her to spend more time in the Courthouse, although they do understand she has to work off-site at times. They explained they have received complaints that she leaves before 4:00 and there have been occasions when an office, either in the Courthouse or off-site, needs IT assistance and it is difficult to locate her when she leaves at 3:00 or earlier. The Commissioners stated that if they continue to get complaints that she is not available when needed, they will have to call her in again. "They will be watching"!

Tracie asked the Commissioners how involved they want her to be with the Enhanced 911 project. A discussion took place.

Tracie requested approval to replace 10 computers (these are updates and scheduled replacements). Cost of the 10 units is \$10,795.40. Approval for this request was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

At this time the Commissioners reviewed a quote given by Weston Asphalt for work on the Airport runways and taxiways (\$83,000); this quote includes striping the runways. It is hoped we can get more quotes. It is also hoped that, eventually, we can get a grant to cement the runways and taxiways.

The Clerk mentioned that the next Quarterly Commissioners Meeting will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> at noon MSDT in Hamilton County. Ron said he would be out of town this day but Bob, Allen and Mary will be available. The Clerk will contact Vienna to see if she will be available to attend. We will plan to leave the Courthouse at 11:30 a.m.

At this time Brandi Fleming met with the Commissioners and requested approval for Rhianna Shaw to attend the Annual Family Planning Conference in Hutchinson June 7-8; the Audiometric Certification in Oakley August 28-29; and the Vision Screening & Assessment Workshop in Garden City on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

A discussion took place concerning a meeting the Commissioners and the Morton County Health System CEO had regarding a complaint made by Brandi against one of Dr. Iway's staff. All are in hopes that the hard feelings felt by all concerned will soon begin to heal and we can all work together again as a team.

Deb Schnurr entered the meeting and mentioned that EMS Week is coming up. Deb budgeted to get all of the volunteers a new T-shirt but they have indicated they don't want a T-shirt, they would prefer a lined windbreaker (\$40 ea.) Deb said she has enough in gifts and grants for some and then can also use what was budgeted for the T-Shirts. Total cost of the jackets will be \$1160. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve this purchase. Deb also mentioned that they usually plan a picnic and she will let the Commissioners know the date so they can attend.

Deb reported they passed their State inspection!

The Commissioners reviewed correspondence received from FSA. Allen said he will visit with them concerning what the County needs to do regarding the farm property.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form.

Barb Boughner entered the meeting and presented the Commissioners the April Road Department Report. Charley was out of town this day. At this time Bob disqualified himself from the discussion. A discussion took place concerning the new phone system and fax line requested by Charley in the amount of \$1975 (EpicTouch.) Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to accept the quote. The Clerk will notify Mike Rodriguez at EpicTouch. A quote was also given for a new system for the Courthouse. Consensus of the Commissioners was to consider this item as they prepare the 2008 Budget.

Area Mental Health representatives Ric Dalke, Maggie, and Vern Janzen, met with the Commissioners and presented their 2008 budget proposal in the amount of \$29,810. A discussion took place regarding the services offered in Morton County, Client Count, New Case Count, etc. The Commissioners stated they will consider this request as they prepare for the 2008 County Budget. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the hard work and programs offered to the residents of Morton County. The Commissioners also thanked Vern for all the time and effort he puts into the program.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch and reconvened at 1:20 p.m. Following lunch the Commissioners met with members of the Elkhart Lions Club and gave a tour of the Civic Center.

After returning to the Meeting Room, the Commissioners met with Charles Hull regarding a voucher submitted in the amount of \$3100.99 for Firemen's Insurance. The County has never paid this in the past and the Commissioners had asked Charles for an explanation of the voucher. Charles stated that each volunteer fireman in the County has a \$50,000 accidental fire death policy. The cost of the insurance has increased for the last three years and the amount of money received from the State has decreased. Therefore, he is requesting the County pay the difference. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to pay this voucher as submitted.

Charles requested approval to purchase Firefighting Foam in the amount of \$1780. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Leon Ellis entered the meeting and reported they just about have all of the cement crushed at the Landfill; sure hopes we can sell all of it. Leon also reported that they have the CAT back; he hasn't gotten the bill yet.

Leon mentioned he received an email from Finney County. They are going to Greensburg to help out. Leon asked if he could go too if they need him. Approval was given. Leon also asked for approval to help the Finney County Noxious Weed Department set up for the 3-I Show since so many have gone to help in Greensburg. Approval was given.

The Commissioners reviewed the copy of the Water and Sewer Line Extension drawings and specifications from Kirkham-Michael. A discussion took place regarding the "Request For Bids" to be placed in the newspaper. The legal states that the work will commence no later than June 25, 2007 and shall be completed by September 28, 2007. Consensus of the Commissioners was that the date of completion should be shortened. A call was placed to Neil at Kirkham-Michael regarding the bid notice. Following a discussion a date for completion was set for August 10, 2007. Neil said he would change the publication and email it to the Clerk so it can be placed in the newspaper the following day.

The Commissioners reviewed four bills submitted by Ashley Fiss, Architect for the Civic Center. Two bills were for reimbursable expenses not included in the original scope of work, construction administration, drafting and meeting with the Commissioners. The other two were for Field Measuring/Verification for accessible parking for the Courthouse and a schematic design and construction administration for the parking lot for the Civic Center (not in contract.) Total amount of the bills was \$3130. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to pay the bills as submitted.

The Commissioners reviewed the Architect's Field Report for the Assisted Living Facility as submitted by Bryan Young, Architect.

Justin Holliday met with the Commissioners and reported on the time he and two deputies spent helping out in Greensburg. Justin showed pictures of the devastation and said the pictures couldn't begin to tell you how awful it is. He and the deputies had to sleep in their vehicles and got very little, if any, sleep. Justin said he has deputies who want to continue to help on their days off. Loren Coen has access to a 35 ft. camper that can be parked on Tracy Chance's property; Tracy lives in the country and still has his home. The camper, however, needs four new tires to make it safe to drive on the highway. Following a discussion approval was given to purchase the tires for the camper owned by Coen Farms.

Bob told Justin he has quite a bit of information he received from attending the E911 Board Meeting. He will get with Justin later. Bob stated that Morton County has not sent out letters to the wireless providers yet; this is an item that needs immediate attention. Justin said he will get with Lyndi Rowe and see that this is done right away.

No one was present for the Golf Course update. Kevin was out of town attending a meeting. The Clerk mentioned that Kevin had informed her that he wanted to request approval to hire Hallie Powell for summer help. Approval was given on a motion from Bob, seconded by Ron. Salary will be \$7.25/hr.

Vienna Lee met with the Commissioners and mentioned that someone has approached her about purchasing some lots in the Industrial Park. The Commissioners approved advertising Block Two (2), Lots 24-27. Bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on June 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a minimum bid of \$2000 per lot. Bids are to be forwarded to the County Clerk.

A discussion took place concerning several pieces of property currently for sale or soon to be auctioned. Consideration may be given to purchase something for future economic development purposes.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:35 on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.