

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 5, 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 October 15th, October 26th, and October 31st meetings were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

Larry Simmons entered the meeting to discuss the leaks in the jail. They are still having a lot of water problems with leaky toilets and, possibly, leaks behind the walls. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to find someone to make the necessary repairs.

A short discussion took place concerning the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to give the employees December 24th and December 31st off.

A discussion took place concerning advertising the sale of the property on Highway 56. Eric said he is waiting for the legal description from SEDCO.

Bob mentioned he had received a phone call from law enforcement that there were people camping overnight on the Civic Center parking lot. Consensus of the Commissioners was that there should be no overnight camping at the Civic Center; they should utilize the campsite on the highway.

Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to have Wright Asphalt do a seal coat on the Civic Center parking lot. This will also help cover the crooked yellow lines painted by Shannon Weston.

Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to reappoint Tim Hardy as Morton County's representative to the Southwest Kansas Regional Emergency Planning Council.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved Resolution 2007-12 on a motion by Ron, seconded by Bob; "A RESOLUTION Approving an Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement of the Western Kansas Development Organization by and between The Board of County Commissioners of Morton County, Grant County, Stanton County, and Stevens County in Accordance With the Enabling Provisions of Senate Bill No. 378, which Was Enacted into Law During the 2007 Session of the Kansas Legislature and Becomes Effective on July 1, 2007."

The Commissioners reviewed and approved, unanimously, Resolution 2007-13 on a motion by Ron, seconded by Bob; "A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MORTON COUNTY, KANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY TO BE EXEMPTED FROM THE PROVISIONS PROVIDED IN KSA 41-719(c)." This resolution allows the consumption of alcoholic liquor and/or beverages on said property (Civic Center.)

Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen, to pay Kirkham Michael's bill in the amount of \$2900 for work done on the bypass lanes and interior roads for the Civic Center.

Charles Hull, County Fire Chief, met with the Commissioners and requested bunker gear for two new fire volunteers at a cost of \$2400. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen. The Capital Outlay Request Form was signed.

Charles requested approval to attend a workshop with the Kansas State Forest Service the first part of December. Approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Charles reported he is still working on the fire equipment list requested by the Commissioners.

A discussion took place concerning the possibility that the Forest Service may not provide fire coverage for the Grasslands beginning next year. If this does happen, it may be necessary to increase the amount of reimbursement, as stated in the Agreement signed between Morton County Fire and the Forest Service. Charles also asked about the possibility of requesting that Texas County reimburse the Fire Department when they fight fires in Texas County. Eric will look into this. Charles also mentioned he would like consideration to pay the firefighters more than \$10/hr. No action taken at this time.

At this time motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to go into executive session from 11:36 to 12:00 for attorney-client privilege. After coming out of executive session motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to appoint Ron as Morton County's representative at the Mills vs. Riggs Settlement Conference. Ron will have the authority to resolve any and all claims against Morton County for nuisance value. Mr. Tucker left the meeting during executive session and abstained from the vote.

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

Rick, with RK Painting, met with the Commissioners and presented a drawing of his concept of parking spaces at the Civic Center. The Commissioners asked Rick to work on another drawing but using angle parking spaces. Rick said there is no way he can get 300 parking spaces with the space that is available for parking. He will do all he can to get as many spaces as possible with the area provided.

Charley McKinley presented the Commissioners a copy of his October Road Report.

A discussion took place concerning the need for a new sign on the County Road Department Building. Charley presented a quote from Visual Signs in the amount of \$1473.34 for plastic formed letters (includes materials, mileage and installation) and a quote from Hubris Communications in the amount of \$923 for plastic formed letters and \$1214 for laser cut letters. Motion was then made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to purchase the laser cut letters from Hubris Communications.

Charley mentioned he will be attending an internet conference on "Spill Containment" on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Charley presented a sheet outlining tasks a licensed engineer had to do and tasks that do not require an engineering license for the Commissioners to review.

At this time Jon Halbewachs and Curtis Hauser, Professional Engineers for Kirkham Michael, met with the Commissioners. A Resolution was presented for consideration to appoint a County Engineer. Kirkham Michael would charge the County \$800/month to serve as the County's Engineering Firm. A discussion took place concerning samples of items that would require an additional charge. Jon mentioned that the Resolution is for consideration only and a decision does not have to be made this day. The Commissioners said they would be attending the WEKANDO meeting later this week and would bring this matter up for discussion; perhaps several counties could share an engineer

The Commissioners asked Charley if he has ever considered training someone to serve as his assistant. Charley said he has given this some consideration and there are a couple of people he could consider. No action taken at this time.

Eric excused himself from the meeting to further research the statute regarding appointing a County Engineer. After returning to the meeting Eric stated that he felt the County could make the appointment on an "as needed" basis; a resolution would not be necessary. Motion was then made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to appoint Kirkham Michael to be Morton County's Road Engineer, to be used as needed.

Charley requested approval to accept bids for a new low boy trailer at a cost around \$40,000-\$50,000 (with a trade-in). Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Leon Ellis reported that Frank Davis should be returning to work November 19<sup>th</sup> following his recovery from surgery. He also reported that Pete Woods still owes the Landfill approximately \$33,000 for crushed cement that was used as a base for the road at the new Assisted Living Facility. Mr. Woods said he will pay the bill as soon as Orr Construction pays him and Orr has indicated to Mr. Woods that the County has not paid them. The Clerk stated all bills to Orr Construction have been paid on time and vendors call weekly to find out when Orr was last paid by the County because Orr is not paying the sub-contractors.

Leon recommended hiring Jason Clark to fill the full-time position at the Weed/Landfill vacated by Amy Hayes. He would like to start Mr. Clark on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Approval to hire Jason was given on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron. Starting salary will be \$1750. The application was signed.

Kevin Shook entered the meeting to give the Golf Course report. Kevin requested approval to close the golf course on Wednesday because the Civic Center parking lot will be receiving a seal coat, as will the road leading to the golf course. Approval was given.

A short discussion took place concerning landscaping around the Civic Center building. No action taken at this time. The Commissioners asked Kevin if he would think about the possibility of mowing around the Civic Center and Airport. Kevin mentioned that he will be getting a load of trees and may have a few left over that could be planted at the Civic Center.

Justin Holliday, Sheriff, entered the meeting and reported he is still trying to fill the full-time Deputy position vacated by Leo Carrillo. He has five applicants but only two are already certified.

Justin stated the Halloween night chili feed went very well; Shelby Chapman prepared all of the food. Justin also reported there was minimal damage on Halloween night; all in all he was very pleased. He said he had handed out glow sticks to both the Elkhart and Rolla elementary students and did notice some were being used.

Justin mentioned that Karen Furr has informed him that she will be retiring from the County the end of December. Karen is a full-time Dispatcher.

Ron reported that Gene Nunn has informed him that we need tie-downs at the spray pad. Bob said he will visit with Joe Hartman to see if the Forest Service plane also needs tie-downs; he will also visit with him about payment for the asphalt laid to enter the runway from the spray pad area; Mr. Hartman had requested this work be done to better accommodate the Forest Service plane.

At this time Michael Graham, Platinum Services Insurance Company, met with the Commissioners. Mr. Graham's company offers a policy for cancer, stroke and heart attack, all in one policy. Payment for this policy does not go through payroll as companies like AFLAC do. The company also offers a separate long term care policy for those interested. Mr. Graham requested approval to visit with the employees of Morton County to show them the policy. The Commissioners said they would like to hear the presentation, or talk to a county who has listened to the presentation, before having Mr. Graham present to the employees. The Commissioners will have the Clerk contact Mr. Graham with their decision.

A call was placed to Ashley Fiss, Civic Center Architect, regarding the kitchen "general notes" and concerns whether water will run back into the building if we have a heavy

rain. Ashley said she would meet with the Commissioners on Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. to go over these concerns.

The Commissioners signed the 2008 Acreage Reporting Form for Rural Community Insurance Services; the Change Orders from the Appraiser's Office; reviewed the IT Manager Activity Report for October 15<sup>th</sup>-November 5<sup>th</sup>; reviewed the Treasurer's Report of Idle Funds Investments; signed the Payroll Forms; completed the Health and Wellness Study for Blue Cross Blue Shield; signed the Accounts Payable Warrant Register and the Payroll Warrant Register; approved the Road Petition from CIG; and approved the contract with Hay-Rice & Associates to perform the 2007 Morton County Audit.

The Clerk reminded the Commissioners there will be a Construction Meeting November 15<sup>th</sup> for the Assisted Living Facility.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Selective Site Consultants, Inc. regarding ALLTEL Communications' interest in installing a new wireless site in Morton County. They asked if the County had any zoning pertaining to their plans. The Commissioners asked the Clerk to reply that the County has no zoning but recommends they hire independent counsel and conduct a due diligence search before any construction begins.

A discussion took place concerning a solutions based health care alternative for members of the Kansas Association of Counties; United Health Care and Delta Dental. The Commissioners will probably hear more about this when they attend the Annual KAC Meeting in Wichita.

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