

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 15, 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 1, 2007 meeting were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

Shannon Weston, Weston Asphalt, entered the meeting and asked if the Commissioners would be interested in having them stripe the Civic Center streets and parking lots. Weston Asphalt is currently working on the Whistle Stop Park walking paths. The Commissioners asked Mr. Weston if he would submit a bid for their consideration.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to pay the 2008 Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) dues in the amount of \$6048.83.

A discussion took place concerning problems Sunflower Electric is having with KDHE in getting their permit. KDHE is reluctant to grant the permit because of pollution. Consensus of the Commissioners was that we need Sunflower Electric if we hope to have windmills in the future. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to have Eric write a letter supporting Sunflower Electric's request for a permit.

The Commissioners reviewed information received from Airport Consultants regarding their interest in serving as Morton County Airport's consulting firm. Two companies had moved and the letters were undeliverable, one company declined at this time, and Bucher Willis & Ratliff sent all of the information requested for consideration. Following a discussion motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to accept BWR as Morton County Airport's consulting firm.

Tracie Nixon entered the meeting and reported she is still working on E911. Alltel is ready to conduct their testing but can't until all is in place in the Dispatch Office. Mapping should be ready to go this week.

Tracie stated she has 15 computers to sell or place in other county-owned facilities. Both the Elkhart and Rolla Senior Centers need updated computers. Tracie will contact both facilities and get them what they need.

Tracie requested approval to attend a meeting in Garden City regarding the State's new teletype software in the Sheriff's Department. Approval was given on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

At this time Morton County Conservation District Board Members, Troy Coen and Randy Edelman, entered the meeting. Troy said they met with Sharon Jones last week and they feel they are going to have to move to a different building because the rent went up so much (\$15/sq. ft.) It will cost them \$20,800/yr. to stay in their present building. Troy stated that FSA may also be looking for a different building. They have been paying \$6.75/sq. ft. Randy said that in the past the NRCS office paid for all of the rent for the Conservation District's part of the building but now that they have consolidated they will not pay anything towards an office in Morton County. Troy said that 600 sq. ft. is all they really need. Randy said they just wanted to keep the Commissioners in the loop as they will probably be needing more money. The Commissioners stated that there is no more money to come in this year and next year's budget has already been set. Troy said they may have to consider laying an employee off. They have to make a decision on the building by November 1st. Sharon is reluctant do any remodeling if neither office is going to stay. FSA will only sign a one year contract for their building. The Commissioners thanked Troy and Randy for the information provided.

A call was received from Ashley Fiss. The Mechanical Engineer is going to do his punch list tomorrow. The Food Service Consultant will be doing his walk-through on Thursday. The Food Service Consultant is supposed to train our Civic Center staff on the equipment.

A discussion took place concerning Ashley's email regarding the stained floor at the Civic Center. Also discussed was the damage done to the light poles by the Road Department.

The Commissioners mentioned to Ashley that they will be receiving a bid to stripe the parking lots and streets and asked if she could send them the guidelines for handicapped accessible parking spaces. Ashley will get them to the Clerk right away.

Ashley said Jon Ryman told her they should be done with their part of the Civic Center this week. The Electrician has not been back yet to set the timer on the parking lot lighting. Ashley stated that, by code, nine lights in the exhibit hall will stay on all the time.

The Commissioners informed Ashley at this time that they are rejecting the stained floor. Ashley said she will contact the company who sells the stain and see if there is anything else that can be done to improve the appearance of the floor.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners. Present were Charles, Leon, Larry, Deb, Kevin, Vienna, Tracie, Brandi, Sally, Justin, Charley. Each Supervisor gave their respective departmental reports. The Commissioners reported that Commissioner

DeGarmo is the new Vice-President of KLPG. Also reported was that the next WEKANDO meeting will be held in Hugoton on October 25th.

The Commissioners mentioned that KWORCC had conducted a recent inspection and found that the County has not been enforcing the no-smoking policy for all buildings and vehicles; this is in violation of the County's liability insurance. All Supervisors were asked to enforce this policy immediately; signage will be ordered to be placed at each building and on each vehicle.

The Commissioners reminded the Supervisors that the County does not reimburse sales tax and requested that any charges made to a credit card be submitted for reimbursement along with an itemized receipt from the restaurant. If the receipt is not attached to the voucher, the voucher will be denied payment.

The Commissioners also reminded the Supervisors to submit a copy of the hotel bill to be attached to the per diem voucher. This proves to the IRS that the employee did, indeed, stay overnight and qualified for the \$30 per diem.

The Clerk mentioned that she has a billfold size, laminated, tax exempt certificate for each department that can be used as proof to hotels that the County is tax exempt. These certificates were prepared by the Treasurer's Office and are greatly appreciated!

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch. Following lunch the Commissioners drove to the Civic Center and the Airport. The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners. Charley reported he will be meeting with Kirkham-Michael on November 5th to discuss what the County will get for the \$800/mo. consulting fee. As far as he is aware Kirkham-Michael will be in Morton County one day a month to provide services for the \$800/mo. He believes there will be an additional charge for additional days.

The Commissioners asked Charley if Tom Myers ran county equipment while working on the Civic Center roads and parking lots. Charley indicated he did. The Commissioners reminded Charley that Tom is a City employee and our liability insurance will not cover anyone but a County employee to run county-owned equipment. Charley said the City will pay Tom for his regular hours worked but Tom worked some overtime. The City does not pay overtime. No action taken at this time.

Charley presented an email regarding above-ground storage tanks and new EPA regulations that will be in effect October 31, 2007. A short discussion took place.

Charley reported that the old Caterpillar has a serious knock in it; they had to park it. He is not sure if he wants to do a compression test at this time or not, may wait until next year to do anything about it.

Charley presented the bid from Weston Asphalt for painting the parking lots and streets at the Civic Center in the amount of \$5200. A short discussion took place. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Bob, to approve the bid. The Commissioners requested that yellow paint be used instead of white. The Commissioners also suggested painting the cement at the bottom of the parking lot lights yellow to help prevent someone from hitting the poles.

A call was received from Brandi Fleming requesting approval to hold the Flu Clinic at the Civic Center on October 30th beginning at 7:00 a.m. Approval was given.

Leon Ellis met with the Commissioners and stated that he needs more help. He would like to hire another equipment operator at the Landfill in the future. Also, Leon said we are going to have to go back to packing trash on Saturdays. Right now the Landfill only takes in trash on Saturday and does not pack it. Leon stated that when he is packing trash, someone needs to be spraying weeds. It is also time to begin treating wildlife. Leon said that when he is not packing trash he is digging a new pit. The Commissioners asked when Frank will be returning to work. Leon said he has a doctor's appointment the end of October. Ron asked if we weren't finished spraying weeds at this time. He also asked if Gwen couldn't help with packing trash. Leon said Gwen can't run that type of equipment. Amy has been doing a good job of packing. The Commissioners asked Leon if he would start giving them a monthly report again; the Road Department and IT Department give them monthly reports, and Leon used to. Leon said he would do this. The Commissioners also informed Leon that the budget has been set for next year and there are no funds to add another person at the Landfill. They suggested that Leon and his staff rotate their work week so that one of them can do the Saturday packing. Leon said this can be done.

The Commissioners asked Leon if he could look at the Airport and spray the weeds at the fuel tank. Leon said he has sprayed that area and the weeds should be dead. Ron stated that the weeds are like Christmas trees and really need treated. Leon said he would go by and take a look. Leon asked how much the Commissioners wanted him to spray at the Airport. A discussion took place.

Shelby Chapman entered the meeting and reported that the Mariachi band does not want to come to Elkhart and she asked if the Christmas Party Committee could hire the band "Smokin No Nos." They charge \$650 and come from Satanta. The Commissioners asked if Shelby would see if they could play for fewer hours for less money since there are usually not very many people who stay around after 10:00. Shelby said she would contact the band manager.

Kevin Shook met with the Commissioners and discussed his meeting in Orlando January 24-February 3rd. This is a National Conference for Golf Course Superintendents. Approval was given for the County to pay for the Conference, travel, room and rental car on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen. Tournament fees will be paid by the State Association.

A short discussion took place concerning the election of the Point Rock Golf Club Advisory Board Officers. Kevin will handle the details of this.

Justin Holliday, Sheriff, entered the meeting and presented the resignation letter of Leo Carrillo, Deputy. The Commissioners reluctantly accepted Leo's resignation. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve Justin to begin advertising the position immediately. Justin said he would like to fill the position by November 1st.

A discussion took place concerning unauthorized riders in Sheriff's Department vehicles (family members.) The Commissioners reminded Justin of the tremendous liability this places on the County, aside from the fact that the County has a policy pertaining to this matter. Justin said he will take care of this.

Regarding the black pick-up parked at the Morton building, Justin said Clint Peterson is helping us with the paperwork so the vehicle can be sold.

Justin reported that since he is short handed at this time he is having problems getting the drug dog and trainer certified. Hopefully, this will be accomplished in the very near future.

Vienna Lee met with the Commissioners and requested approval to attend the KDOT long range transportation planning meeting in Dodge City on October 18th. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Bob. A discussion took place concerning the Great Plains Development meeting to be held that evening. Approval was given for Vienna to attend that meeting and to spend the night.

Resolution 2007-11 was reviewed and signed on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron; (A Resolution confirming that a county economic development organization has been established as required by KSA 74-50, 116(c)(1) for the purpose of qualifying the County of Morton as a designated non-metropolitan region.)

The Civic Center fee schedule prepared by Charley Tucker was reviewed and discussed. This schedule will be further discussed when Charley gets to town.

Allen Tucker was designated the Morton County voting delegate at the annual KCAMP Annual Meeting; Ron was designated the alternative delegate.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form; the Accounts Payable Warrant Register; the Payroll Warrant Register; reviewed the construction meeting notes of October 10th regarding the Assisted Living Facility; approved payment of Pay Application #9 to Orr Construction for the Assisted Living Facility in the amount of \$259,567; and approved payment to Fiss Architecture in the amount of \$1458.14.

The Clerk reported that KDOT, Division of Aviation, has received the County's application for an airport improvement project and the application appears to be complete. KDOT will contact the Clerk as the evaluation process is conducted.

The Commissioners reviewed numerous emails from Ashley Fiss, Civic Center Architect, to Jon Ryman, Project Manager for Orr Construction, regarding items that need to be completed at the Civic Center. Also reviewed were the Food Service, Mechanical & Electrical punch list items and the General Contractor's punch list.

Consensus of the Commissioners was to not pay the bill from David Thomas for maintenance work done to the front sidewalks of the Courthouse. The work is unsatisfactory.

Charles Hull met with the Commissioners. The Commissioners asked Charles to come up with a plan to replace some of the older fire equipment. The age of some of the trucks is getting quite old. The Commissioners told Charles that he will need to prioritize and have a plan so that over a period of a few years all equipment will be dependable. Charles said that Richfield needs a new Pumper; this will cost approximately \$150,000-\$160,000. He also needs to start replacing the grass trucks. Charles mentioned that Rolla City doesn't have a crew during the day because everyone is working. When there is a call in the Rolla area he has to send the Elkhart crew to help cover. Charles agreed to come up with an equipment schedule for the Commissioners.

Deb Schnurr and Tony Hoyt entered the meeting. The Commissioners questioned a voucher submitted for payment to a Community College for tuition for Kirk Walls, no explanation. The bill had been denied payment pending an explanation and approval. Deb stated that the bill is to be paid out of Gifts & Grants; this is a State grant up to \$5000. Following Kirk's completion of his college work he will be required to work for Morton County for two years or repay the amount received from the grant. Approval was then given to pay the bill on a motion from Bob, seconded by Allen.

Deb mentioned that she received a letter from an insurance company asking if EMS would accept a lesser amount in payment of a bill if the bill was paid immediately. A discussion took place and consensus of the Commissioners was that this was not a policy they want to get started and denied this request. The Commissioners advised Deb to inform the insurance company of their decision.

Tony presented a quote for new radios for the new EMS pick-up that has been ordered. The quote was from G&G Electronics, Inc. in the amount of \$2771.00. Tony recommended the Cross Band repeater (\$1125) and the interface and installation of the repeater and new radio (\$300) be paid out of the EMS budget; the balance (\$1346) to be paid out of grant money. Approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Allen, for this purchase.

Deb and Tony discussed an item of concern that was discussed at a recent meeting they attended in Garden City – going part National testing or going full National Registry testing. Deb said full National Registry is bad for Morton and other small counties. It would take away what the EMTs can do with their lifesaving skills. The “part” National test is a good thing and permits the EMT to use the skills they have been trained for. Bob

asked if Deb and Tony would write something for him to submit to the State Board of Emergency Medical Services.

The Commissioners reviewed the audit report for the Conservation District for year ended December 31, 2006. A call was placed to Steve Rice concerning some of the findings. The Commissioners also reviewed the Control Deficiencies from the Morton County Health System's audit report.

At this time the Commissioners reviewed the four applications received for the Civic Center Maintenance/Housekeeping position. Consensus of the Commissioners was to interview Amy Hayes, currently an employee at the Landfill/Weed Department. A call was placed asking Amy to come to the Commissioners Meeting when she got off work. Following the above interview the Commissioners offered Amy the new position and Amy accepted. The Commissioners stated that they need her on the job just as soon as she can start; in fact, there would be occasions during this week that she will need to be at the Civic Center for training on equipment. Amy said she would put this in her letter of resignation. Starting salary will be \$2182.33/mo.

Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to adjourn the meeting. The Commissioners and Eric took Amy on a tour of the Civic Center building.