

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 10, 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 August 20, 2007 and August 24, 2007 meetings were read and corrections made. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to approve the Minutes with corrections.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

A discussion took place concerning the recent FAA inspection at the Airport. One item that needs to be addressed immediately is sealing the runways and taxiways and painting both runways, taxiways and hold lines. The Clerk contacted Tri-State Striping, Inc. from Alma, Nebraska, and received a bid in the amount of \$26,440. They can be in Elkhart the week of September 17th to begin the work. Following a short discussion motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to approve Tri-County to do the needed work to the Airport.

The Clerk reported she visited with Tim Hardy, Elkhart City Administrator, and he said the platted Mylar for the Civic Center should be signed on September 17th.

Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to write a letter of support for the sunflower plant that is proposed to be constructed in Rolla. Eric will draft the letter for the Commissioners' signatures.

At this time motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to go into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss a personnel matter (9:45-10:00.) No action taken after coming out of executive session.

Sharon Jones entered the meeting to discuss the building that currently houses the FSA and Conservation District. The building is owned by Sharon's family. FSA has informed Sharon that they do not need the entire building since Conservation will be consolidated with Hugoton. The building is 3360 sq. ft. and FSA wants to reduce their lease to a total of 2137 sq. ft. or less. They are asking for a wall to be removed to make it an open area; this is a supporting wall. They have requested Sharon provide snow removal, toilet paper, soap, janitorial service, etc. Also requested is that the computer server room be enclosed with a thermostat installed, and a new air conditioner. All locks are to be keyless and the building is to be fully handicapped. Sharon asked if the County would be willing to help out, or even consider purchasing the building, since the County worked so

hard to keep FSA in Elkhart. Sharon stated that she has two weeks to get FSA an estimate to make the repairs. At this time Sharon estimates repairs to be around \$45,000. The Commissioners recommended that Sharon contact a contractor and have the contractor come up with the repairs estimate and then adjust the rent accordingly. Sharon said she doesn't want to make the repairs unless she knows FSA is going to be around for a while. The Commissioners said they have been informed that Elkhart will have a full time person (Jennifer Sensley), making it unnecessary for Hugoton to send someone to Elkhart a couple days a week. Eric suggested that when Sharon writes the contract, make it for five years or more. Sharon thanked the Commissioners for their time and left the meeting.

Applications for the Civic Center Events Coordinator were reviewed. No action taken at this time.

Vienna Lee entered the meeting and presented a list of tables and chairs to be considered for purchase for the Civic Center. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to approve the purchase in the amount of \$16,742.59.

A discussion took place concerning the fee schedule for the Civic Center. The Commissioners requested that Vienna, Tammy and Tim Hardy work out a schedule to be proposed.

Vienna reported that the Horse Race went very well.

A short discussion took place concerning the stage for the Civic Center. Ron gave Vienna a catalog of stages to be considered for the Civic Center.

A short discussion took place concerning the need for Vienna to have a cell phone since there are numerous occasions when she needs to be away from her office for business. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve the purchase of a cell phone for Vienna.

Information received from the Census Bureau regarding "Local Update of Census Addresses: (LUCA) was given to Jeff Milburn to complete.

A discussion took place concerning mowing the Airport. Consensus of the Commissioners was to take bids in the Spring, or to have the Golf Course staff take care of it.

Brandi Fleming met with the Commissioners and requested approval for her and Rhianna to attend a meeting in Wichita October 17-18. The workshop will better prepare public health providers in implementing national, state, and local expectations and directives, public health's role in the command center, interjurisdictional coordination and communication, surveillance and epidemiological issues, and other topics. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to approve attendance at this meeting.

Charles Hull, Morton County Fire Chief, entered the meeting and reported the Mack Tanker is at the Truck Center in Liberal for repairs. The vehicle has some transmission problems and it will probably cost a lot for the repairs. Charles just wanted to make the Commissioners aware of this possible high expense.

Charles requested approval to purchase a new hand-held radio in the amount of \$690. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to approve this purchase. The Capital Outlay Form was signed.

A discussion took place concerning the need for fire trucks in both Richfield and Rolla. Charles plans to replace equipment that is in the worst condition first.

Shelby Chapman met with the Commissioners to discuss the Employees' Christmas Party. The date of Friday, December 14th has been scheduled with the VFW. This year's theme will be "A Fiesta Christmas." A Mexican Food menu will be planned, along with some other meat for those who have tender tummies.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve payment to Underground Specialists for the water and sewer extension at the Civic Center in the amount of \$53,037.65.

Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to approve Payment #7 to Kirkham-Michael for engineering services to the Civic Center in the amount of \$4806.12.

Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to approve Payment Application #8 to Orr Construction for the Assisted Living Facility in the amount of \$386,907.

The Road Petition from Elkhart Telephone Company was approved on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

The Payroll Form was signed.

A discussion took place concerning the Airport budget for 2008. The Airport Layout Plan (ALP) has to be updated every 10 years; Morton County's ALP is now 10 years old. Cost for this update is estimated to be \$71,250. The Airport will not be funded again in 2008 and the Clerk questioned if the Commissioners want her to go ahead and have the ALP done. Consensus of the Commissioners was to apply for a grant that might help with this cost. Consensus of the Commissioners was to also apply to the FAA for a grant to assist with costs of converting Runway 17-35 from asphalt to concrete. If the County is awarded a grant, but does not have the matching funds available, we can always turn the grant down. The Clerk will contact Bucher, Willis & Ratliff for assistance in the grant application process. The Kansas Airport Improvement Program has a September 20th deadline.

The Commissioners discussed an email received from Jeff Milburn regarding requests for GIS Data. Jeff had asked if the County wanted to start charging for this information or

just not make that information available; the last request he had was for the parcel number, owner, and address. Consensus of the Commissioners was that this information would not be for sale.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch. Following lunch the Commissioners drove to the Civic Center and did a short walk-through. They will return later this day to do a more thorough walk-through. The Commissioners also drove the Airport runways to observe some of the weeds that have been killed; more need sprayed. A discussion took place concerning the wood and glass that needs to be removed from behind the Airport Terminal building following the recent installation of a new window and window repairs.

The Commissioners met with Leon Ellis. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to go into executive session for five minutes to discuss a personnel matter (1:00-1:05.) No action taken after coming out of executive session.

Leon mentioned that Elmer Zehr will be coming to the Landfill to do a survey so we can dig a new pit; we have to have an Engineer approve what we are doing. We are still currently dumping in pit #7 but it is almost full.

Leon reported he has sent everything the State requested following the latest inspection. He hasn't heard anything back yet. He is sure they will return to re-survey the Landfill.

Leon stated Frank Davis will be having surgery on his shoulder and will be off work for a while. Leon said he will be attending the State Fair but will have Amy Hayes run the equipment to pack the pit.

The Commissioners told Leon that the Airport has some weeds that will need sprayed again. Leon said he will look at the areas.

The Commissioners informed Leon that three from his staff met with them and have indicated they feel there is no communication or leadership between them and Leon. The Commissioners asked Leon to work on this and to compliment the staff for the things they are doing right. Leon said he will work harder on this.

Leon reported that all of the metal at the Landfill is cleaned up. The County is owed \$35/ton from the company who took the metal.

The Commissioners again reviewed the applications received for the Civic Center Events Coordinator.

Kevin Shook met with the Commissioners and requested approval to attend the pesticide certification school to be held in Great Bend on October 23rd. Approval was given on a motion by Allen, seconded by Bob. Approval was also given for Kevin to attend the National Superintendent's Tournament to be held in January or February 2008 in Orlando on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen. Kevin's tournament fees will be paid by the Kansas Golf Superintendent's Association (\$750.)

Kevin reported they are attempting to control the skunk problem at the golf course.

Justin Holliday entered the meeting. The Commissioners mentioned they received a complaint that law enforcement was being paged to accidents and then law enforcement makes the decision whether or not to page out an ambulance; this involved a rollover north of Rolla. Their concern is that perhaps EMS should be paged out at the same time. Justin said he will be having a departmental meeting next week and will discuss this item.

Ron stated that Merlin Stout informed him that he had called 911 for an out of control fire and the phone rang 15 times before anyone answered. Justin said he will check on this also. In fact, Justin said, with the new E911 system all phone calls are recorded and he can go to the computer and get the date and time and actually listen to the phone conversations. Justin said he will pull up the two incidents discussed and invited the Commissioners to the department to listen to the calls.

At this time the County Attorney had to leave the meeting for a hearing in Liberal.

Deb Schnurr and Tony Hoyt met with the Commissioners and presented a list of claims for consideration to be written-off in the amount of \$6198. Following a review of these claims motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to write-off these claims.

Deb requested approval to attend the "4 Steps for KIDS" meeting on October 29th in Garden City and for her and Tony to attend the Southwest Kansas EMS Region 2 meeting in Garden City on October 13th. Approval for attendance at both meetings was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Allen.

Deb presented bids for a new vehicle to replace the Expedition that Tony drives. The bids were from Elkhart Ford; Koski cannot get them a new vehicle. The bids were for an F250 4 x 4 with four captain's chairs. One was for a gas engine (\$32,030), the other for a diesel engine (\$37,850.) A topper will also have to be purchased and installed on the vehicle in the amount of approximately \$1500 and will be purchased from Astro Truck Covers in Dodge City. Following a discussion motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to purchase the gas engine vehicle but with the 3.73 rear end. Motion included purchase of the topper. All of the equipment will be purchased out of the Special Ambulance Fund.

Deb reported that she had applied to the Cooper-Clark Foundation for a new ventilator in the amount of \$9200 and was approved the full amount.

The Commissioners informed Deb that they had received a complaint that she was seen transporting her kids to school in the county vehicle. Deb stated she has never taken the kids to school in the county vehicle. In fact, Deb said that her son drives now, or he will put his books in the county vehicle and ride his skateboard home.

Tony reported that EMS received a grant for 15 pagers (\$400 each) and six earphone/speakers (\$700 each.) The Commissioners congratulated both Deb and Tony on getting these grants.

At this time Justin Holliday entered the meeting and informed the Commissioners that he had the two phone calls in question on the computer now. The Commissioners and Clerk then went to law enforcement to listen to the calls. The E911 phone system does not determine how many times the phone rings prior to being answered; therefore, Mr. Stout's complaint could not be confirmed. In listening to the call regarding the rollover north of Rolla it was clear that the caller indicated an ambulance was not required. Justin stated that when the officer arrived at the scene he did call for an ambulance because the driver had a cut on her head and that could have been an indication there were other injuries unseen. It was noted at this time that Mr. Stout did not have a permit to burn on the day in question. The Commissioners thanked Justin for taking time to demonstrate the equipment and address the complaints.

The Architect's field Report dated 8/8/07 for the Assisted Living Facility was reviewed.

Tracie Nixon was not able to attend the meeting today but had written an email to the Commissioners for their review; an update on the E911 project. Bob said he will check with ETC and find out where they are on some of the wiring.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the invoice to Fiss Architecture for reimbursable expenses for the Civic Center in the amount of \$910 on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

All of the Commissioners indicated they would be attending the KAC Annual Conference in Wichita in November. Allen Tucker was appointed to serve as the Voting Delegate at the Annual KAC Conference. Ron DeGarmo will serve as 1st Alternate and Bob Boaldin will serve as 2nd Alternate.

Allen Tucker was appointed to serve as the Voting Delegate at the Annual KWORCC Meeting. Ron DeGarmo will serve as Alternate.

All of the Commissioners indicated they would be attending "Little KAC" to be held in Meade on October 9th.

Allen and Ron indicated they would be attending the KLPG meeting in Russell, KS, October 4-5. The Clerk's Office will contact John Pinegar so he can make their reservations.

The Clerk reported that the FAA plans to cut GPS, and other navigational services, in 250 locations nationwide. Seven of these locations are in Kansas. Morton County has not been included at this time.

Approval was given to pay Application for Payment #14 to Orr Construction for the Civic Center in the amount of \$76,727 on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

The Commissioners further reviewed applications for the position of Events Coordinator at the Civic Center. Consensus of the Commissioners was to interview those they considered to be the top three applicants. Interviews will be scheduled for September 24th.

The Commissioners and Clerk then left the meeting to go to the Civic Center and review a preliminary punch list for the public toilets. Following the inspection of the toilets the Commissioners expressed their concern to Jon Ryman about the stained concrete floor in the exhibition hall; the colored caulking was a main source of concern.

Upon returning to the Courthouse the Clerk reminded the Commissioners about the Assisted Living Facility Construction Meeting on Wednesday, September 12th at 10:30 a.m. at the Hospital Classroom.

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