

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 7, 2008

Bob called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with open doors.

Present: Bob Boaldin, Chairman; Allen Tucker, Vice-Chairman; Ron DeGarmo, Commissioner; Mary Gilmore, County Clerk

The Commissioners canvassed the Elkhart City General Election held on April 1, 2008. The regular business meeting followed the canvass.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved with corrections.

Minutes of the March 17, 2008 meeting were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Allen, seconded by Bob.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

At this time the Commissioners interviewed Kelly Whisennand for the Nurse/Administrator position at the Health Department. Following the interview the Commissioners thanked Kelly for her time and interest in the position and stated they had another interview in the afternoon. Kelly thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Karensa Meek met with the Commissioners and requested approval to purchase an imaging system. Also requested was a batch license (\$1000.) These items were approved for purchase to be paid out of the Diversion Fund on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

A discussion took place concerning a letter that will be sent out from Judge Smith regarding security measures for the Court Clerk's office. It will soon be mandatory that the Court Clerks wear a panic button. Judge Smith also suggested that a half door be installed at both the east and west counters. Basically, Karensa reported, Judge Smith feels that we should use simple measures rather than go overboard at first. Approval was given for Karensa to pursue the cost for the half doors and the remote panic buttons.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to go into executive session for five minutes for attorney/client privilege. No action taken after coming out of executive session.

The Clerk requested consideration to have a scale in the Courthouse. Following a short discussion approval to purchase the scale was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Allen.

Brandi Fleming entered the meeting and requested approval for Marla to attend a mandatory meeting to be held on April 21st in Topeka. This meeting is necessary for the

Health Department to receive a grant. Also requested was for Pam and Rhianna to attend the Annual Governor's Public Health Conference April 28-30 in Wichita and for Rhianna to attend the New & Recertification of Audiometric Certification Conference August 26-27 in Oakley. Approval was given for attendance at all of the above conferences on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Brandi gave the Commissioners a notice announcing that National Public Health Week will be celebrated April 7-14. This year KPHA has organized statewide Legislative Health Forums to help educate the public about two issues: health reform and pandemic preparedness for Kansans. These community forums will be held in 15 cities across the state, with an Open House format being held in Wichita.

Charley Tucker met with the Commissioners and reported this is a really busy month at the Civic Center. Every weekend is booked for an event. Prom is being held April 12th and they are decorating every night except Wednesday; the "He Wears Black" concert and dinner is April 19th and the Rummage Roundup is April 26th.

Pete Lux entered the meeting to discuss the Senior All Night Party to be held May 3rd from 6:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Pete asked if the County would consider not charging the group the deposits or the non-profit rent. Following a discussion consensus of the Commissioners was that this would set precedence and they were not in favor of that. Bob asked Charley to get him the amount for the rent and deposits and he would personally pay this as his donation to the party.

A discussion took place concerning the floor at the Civic Center. A call was placed to Ashley Fiss. Ashley said she will visit with the company in Amarillo and get a cost for them to do the work using their own product.

Charley mentioned he attended the last Fair Board meeting. There is a conflict with the entertainment scheduled for Saturday, sponsored by the Civic Center. Charley asked the Fair Board if the Civic Center could sponsor entertainment on Friday. He has not heard back from them yet and the Fair Book is to go to print in a couple of days.

Charley reported the indoor and outdoor flag poles have been ordered.

A discussion took place concerning the possibility of forming a County Convention Districts Bureau. No action taken at this time.

A discussion took place concerning selling beer on the premises at the Civic Center. Consensus of the Commissioners was for Charley to complete the application and submit it to the City for their approval. The intent is to have everything in place for the "He Wears Black" concert on April 19th.

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

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners. Also present during this time were Merlin Stout and John Tucker. A discussion took place concerning a road grader operator getting into private property when he slopes the ditches. Merlin said he has also visited with a utility man who told him that the ditches are getting so deep they cannot get their utility vehicles in to service the poles. John mentioned he has had several problems with the same road grader. John said that when he does back slope, it is worse than before. He also gets into his field. John said that the more people complain the worse the employee gets, and then he gets mad. The Commissioners apologized that a County employee would do this and said they want to make it right; we shouldn't be getting on private property. Charley said he wants to make it right too. Charley said he has visited with the employee about the matter but will visit with him again. Merlin suggested the employee be transferred to another territory and have Ralph or Larry do this territory. Ralph and Larry do a good job and their roads look good. The Commissioners said they will kick the matter around and thanked both for coming in.

The Commissioners asked Charley to take a look at the walking paths in Whistle Stop Park. The paths seem to be falling apart and Bob is aware of people who have fallen because of that. Charley said he will take a look at the paths.

Deb Schnurr entered the meeting and requested approval for Willie Furr, Kirk Walls and Gwen Hipp-Rodriguez to attend the KEMTA Convention April 18-20. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Charley McKinley mentioned that the old Airport courtesy car needs a new fuel pump. Consensus of the Commissioners was to have the fuel pump installed and a minimum bid will be placed on the vehicle and sealed bids taken.

Charley further mentioned that the Hospital has approached him about the Road Department building them another parking lot (west of the REA poles.) The Commissioners advised Charley that all of the proposed projects for this summer will need to get done before any additional projects can be taken on.

Charley stated that the road guys have been talking about working four ten hour days a week during the summer months. A discussion took place. No action taken at this time.

A short discussion took place concerning hiring an Assistant Road Supervisor. No action taken at this time.

Charley said he would like to open bids on a couple of trucks at the May 5th meeting. Approval was given. The trucks will be paid out of the Special Highway Equipment Fund.

Leon Ellis met with the Commissioners and reported that Manuel is still not back to work. Leon discussed the possibility of having two men work three days a week each instead of one man working four days and one man working two days. This would

actually cause there to be two part time employees with no benefits at the site manager position. No action taken at this time but can be considered at a future meeting.

Kevin Shook entered the meeting and reported that Gray's Lawn Service has not received their plants yet to begin the landscaping around the Civic Center.

Kevin requested approval to hire three part time summer helpers this year since they will be mowing the Airport, the Civic Center and taking care of the Courthouse lawns until Larry Simmons returns to work following medical leave. The Commissioners approved this request. Kevin presented the applications of Blake Hockett, Skylar Houtz and Nicole Lux for consideration. Also requested was to hire Mike Gilmore on a full time hourly basis so he would be able to work over 1000 hours since Junior and Regina resigned. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to hire the three summer applicants at \$9.00/hr. and to hire Mr. Gilmore at his current hourly wage.

Kevin reported that Tate Grasz has applied for a part time position at the Clubhouse; Tate only wants to work one or two weekends a month. Also Stephanie Brown has applied for part time summer work at the Clubhouse; she would be available May 19-September 23. Approval was given to hire both of these applicants at a wage of \$9.00/hr.

Tim Hardy met with the Commissioners and reported he will take the final plat for the City Council to sign at their meeting on April 8th. Tim also reported that the City Council Members asked Tim to make the Commissioners aware that they are receiving complaints about where to turn at the intersections where you go in or out of the Civic Center.

The Commissioners asked Tim when the streets needing to be torn out leading to the Civic Center and Museum will be vacated. Tim said he hopes to get that done soon.

Tim mentioned that about four years ago he asked the County for help with repairs to improve North Street Road. At that time the County was not able to help out. He is now looking for any help the County could give the City to make that road better. Consensus of the Commissioners was to have Tim and Charley get together and come up with a suggestion.

Bob mentioned to Tim that he has been getting complaints about how unsightly the areas around two businesses is and asked if there isn't a city ordinance that says a business must have a fence around any area that could be considered an eyesore. Tim said he is in the process of getting letters ready to be mailed to residents and businesses that need to clean up around their property

Tim mentioned to the Commissioners that the alley next to the new Assisted Living Facility is higher than the new grass and could cause a problem if we get some rain. Information only.

Justin Holliday, Sheriff, entered the meeting. The Commissioners asked if Justin has been paid for the drug dog yet. Justin stated we have not been paid yet as far as he knows.

Justin reported that KLETC called and asked if Adam Carey would be available to attend the Academy beginning today. Justin said that Adam had been on the waiting list and was able to leave over the weekend to attend the Academy.

Justin mentioned that a prisoner is currently in the hospital. Policy requires that when a prisoner is in the hospital an officer must be on duty outside the room.

Justin requested approval to purchase five video cameras for the County vehicles. Cost of each unit is \$3995 plus \$10 shipping and handling and installation. These are budgeted items. Approval for the purchase was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve \$1000 to assist with the Grassland Heritage Festival expenses.

At this time the Commissioners interviewed Rhianna Shaw for the Nurse/Administrator position at the Health Department. Rhianna is currently an RN at the Health Department. Following this interview the Commissioners offered the position to Rhianna at the current salary Brandi is making, beginning June 1, 2008. Rhianna mentioned that since she would have to do the job of both Nurse/Administrator, plus the job she is currently doing, would the Commissioners consider giving her more. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to go into executive session for 15 minutes. Upon coming out of executive session motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen to go back into executive session for another 15 minutes. Present during this session were the Commissioners, County Attorney and, at the Commissioners' request, the County Clerk. After coming out of executive session the Commissioners told Rhianna that the money is not in the budget to pay her any more this year. Salaries can be discussed during the budget process with salary increases to be given in January. However, just because items are budgeted does not mean they will be approved. The final county valuation is not known until October. Salaries are then discussed in December.

The Clerk reported that Vince Forbes is currently working towards having a tetrahedron built for the Airport. This will be a much appreciated addition.

The Clerk also reported that Runway 17-35 is scheduled to be sealed next week (weather permitting) and then both runways and taxiways will be striped.

The Commissioners signed the Resolution of Lodge for a Bank Account for the Civic Center; the Payroll Form; the Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrant Registers; the grant application for the Airport Master Plan; the HWS proposal for groundwater monitoring at the Landfill; and the extended warranty for the copier at the Landfill.

A discussion took place concerning a pre-employment bill from Dr. Perido's office in the amount of \$200. The other doctors only charge \$62. This will be discussed further at the next Supervisor's Meeting.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Orr Construction to Bryan Young, Architect, regarding a time extension for the Assisted Living Facility; a letter from Bryan Young to the Department of Aging; a letter from Pete Woods Excavating to Orr Construction regarding money owed; the March Road Department Report; the March Weed/Landfill Report; the I.T. Manager Activity Report 3/17-4/7; the 2008 Real Estate Values from the Appraiser's Office; the letter from Frieden & Forbes regarding "Request for Grant to Renovate Railway in Southwest Kansas" (WEKANDO project); and the proposed addition plan for the Civic Center to provide storage for the tables and chairs.

The Clerk reminded the Commissioners that the Punch-list Walk-thru at the Assisted Living will be held at 10:30 on April 15th.

A call was received from Ashley Fiss. Ashley reported that the manufacturer of the seal used at the Civic Center has recommended that the floor be stripped of the sealant and resealed followed by six to seven coats of wax (wax to be done by a professional.)

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