

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MAY 19, 2008

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 May 5, 2008 meeting were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

A discussion took place regarding children playing in the culverts at the Civic Center. No action taken at this time.

A discussion took place concerning a couple of rock paths recently made at the Fairgrounds using rock from the Road Department without prior approval. The Commissioners will look at these paths following lunch this day.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to go into executive session for 10 minutes for attorney-client privilege. No action taken after coming out of executive session.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen to pay \$89,700 to Hinkle Drilling. Pursuant to the water rights contract with Ernie Barnes the County is making final payment.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from the County Attorney to Todd Sherlock, Duckwall-Alco Stores, Inc. requesting specifically why the economics of constructing an Alco store in Elkhart has dramatically changed from when they entered the contract. No response has been received at this time.

The AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MORTON COUNTY AIRPORT between Morton County and Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation was signed on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen. This project is to reconstruct the Apron Connecting Taxiway and is being funded through a grant from KDOT with matching funds from Morton County.

Vienna Lee met with the Commissioners and reported she has been in contact with a prospective Veterinarian. The Doctor has just graduated from OSU and is from Guymon. He has expressed an interest in starting a practice in this area. The Commissioners suggested Vienna and the "Veterinarian Search Committee" meet, with the Doctor, perhaps over lunch, and discuss what his goals are and what incentives he might expect.

Vienna reported on the committee meeting held to plan "Little KAC". The Commissioners suggested the color red for the shirts each employee is to wear for the event. Vienna will contact each department to get shirt sizes and then have Rhonda Boone order the shirts and do the embroidery work. Vienna further reported that Brad Livingston has indicated he would be available to be the guest speaker for the event. He just needs to know how much time he will have, when he needs to be there, and some direction on subject matter.

A short discussion took place concerning a dedication ceremony of the Civic Center. The Commissioners would like to have this done prior to the Fair.

The dates for the June meetings were set for June 9th and 23rd.

Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to direct the Treasurer to put the sub-marginal land money (federal revenue) in the amount of \$966,861.45 in the Road Fund.

The Commissioners reviewed information received from Jerry Moran's office concerning "Emergency Haying and Grazing." A discussion took place.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Western Surety Company to Pete Woods regarding the \$35,424.50 owed Pete Woods Excavating by Orr Construction (Assisted Living Project.). They also reviewed a letter from Richard Wolters to Orr Construction regarding the \$2,708.15 owed him (Assisted Living Project.) These are information items only.

Bob shared an email he received from Peggy Horton, USD 218, regarding the after school program. The email included future ideas for the program, financing and staff. The amount needed is \$75,700 and she is hoping to get funds from Co-sponsors (High Plains Health Foundation, City, County, etc.) No action taken at this time.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners for their regular monthly meeting. Present were Justin, Vienna, Charley McKinley, Leon, Charley Tucker, Brandi, Rhianna. Each Supervisor gave their individual departmental reports.

Brandi presented the Commissioners a copy of the contract between Morton County Health Department and Richard Everett, Regional SWKHI Coordinator. Mr. Everett has agreed to carry out the requirements to complete 100% of the Emergency Preparedness Work Plan as well as the Pandemic Influenza Work Plan. This contract will cover the period of June 1, 2008 to September 15, 2008, the final reporting date of the current Emergency Preparedness Grant.

Brandi gave the Commissioners a copy of the Health Department report covering 5/1/08 to 5/19/08. Brandi also distributed an "Administrator's To Do List" for the Commissioners' review.

One application for the Health Department RN position was received and reviewed. The desired salary range was so much more than the 2008 Budget would permit that no action was taken on the application.

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 was Chuck Oldacker, representing KDOT. Chuck presented the Commissioners an outline of FY 2008 District 6, 1R projects (substantial maintenance) and FY 2009, Locations Only, 1R resurfacing projects. A short discussion took place. Chuck also presented for the Commissioners' signatures a County/State Agreement between the Secretary of Transportation for the State of Kansas and Morton County. The State agrees to reimburse the County a lump sum of \$50,000 in exchange for the County allowing Wilburton Road to be used as a detour, instead of the official detour, during the reconstruction of Highway K-27 from the Oklahoma state line north to West K-27/51 Junction in Morton County. The Agreement was signed on a motion from Ron, seconded by Allen.

Mr. Oldacker presented the Commissioners a copy of the Road Safety Audit (RSA) for the state highway system in Morton County. This RSA is on file in the Clerk's Office. Mr. Oldacker then left the meeting.

Charley McKinley mentioned that he has heard rumors that the County was going to pave Main Street in Elkhart this year. Charley reported that we are not; there are no funds in the budget for a project of this size.

Charley requested approval to begin advertising for an Assistant Road Supervisor. The Commissioners asked the Clerk to read the job description. A discussion took place concerning the salary range. Charley stated that if someone within the department is hired he hopes that he can use some of the salary from an employee who recently resigned. Motion was then made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve advertising this position.

Charley mentioned he will be taking Physical Therapy three times a week for four weeks and requested approval to drive the county pickup to the hospital for these treatments. Approval was given for use of the pickup for these personal occasions.

A discussion took place concerning the rock used for two pathways at the Fairgrounds. Consensus of the Commissioners was that Charley needs to send Barry Myers (Fair Board President) a bill for the rock.

Bob mentioned that he had received a complaint from Bill Ediger about a road. Charley will take a look at the road in question.

A discussion took place concerning a road that has been cut on the Morton/Stevens County line. Ron said this is an EOG well. A Road Petition was never submitted for

approval to bore the road, and the Commissioners do not permit cutting a road. Charley will find out who the Contractor was and estimate the damage to the road. He will report on this at the next meeting.

The Commissioners discussed the Whistle Stop Park walking path and the poor condition it is in. Charley said it really needs a two inch lift and asked if there are any funds available from Whistle Stop Park to help with the cost of this type of project. The Commissioners asked the Clerk if she would contact Ed Johnson and see if he can visit with them at their next meeting.

The Commissioners signed a letter to the Kansas Department of Agriculture from the Noxious Weed Department indicating Morton County will utilize the current Noxious Weed Control Plan for 2009, since no changes to the plan are needed at this time.

Leon mentioned that he visited with Elmer Zehr, Engineer. Leon stated that we will have to start submitting an updated plat each time we renew our Landfill permit. The permit is to be renewed 30 days prior to July 1, 2008.

A short discussion took place concerning the possibility of using some of the crushed cement for road construction. Discussion only.

Kevin Shook entered the meeting and gave the golf course report. Kevin stated he will be sanding the greens and over seeding. He will also be aerifying the course. He is going to try to get the Airport mowed this week, as well as the Courthouse lawns. Kevin reported that he had to order Diesel (550 gallons.) He hopes this will get him through the rest of the year but doubts it will; he only budgeted \$2500 for fuel in 2008.

Justin Holliday met with the Commissioners and reported that VIP has installed the bench panic buttons in the Court Clerk's office. They are having trouble with the wireless microphones as they go in and out of the vaults. He has still not received a bid he has been waiting for to construct the half doors in the Court Clerk's office. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to accept the bid received from Stiver Construction in the amount of \$5650. The County Attorney requested approval to pay this amount out of the Diversion Fund. Approval was given.

Justin stated that Bob Doepp, Undersheriff, has been busy installing the new cameras in the patrol vehicles. They have also started on the work needed to put the old EMS Expedition in the Sheriff's fleet of vehicles; Shade Tree took off the old signage. Justin requested approval to purchase an additional camera for this vehicle. Approval for this purchase was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Allen.

Justin mentioned that a former officer has asked if he can purchase one of the old patrol cameras. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Bob, to allow this purchase.

Charley Tucker entered the meeting and reported they are getting ready for the Senior All-Night Party tonight. Charley also discussed some damage done to the Civic Center

parking lot during the Co-op Annual Meeting; they had some new heavy equipment on display. He has contacted the Co-op Board regarding his matter.

Charley said he visited with Ashley Fiss about the floor situation. Mark talked to Ashley and said he “doesn’t want to mess anyone around but has to have some money to do anything more to the floor.” Ashley told him he would have to talk to Orr Construction to get some money. Charley said he visited with J.D. at Grant County and they scraped their own floor. He found out what they used to strip the floor and what products were used for the glaze and wax. In fact, J.D. said they have a guy who would be willing to come to Morton County and do the job for us because he is looking for extra work. Following a discussion consensus of the Commissioners was to have Mirror’s Image wax the Lobby, Hallway and Event Hall and the man from Ulysses do the Kitchen and Bathrooms.

Charley mentioned that the overhead door in the Exhibit Hall makes a lot of noise when the wind is blowing hard. Overhead Door in Wichita told Charley that the door is out of warranty. They will talk to the project manager and installation manager and one of them will call Charley back. Also, Ashley Fiss has asked for pictures of the kitchen window roll up.

Charley reported that he is still having problems with the outside door locks at the Civic Center. The Commissioners asked him to contact the firm in Amarillo and have them come back and fix the outside door locks.

Charley stated he contacted Jon Ryman and informed him that the two leaks (one in the Kitchen and one in the Lobby) are back. Information only.

A discussion took place concerning the outdoor flag poles and the colors available. The Commissioners authorized Charley to get a sample of the dark bronze and see if it matches the building. If it does, approval was given for him to purchase the dark bronze poles.

A discussion took place concerning the possibility of forming a Convention Visitors Group (CVG). Charley said he has visited with the Hays CVG Director and will be visiting with the Liberal Director this week; he is trying to see how they do things. There is no opposition from the Commissioners to continue to investigate this idea. Charley said he hopes to have a five to seven member CVG Board.

Charley asked the Commissioners if they want him to continue pursuing entertainment at the Civic Center. The Commissioners said they do want him to continue efforts to bring entertainment to Morton County. They will plan to budget additional money in the 2009 Civic Center Budget.

Justin Holliday brought a bill owed a company by the Sheriff’s Department since 2002. He is unable to purchase any merchandise until this bill is paid. The Commissioners authorized paying the bill so he can order items needed.

Ron asked if there were any plans to have a WEKANDO meeting anytime soon. Bob said he has talked to John Pinnegar and has not heard back from him when they can meet. Another call was placed to Mr. Pinnegar and a message left for him to return the call.

The Commissioners signed the Change Orders from the Appraiser's Office; the Notices of Appointment for Randy Lewis and Sharron Jones to serve on the Library Board; reviewed the I.T. Manager Activity Report (April 21-May 2); the Payroll Form; and the Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrant Registers.

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