

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 9, 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; Eric Witcher, County Attorney; Mary Gilmore, County Clerk

The Agenda was reviewed and approved with additions.

Minutes of the May 19, 2008 meeting were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

The Clerk reported she received a check in the amount of \$1000 from Frazee Abstract & Title, Inc.; this is the earnest deposit on the cancelled contract with Duckwall-Alco. The \$1000 will be deposited in the Building Fund.

The July meeting dates were tentatively set for July 14th and July 28th. The Budget Hearings will be held July 17th and 18th. The Clerk will send each department a schedule for the Hearings.

The Commissioners asked the Clerk to send an email to each department requesting a current set of keys to each County building and office to be on file in the Master Key Box in the Clerk's Vault. Locks have been changed at various times and the most current keys are no longer on file.

The Commissioners directed the Clerk to continue advertising the Assistant Road Supervisor position for at least another two weeks as well as the RN position at the Health Department.

Ed Johnson entered the meeting and reported there is a water leak at the Airport but he has been unable to locate it. The Terminal has water but it is on a separate line. The water bill for last month was over \$500. Ed said he drove all over the Airport but could not find anywhere that was wet, indicating where the leak might be. He has advised the sprayers to turn the water on when they need to fill their planes and then to turn it off after they have filled. Consensus of the Commissioners was for Ed to contact Chad Parker and get an estimate for a new 2" line.

The Commissioners asked Ed if there was any money available in the Whistle Stop Park fund to help put a two inch lift on the walking paths. Ed said he will visit with Tim Hardy to see how much is in the fund; plans have been made to construct a gazebo using funds received for the Flo Johnson and Janell Shultz memorials.

Charles Hull met with the Commissioners and requested approval to purchase a new skid unit for the brush truck in the amount of approximately \$14,000. A short discussion took place. Approval for the purchase was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron. The skid unit will be paid out of the Fire Department's Capital Outlay fund. The Capital Outlay request form was signed.

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners. Bob stated that some of the Richfield people approached him about asphaltting the Richfield Cemetery roads since the County is currently asphaltting the Richfield City roads. Charley said he might be able to put a seal on the Cemetery roads but does not plan to asphalt them at this time. Consensus of the Commissioners was that since the Rolla Cemetery purchased the materials and the County will put down the asphalt, perhaps the Richfield Cemetery could do the same next year. Charley said he does not plan to have an asphalt plant next year but will be doing some seal work.

Charley distributed a copy of the May Road Department Report for the Commissioners' review.

Charley reported that they should finish in Richfield today, and then will move to Rolla, and then the Whistle Stop Park. Charley said he visited with Tim Hardy and the City's Engineer was going to look at North Street Road. He will get with Tim again to see what the Engineer thought needed done to the street.

Charley said he has been working on his budget and is having a bit of trouble figuring how to budget for fuel.

Leon Ellis met with the Commissioners and mentioned that the State is doing a statewide mercury sweep. Each County will have a collection site to discard items containing mercury and the State will provide the containers. The State will also do all news articles and pay for advertising. Consensus of the Commissioners was that the collection site should be at the Landfill. Leon also reported they are currently collecting electronics that will eventually be transferred to Liberal.

Leon stated that Manuel will be returning to work on Wednesday. He requested approval to retain Karl Hendrickson because Cliff is getting close to his 1000 hours; Cliff is part time. Approval was given to retain Karl Hendrickson on an as-needed basis.

Leon mentioned that they are not selling a lot of chemicals because there has been no rain. He has also cut down on the cost-sharing program for Roundup; he felt a lot of those purchasing the Roundup were not using the chemical on noxious weeds.

Kevin Shook entered the meeting and reported he will need to purchase a new sprayer. He has had to have the current sprayer worked on numerous times. He will try to get one ordered today.

Approval was given for Kevin to attend the Superintendent's Meeting on June 16th in Dodge City. Toro has asked Kevin to play on their six-man scramble team. Money from the tournament will go to turf grass research. Approval for attendance at this meeting and tournament was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Kevin mentioned that he has not seeded any grass at the Civic Center yet. Consensus of Kevin and the Commissioners was to wait until the Fall to do any seeding.

Kevin said he has gotten a lot of things trimmed up; he has had a couple of kids doing community service and they have helped trim the traps. Kevin also stated that he finalized his budget through the Advisory Board and will get it turned in to the Clerk this week.

Justin Holliday met with the Commissioners. The Commissioners mentioned to Justin that a call had been received from Joe Hartman regarding the need for a 2007 report indicating dates and times of law enforcement activity on the Grassland. According to the contract between the Sheriff's Department and the Forest Service, the Forest Service will pay the County \$3200 for providing law enforcement on the Grassland. Justin said he cannot find the report and he told this to Joe. The County, however, will not get the \$3200 until the Forest Service is provided a 2007 report of activities. Justin said he will continue looking for the report.

Justin asked the Commissioners why the bill he submitted for payment of a small office size refrigerator for the Elkhart Senior's all night party would be denied by the Clerk. The Clerk stated that she has been told by the Auditor that the County should not be making donations to Boy Scouts, etc. with taxpayer's money and she felt this fell into that category. Justin said that if he needed to, he would pay for the item himself. The Commissioners stated they would follow what the Auditor recommended. The Clerk suggested the special account the Sheriff has could be used for this item. Justin said he did not feel those who donated money to that fund would want him to use it in that manner and he would just pay for the refrigerator himself.

The Commissioners asked Justin if he has received any money for the drug dog yet. He said he has not. Justin asked Eric if he should follow-up his phone call with a letter requesting payment; Eric agreed he should do this.

Charley Tucker entered the meeting and reported all that is taking place at the Civic Center in June are the Grassland Heritage Festival activities. A discussion took place concerning some of the activities taking place.

Charley reported that the stage, lights and sound system are still not here.

Charley said he is so frustrated with the leaking roof. The guys came out on the 28th to check on the leaks but it was raining and they said they could not get on the roof to do anything. Previously, they said they could not do anything unless it was raining so they could see where the leaks were coming from.

Charley reported he called R-K Painting about painting the parking lot again but had to leave a message. Charley is still seeing chunks of asphalt coming up on the park lot. He has visited with Jim Tucker about the damage to the parking lot following the Co-op Annual Dinner.

Charley said he will contact Grant County to have one of their employees, who is looking for extra work, give us an estimate on doing the Kitchen and Bathroom floors at the Civic Center.

Deb Schnurr met with the Commissioners and reported they are having trouble with the newest ambulance. Everything has been checked out but no one can find anything wrong with it. She contacted the company and was informed that “people have been changing the filters.” She said they changed the filters but are still having problems. The vehicle is at the Guymon Ford Dealership because they have more ability to check it out.

Deb stated that the EMT class is done. All of the students passed their skills test. They will have to go out of town to take their remaining test.

Deb mentioned that Tausha Espinoza, part-time billing clerk at EMS, is now an EMT and would like to take call. Deb said she would really like for Tausha to be a full-time employee next year and is just giving the Commissioners a “heads up” as they review her 2009 Budget. The Commissioners advised Deb that for the remainder of 2008 Tausha cannot go over her 1000 hours as a part-time employee. If she does, indeed, take call, those hours will be included in the 1000 hours. They also emphasized, because this has been an issue several times in the past, that the billing is priority.

Deb mentioned that Tony has changed his mind about attending the instructor’s class. She also mentioned that Tri-County Electric wants to meet with EMS, Fire, and Law Enforcement on Thursday evening. Tri-County will be providing a meal for everyone.

The Commissioners asked Deb about the two EMTs who are still delinquent in paying their taxes. Deb said these two have been taken off the schedule until their taxes are current.

Tim Hardy entered the meeting and reported he has reviewed the Whistle Stop Park budget. Tim stated that approximately \$11,000 of the \$23,000 in that budget is earmarked for a Gazebo. Tim also stated that they are going to have to replace the water system, and they have equipment that needs maintained. At this time, there are no funds available to assist with the improvements to the walking paths in the Park.

The Commissioners signed the Golf Course part-time employees’ applications; the Payroll Form; the Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrant Registers; the Change Orders from the Appraiser’s Office; and re-appointed Calvin Perkins, Dallas Bressler and Gregg Daniels to the SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging Sub-Region Council.

A discussion took place concerning a letter the Clerk received from Becky Parker, Office Manager for Dr. Perido's Office. Becky suggested to the Commissioners that it would seem expedient, if the County is in the "saving" mode as far as saving taxpayers any money, to send new employees for their pre-employment exams to the other doctors in the Clinic because they don't charge as much as Dr. Perido. Becky stated that their charges in the clinic are based on the recommended charges per CPT coding and are related to the patient's age.

The Commissioners reviewed a thank you note from Kirk Walls. Mr. Walls expressed his appreciation for being given the "privilege" of attending the Kansas Emergency Medical Technicians Association Annual Conference in Hutchinson. Kirk thanked the Commissioners for not only supporting him, but also his co-workers.

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