

MINUTES  
MOLRTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 23, 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 as presented.

Minutes of the June 9, 2008 meeting were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

The Commissioners reviewed information prepared by the Clerk regarding the County's 2009 Valuation; a decrease of \$12,368,044 from last year. A discussion took place.

Road Petitions from Pioneer Communications and Epic Touch were reviewed and approved on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

A short discussion took place concerning an anonymous letter the Clerk and each Commissioner received concerning the Road Department.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve payment to the Morton County Health System in the amount of \$100,409.43 for the Assisted Living Facility.

Karena Meek met with the Commissioners and requested approval to purchase a large capacity paper tray for the copier in the District Court Clerk's Office the amount of \$1162. Approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron. The Capital Outlay Budget Request Form was signed. Purchase will be paid out of the Special Equipment Fund.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to sign the amended "Delinquency of Taxes Policy." This will be distributed to each employee in their paycheck.

The Software and Hardware Maintenance Agreement between Morton County and "nine-one-one" was reviewed and signed on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Representatives from Tri-County Electric, Zak Perkins, Manager, Customer Service; Rick Wayman, Construction Supervisor; and Erin Shurley, Public Relations Specialist, met with the Commissioners to review some of the growing demands for electricity; the demand is growing faster than the electricity can be generated. Mr. Perkins stated that until we get a national energy policy this problem will not go away. Tri-County has an emergency curtailment policy in place. There may be occasions when Tri-County will

have no notice and the electricity will just go off. Tri-County gets their electricity from Amarillo. Mr. Perkins encourages everyone to contact their representatives and demand a sound national energy policy.

Tom Fuhrman and Terry Lawhon, Landmark, met with the Commissioners. Tom discussed the County Valuation and where it comes from, the price of gas, etc. Also presented for the Commissioners' review was the contract with Landmark to provide appraisal maintenance to Morton County (2008-2009) in the amount of \$68,650. This is an 8% increase over last year but Terry explained that there has been no increase to the contract over the past 11 years. Terry further explained that with the installation of Orion there will be a lot of classes to attend. Following a discussion motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to sign the contract.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form, the Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrant Registers, and the Notices of Appointment to the SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging Sub-Regional Council.

Deb Schnurr entered the meeting and requested approval for her, Tausha Espinoza, Gwen Rodriguez, Kirk Walls and Marie Wright to attend the annual education symposium of the Kansas EMS Association to be held August 14-17. Deb said she plans to attend all four days while the others will attend three days. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Bob.

Deb mentioned that the hospital donated a striker cot to the EMS Department. However, it is not the same as what we use on our ambulances. Deb indicated that we will be able to exchange it for one that will work if the company can sell the donated one. She will work this out with the company they order from.

Approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron, to purchase four adult (\$365) and four baby manikins (\$374.56); the ones currently being used are at least 10 years old.

Deb also requested approval to purchase five new pagers at \$395 each to be paid out of the EMS Capital Outlay fund. Approval was given for this purchase on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Deb stated that EMS Week has come and gone and they were so busy that they did not have an opportunity to celebrate the event. The EMTs want to go bowling. Deb said she budgeted \$750 for EMS Week and thought that money could be used to pay for the EMTs bowling and, perhaps, pizza. The Commissioners stated that county money can be used to pay for the EMTs portion but not for their families. Approval to pay for the bowling and pizza was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Deb reported they got their ambulance back from Guymon but have to take it back because it is still not running right.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners at 11:15. Present were Justin, Karen, Vienna, Charley Tucker, Leon, Kevin, Tracie, Charles Hull, Charley McKinley, and Sally Akers.

-The Commissioners informed the Supervisors that the Valuation is down over twelve million dollars and stated that when they come to their budget hearing they should come with a very sharp pencil, or an eraser.

-A discussion took place concerning the visit with Tri-County Electric and the inevitable blackouts and brownouts that will occur in the upcoming months.

-The Commissioners also informed those present that from this day forward a new employee will not be permitted to start working until all physicals and drug tests are completed and confirmed negative.

-The Commissioners stated that whenever an employee checks out a van they will need to "sign out" the vehicle as well as the fuel card and keys. The Nusser fuel card had to be cancelled because it was lost. Any department who already has a fuel card should be using that card and not the general fund card.

-There are still some departments who have not turned in keys to their department to the Clerk to be kept in the Master Key Box in the vault.

-Fireworks have been banned in the County. Plans are still to have the big display but no fireworks are to be sold in the City.

Each supervisor then gave their individual department reports. Leon Ellis submitted the Morton County Landfill Groundwater Monitoring Report as prepared by HWS Consulting. This report is on file in the Clerk's Office.

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

Tracie Nixon met with the Commissioners and presented a request to purchase 55 APC Back-ups for county equipment in the amount of \$3,047.58 in preparation for the anticipated blackouts and brownouts. Approval for this purchase was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron. These will be paid out of the IT Commodities fund.

Charley McKinley entered the meeting. A discussion took place concerning the generator at the Shop. Charley said it is manual, not automatic; they prefer it to be manual.

A discussion took place concerning the parking lot at the Civic Center. The asphalt is soft and they may have sealed it too early, while it was still soft. A discussion also took place concerning the Whistle Stop Park walking paths. Charley said he visited with Bob Carlyle and he doesn't want to bid on the project; it would cost well over \$100,000 and the City doesn't have any funds to assist with the project this year.

Charley mentioned they are still sealing and should be done in a couple of weeks.

Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter from 1:10 to 1:30. No action taken after coming out of executive session.

Linda Thompson met with the Commissioners to report that the census at the federal housing facility is low; six vacancies now and another when the Assisted Living Facility opens. If the apartments don't get filled soon they will have to close and those residents will be forced to find places to live. Information item only.

A discussion took place concerning an email received regarding Gray's Lawn Service spraying the trees on the east side of the Courthouse and drenching the vehicles parked in that parking lot with insecticide; sunroofs were open and windows down. Employees that were affected by this act are very unhappy. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the complaint to Kevin Gray.

The Commissioners reviewed the IT Manager's Activity Report (June 2-20.) The Commissioners also reviewed the "Invitation to Comment" from EBI Consulting on behalf of Verizon Wireless regarding a proposed telecommunications facility installation in Morton County. This information is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Kevin Shook met with the Commissioners and reported he will need to replace some Driving Range equipment; he needs discs for the equipment that picks up the balls. The current discs are about 10 years old. Kevin said he has money in Gifts and Grants that can be used for this. Approval was given for this purchase.

A discussion took place concerning what might happen to the pump motors at the golf course if there are blackouts.

Justin Holliday entered the meeting and reported that beginning immediately the inmates will be served cereal and juice for breakfast, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch and a hot meal for dinner. He has also informed the deputies that they are to shut off their vehicles when not in use.

Justin mentioned that he has still not received any money for the drug dog. He has called the person the dog was purchased from but has gotten no response. Eric asked for the name and address of the fellow and he will write him a letter.

Justin stated he is working on a plan to check on the elderly in the event the electricity goes out.

Vienna Lee met with the Commissioners. Vienna stated that the Passport Agency is really pushing them to get their own photo equipment; they suggested a Sony system. Cost of the equipment is \$2000 for the photo equipment and the printer. A short discussion took place. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to purchase the equipment.

Vienna reported that Abner Delay has indicated he would be willing to rent the old veterinarian clinic to a prospective Veterinarian. A discussion took place. Vienna said she emailed the doctor but hasn't heard back from him yet indicating what his needs are.

Vienna mentioned that she attended a meeting in Stanton County with Darrell Birkenfield. Mr. Birkenfield works in the Ogallala Aquifer area. His company puts together cells consisting of three to four counties of youth to encourage young people to become entrepreneurs. Their goal is to encourage young people to start a business and stay in the area following graduation. There is a \$1500 membership fee and Vienna asked if this was something the Commissioners want her to pursue. Consensus of the Commissioners was to pursue this idea.

Vienna asked for clarification concerning the county-owned property on the highway. She had an individual ask if he could purchase the area where the cement slab is to construct a building to repair farm equipment; this would be for personal use. The Commissioners stated that the property was purchased, and has been zoned, for commercial use.

Vienna mentioned that Elkhart will host the PREDCI Board meeting in July and requested approval to provide dinner at the Clubhouse and then free rounds of golf for those wanting to play. Approval was given.

Charley Tucker met with the Commissioners and reported he is still waiting on the sound, stage and lighting for the Civic Center. He left another message with the salesman but has not heard anything back yet. Charley also said the roof is still leaking in the kitchen and lobby.

Charley has not heard anything back yet from the area representative regarding the overhead door banging when the wind blows.

The indoor and outdoor flag poles were delivered but he will have to contact someone to put the outdoor ones up.

Charley visited with Rick with RK Painting. Rick stated that he and the Sherwin Williams representative looked at the Civic Center parking lot and determined that the seal coat on the asphalt is what is causing the paint to not stick. Charley said there are still chunks of asphalt coming up in the parking lot and weeds have now pushed through the asphalt. The south side of the parking lot is also still holding water.

Charley reported there are some bulbs burned out in some of the parking lot light poles and he has no way to change them, nor does he have extra bulbs or know what kind they take. Bob said he would have some of his guys take a bucket truck to the parking lot and see if they can help out.

Charley reported the Fair Board will be meeting at the Civic Center this evening.

A discussion took place concerning renting the kitchen for a concession stand during the Fair and the charges, deposit, etc.

The Commissioners asked the Clerk and Charley to work together on getting a plaque made for the Civic Center. A discussion took place concerning the possibility of having a dedication ceremony.

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