

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 21, 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 July 7, 2008 meeting were approved as read.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

A discussion took place concerning the dedication ceremony for the Civic Center to be held on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Clerk gave an update on the bronze plaque that has been ordered.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to not pay the last Hobart bill for repairs to the dishwasher at the Rolla Senior Center. The serviceman did not repair the equipment the first time but did fix it the second trip; the Commissioners do not feel there should be any additional charges.

Joe Hartman, U.S. Forest Service, met with the Commissioners at their request. A discussion took place concerning putting cattle on the Grassland. Joe said this is the first year they have not been able to put any cattle on the Grassland. In fact, Joe reported, 2007 was the 10<sup>th</sup> driest year in 108 years of record and the precipitation Jan. 2008-June 2008 is only 2.28 inches. This has a tremendous effect on the ranchers in Morton County. Some have had to sell their entire herd while others are attempting to buy feed. Joe also mentioned that the precipitation received this year will affect what will happen next year because the roots on the grass are so fragile and need time to develop. Joe then distributed a "Record of Precipitation" 1900-current year for Elkhart; also drought information specific to 2008 (the driest in history to date.) The Commissioners thanked Joe for his time and the information provided.

Tracie Nixon entered the meeting and requested approval to purchase the Nex-Tech Security Appliance, the Intrusion Prevention Service, and Total Security Custom Solution in the amount of \$2256 per year. Approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Allen. The Capital Outlay form was signed giving Tracie approval to purchase 10 computers (budgeted) in the amount of \$13,820. Tracie distributed copies of her I.T. Manager's Activity Report for July 7-21.

The Commissioners signed the Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrant Registers, the Payroll Form, the signatory page of the FY 09 Community Correction Comprehensive

Plan budget, and the Program Income Report for Economic Development for Great Plains Development.

Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to approve paying Morton County Health System \$41,485.35 for architect fees and miscellaneous items for the Assisted Living Facility project.

The Commissioners approved the imaging and indexing agreement between Computer Information Concepts and the Register of Deeds in the amount of \$2306.40 on a motion from Ron, seconded by Allen.

Charley Tucker came to the meeting. A call was placed to Gary Parr, Parr Sound and Lighting. The Commissioners expressed to Mr. Parr their extreme disappointment that he has not delivered and installed the stage, sound system, and lighting, in the Civic Center that was promised to be installed by the end of May. Mr. Parr stated he has been extremely busy but does have some of our equipment in storage at this time. Mr. Parr also stated he is having trouble getting the pipe and drapes from his vendor in Canada. The Commissioners indicated that they have already paid over \$20,000 to Mr. Parr and they have nothing to show for the money. When asked when they can expect the sound, stage and lights to be installed Mr. Parr responded that he would guarantee that the lights and sound will be installed on or before September 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Parr also suggested that the County get a stage and pipe and draping out of a catalog and consider his bill paid in full. Eric informed Mr. Parr that if the equipment is not installed on or before September 20<sup>th</sup>, Morton County will consider suing him to get the funds already paid returned.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners for their regular monthly meeting. Present were: Tracie, Bob Doepp, Charley Tucker, Vienna, Charley McKinley, Leon, Larry, Karensa, Sally and Deb. The following items were discussed:

- The Commissioners reviewed their conversation with Joe Hartman and the impact the drought is having on the county.
- Eric reminded all present that whenever you reprimand an employee, whether it is verbally or written, a copy is to be placed in the personnel file in the County Clerk's office (Human Resources).
- Tracie has sent the E911 wireless grant to the State and we should know in September if accepted. Tracie also asked that all computers be turned off each night before leaving.
- Karensa reported the new panic buttons are working and they will be testing them each week. Also, the State has implemented imaging software and all pending cases are to be imaged by the end of August.
- Vienna asked for help in serving the free barbeque at the Fair on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Everyone who can help should plan to help set up about 4:00 p.m. and the barbeque will begin at 5:00.
- Charley Tucker reported on the exhibits that will be held in the Civic Center.
- Deb reported that all new EMTs but one are now certified.
- The Commissioners mentioned that there may be additional budget cuts after their visit with Steve Rice this afternoon.

-The Commissioners also stressed that when someone is going to use a county-owned vehicle to attend a meeting they are to check the vehicle out, as well as the gas card. Make sure the vehicle is fueled before returning it and turn the keys and fuel card in to the Sheriff's office if the Clerk's office is already closed; the vehicle is to be returned to the Courthouse when you get back into town, not the next day.

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

Charley McKinley reported on the Rolla Cemetery roads project. Charley will send them a bill for the materials used. It was mentioned that the sprinkler heads had the same color flags as did the road boundaries so some of the sprinkler heads were covered up. Heft & Sons did the asphaltting on those roads. Commissioner DeGarmo stated he asked the Rolla Cemetery Board to get bids to repair the sprinklers and the County will help pay for the repairs.

A discussion took place concerning the water overflowing up to the building on the south side of the Civic Center parking lot.

Leon mentioned that he is trying out a new chair in his office. Approval was given to purchase the chair in the amount of \$590 on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Deb Schnurr and Tony Hoyt entered the meeting. Deb presented the year-to-date receipts for EMS in the amount of \$49,813.17. Tausha Espinoza is the billing clerk at EMS and is doing a great job of collecting from both insurance and private pay. Approval was given for EMS to purchase a new Stryker Rugged Power-Pro XT Model 6500 Ambulance Cot in the amount of \$10,796 on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen they were able to trade in the donated cot and get \$4500 back. Deb said the new cot will save a lot of back injuries and will be placed on the transfer ambulance. The cot will be paid out of the Special Ambulance Fund.

Deb reported they are still having trouble with the newest ambulance. In visiting with Rocky Mountain Vehicle it was suggested that Guymon Ford perform real time diagnostics; this will be done this week. Deb stated there are only 2000 miles left on the vehicle's warranty and they need to do something soon. Consensus of the Commissioners was to have Guymon perform the real time diagnostics and then get someone to haul the vehicle to Denver and "get done with it."

Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to approve turning over to collections EMS accounts not paid in the amount of \$9880.42.

A short discussion took place concerning the possibility of hiring Tausha as a full-time employee the first of the year. No action taken at this time.

The Commissioners gave their approval for Deb to attend the Annual KEMA Meeting to be held September 17-19 on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Steve Rice, Hay-Rice & Associates, entered the meeting and presented the 2009 County Budget with changes made following the individual budget hearings. A lengthy discussion took place and additional budget cuts were made. Steve made the requested changes to the budget and presented the revised budget to the Commissioners. Approval was given to publish the budget with these changes. The formal Budget Hearing will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Bob expressed his appreciation to the other Commissioners, the Clerk, County Attorney, and Steve, for their work during this budget process.

The August meetings were tentatively scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

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