

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AUGUST 11, 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/County Elections Officer.

The Commissioners canvassed the August 5, 2008 Primary Election. The Clerk presented 25 Provisional Ballots for consideration. Per Statute, 20 of the ballots were eligible to be counted. The Provisional envelopes were opened and the ballots then processed on the M650 counting equipment. The results were added to the Grand Totals Report. The write-in candidates' tallies were reviewed and the Commissioners then signed the final results of the Primary Election.

The business meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. with open doors.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved with additions.

Minutes of the July 21, 2008 meeting were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to go into executive session at 9:30 to discuss a personnel matter. Present were the Commissioners and County Attorney. After coming out of executive session motion was made by Bob, seconded Allen, to go back into executive session for an additional 15 minutes. No action taken after coming out of executive session at 10:00.

A discussion took place concerning the estimate for repairs to the PAPI optical box at the Airport. The damage took place during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display when a small grass fire ignited and the fire truck ran over the box. Consensus of the Commissioners was to give the bill to Eric to discuss with the City Attorney and see if they can come to an agreement on who should pay the \$5000 for the repairs.

The Commissioners signed the application of Joan Frydendall to begin working in the Register of Deed's office as soon as all of the results of her pre-employment tests are received and are negative; salary will be \$13.00/hr.

Charley Tucker entered the meeting and reported on the Rick Trevino concert. Charley stated they took in \$4500 from the concert. Also, the Play Stuff inflatable did very well at the Fair; they took in \$4000 on the event. The Ranch Rodeo and Mutton Bustin were

also successful. A discussion took place concerning the exhibits displayed in the Civic Center during the Fair.

The 2009 County Budget Hearing was held at 10:30 with no objection. Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to approve the budget as presented.

Charley mentioned there are some door lock mechanisms not working at the Civic Center. Charley also mentioned that he and Amy each worked 83.5 hrs. last week because of the Fair.

Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Bob, for Charley to attend the International Special Events Society Professional Development Workshop to be held August 21-23 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Cost of the workshop is \$1140.

At this time Heather Varner met with the Commissioners as a matter of record. Ms. Varner discussed an incident that took place at her workplace, the Morton County Health System. Heather said she had requested some information be held confidential concerning an individual who was being considered for employment with the Health System but the CEO informed the prospective employee who had provided the information. When Heather visited with the CEO she said she felt he was very disrespectful to her and did not apologize for breaking her confidence; simply asked why she was even there. Heather stated she did not disrespect the CEO and was constantly interrupted when she tried to speak. The CEO told Heather that he could not tell her what he said to the new employee because it is confidential. Heather told the Commissioners she would like an apology from the CEO and, as an employee, shown some respect. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Ms. Varner in doing what she thought was right and for visiting with them. Consensus of the Commissioners was that they will visit with members of the Hospital Board of Trustees.

Charles Riordan, Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Project Manager, entered the meeting to give an overview of the planning process for the Airport Master Plan. Charles reviewed each element and then answered questions the Commissioners had. Mr. Riordan said he has already started an inventory of the existing conditions at the Airport and would be around for a couple more days. The Master Plan is being funded by a grant received from the FAA; the Clerk serves as the Airport Grant Manager.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch. Following lunch the Commissioners and Clerk drove the runways and taxiways at the Airport and also inspected the damaged PAPI optical box. Notice was made of the weeds growing in the runways, taxiways, and around the lights.

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners. The Commissioners asked Charley if he could arrange to mow around the lights at the Airport and around the shoulders of the runways and taxiways. Leon Ellis was asked if he would spray around the lights and the shoulders of the runways and taxiways. Also, the Commissioners said there is bindweed growing on one of the shoulders of a taxiway and it needs treated.

Charley showed the Commissioners pictures he took of both the Ediger and Anderson roads. A discussion took place. Consensus of all present was that if they need something done to the road to get their grain out of the field the Road Department can blade the road, but, in the mean time, they will mow.

Charley requested approval to open bids for two new mowers at the next meeting, August 25<sup>th</sup>. The mowers were budgeted for 2008. Approval was given on a motion from Allen, seconded by Ron.

Charley also requested consideration to hire a truck driver. Approval was given to begin advertising this position.

The Commissioners asked Charley if he sent the Fair Board a bill for the crushed cement they used to make a walking trail between the fairgrounds and the Civic Center. Charley said he did get the bill sent. The Commissioners indicated that when the funds are received they need to be deposited in the Landfill budget because the sale of the cement is part of their budgeted income.

Charley distributed a copy of his July Road Department Report.

Commissioner Boaldin mentioned to Leon that he drove around with Richard Pfaff and looked at some scrap metal. Leon said they have had a good working relationship with another fellow who buys the scrap metal at the Landfill. He will make contact with the individual and if he cannot pay as much as Mr. Pfaff is willing to pay he will consider selling the scrap metal to Mr. Pfaff in the future.

Leon stated he needs a small engine for the spray truck. Cost of the engine is approximately \$1100. Approval was given on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Leon reported that he and Gwen will be working in the Noxious Weed booth at the State Fair; Gwen will work Sept. 10-11 and Leon will work Sept. 12-13-14. Motion to approve Leon and Gwen both working at the Fair was given on a motion by Ron, and, reluctantly, seconded by Allen.

Leon said he and Gwen will be attending a 1-C training session for chemicals in Garden City on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Approval for attendance at this training was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Leon also mentioned he and Gwen will be attending a recycling workshop in Salina on September 24-25. Approval for attendance at this workshop was given on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

A discussion took place concerning plans for "Little KAC" to be held on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Jay Williams has indicated he would cook the pork and brisket. Other menu items were discussed. Gwen said she will order the canvass bags for the registrants.

Vienna Lee met with the Commissioners and requested approval to attend the Dairy University to be held in Dodge City August 26-27. This workshop is sponsored by wKREDA, of which the County is a member. Approval for attendance was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

A discussion took place concerning the free barbeque that was served at the Fair. Approval was given for Vienna to purchase a manual can opener with a clamping base.

Kevin Shook entered the meeting and reported that one of the electrical motors for the irrigation pump went out. He sent the motor to Hooker for repairs but they have not returned it yet. Kevin requested approval to purchase another motor to use as a back-up. He will have to get the cost and let the Commissioners know. Approval to purchase a spare motor was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Allen.

Kevin mentioned this is the last week for his summer help. Also, there is a couple's tournament this coming weekend and they are all busy getting ready for that.

The Commissioners asked Kevin if he would place some ads in some golf magazines advertising the golf course as a fly-in course. Kevin said he would also contact Randy Crosley, a pilot, to see if he can recommend any other magazines to place ads.

Justin Holliday met with the Commissioners. Ron said he has received some complaints of people driving too fast on North Street Road. Justin said he and Loren Coen have actually issued some tickets on that road and are watching the area.

Justin mentioned he is putting together a policy to ensure the safety of the elderly and those with special needs in the event of another black-out. He and his staff will contact those using Lifeline, on oxygen, the elderly, etc. to make sure they have what they need.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter from 3:00-3:15. Present were the Commissioners, Eric, and Justin. No action taken after coming out of executive session.

Karensa Meek, District Court Clerk, met with the Commissioners to discuss an incident that took place in the Courthouse on election night; the Clerk had already taken the matter to the Sheriff. Karensa said she wanted the Commissioners to be aware that this was not an isolated incident and there are witnesses who can testify to that if needed. Approval was given for Karensa to change the key pad code and have a deadbolt installed on the back door to the Court Clerk's office.

Deb Schnurr entered the meeting and reported the mechanics found a small hole in one of the hoses on the new ambulance and that could have caused the intermittent vacuum failure. The vehicle is working great now.

A discussion took place concerning the Special Ambulance fund and approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Allen, for Deb to purchase a soft enclosure for the 4x4 Treker at a cost of \$1657 plus freight. This will be paid out of Special Ambulance.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form and the Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrant Registers.

The Commissioners asked the Clerk to contact Tom Job with KCAMP and see if he can attend the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting to give an in-depth outline of what is, and what is not, covered under our liability insurance.

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