

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 25, 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 August 11, 2008 meeting were approved as read on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

A short discussion took place concerning the PAPI box at the Airport that was destroyed during the July 4th fireworks display. Eric reported that a county employee was driving the county fire truck and, therefore, the County is responsible. Consensus of the Commissioners was that the bill for replacing the PAPI will be paid by County Fire.

A discussion took place concerning an email recently sent to KDHE regarding an incident that took place between an employee and the CEO of Morton County Health System. A call was placed to Leonard Hernandez asking if he would come to the meeting.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the Road Petition from Epic Touch Company on a motion from Ron, seconded by Allen.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form, the Abatement Order from the Appraiser's Office, and the Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrant Registers.

Leonard Hernandez entered the meeting. The Commissioners gave Leonard a copy of the email that was sent to KDHE. A discussion took place concerning Heather Varner's visit with the Commissioners at their August 11th meeting. Leonard stated that the Health System did not have a pre-employment drug "retesting" policy at the time the employee in question was hired. Since that time they have revised their policy to include retesting. Mr. Hernandez stated he does not feel he owes Ms. Varner an apology for anything. What he discussed with the newly hired employee is confidential and he will not discuss it with anyone. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Hernandez for his time and Leonard left the meeting.

Vienna Lee, Larry Meschke, and Carol Myers met with the Commissioners. Ms. Myers stated she deals with the Community Development side of the Southwest Regional Office of the Department of Commerce, and Mr. Meschke deals with the

Business Development side. Ms. Myers is new to her position and is in the process of visiting each City and County in her region.

Bob gave a report on his recent trip to Salt Lake City, along with other Commissioners of the WEKANDO counties, John Pinnegar, and John Frieden. The purpose of the meeting was to visit with the owner of the Cimarron Railroad. Both Allen and Ron stated they feel WEKANDO is doing the right thing in trying to keep the railroad open.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners for their regular monthly meeting. Present were Larry, Tracie, Charles, Charley McKinley, Kevin, Gwen, Leon, Sally. Sally introduced Joan Frydendall as a new employee in the Register of Deeds Office. Items emphasized in this meeting included:

- When you buy cell phone minutes, be sure to write the phone number on the voucher submitted for payment.

- Make sure YOU mark where you want your vouchers to be paid

(Commodities,

Contractual, Capital Outlay.) The Clerk's Office is not comfortable deciding how

- to spend your budget and will return any voucher not marked.

-Concerning vouchers to pay interpreters, the Clerk's Office needs some kind of

signed statement from the interpreter. Tracie said she could order some statement

- pads for this purpose.

-Whenever an item, or attendance at a workshop, is requested and approved by

the Commissioners, please make sure you give the Clerk a copy of the item to be

- purchased or the announcement of the workshop for the Commissioners' files (public record)

-If a copy of the registration for a workshop goes with the check, please make that

- copy.

The Supervisors then gave their individual department reports. Tom Job, KCAMP Administrator, entered the meeting and the Commissioners introduced him to the Supervisors. KCAMP is the County's liability insurance. Mr. Job said he was happy to meet some of the faces he talks to on the phone. The Supervisors then left the meeting.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Job for coming to the meeting. The Commissioners asked Mr. Job to elaborate on what coverage the County has, namely the Civic Center, regarding special events. Tom said that the County is generally protected if someone slips and falls, up to \$1000. However, if someone slips and falls because of a condition on the premises, and the condition was not remedied, the County is subject to a general liability claim (county negligence.)

Mr. Job further stated that special events sponsored by other vendors are not covered under the County's liability insurance. A discussion took place on some of the events coming up at the Civic Center. Tom will look into additional insurance the County can purchase for special events. He encouraged the County to have those renting the Civic Center to sign a hold harmless form. He strongly recommended no events be held until the County hears back from him.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Job about a claim filed by Ernie Barnes against the Landfill. Tom said he is waiting for Ernie's attorney to finalize the details. It is Tom's understanding that the claim is resolved. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Tom for coming from Topeka to visit with them. Mr. Job then left the meeting.

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

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners. Also present was Al Fetterly, Scott Power. Bids were opened for two mowers for the Road Department as follows:

-Cornerstone Sales	Two John Deere H15 Rotary Cutters with trade-in
\$17,246.80	
-Scott Power	Two Bush Hog 2715 Mowers with trade-in
\$20,740.00	

Following a discussion and comparison of the bids, motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to purchase the two John Deere mowers.

Charley mentioned he has received four applications for the Truck Driver position. He shared those with the Commissioners for their review. Charley said he would conduct interviews and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

The September meetings were tentatively set for September 4th and September 15th.

Gwen Rodriguez met with the Commissioners and reported they are short staffed at the Landfill. Two employees are in the hospital and they have asked Karl Hendrickson to fill in.

Kevin Shook entered the meeting. Kevin said he visited with Randy Crosley and Randy has a couple of pilot magazine subscriptions and has indicated he will get Kevin information on whom to contact to advertise the golf course as a fly-in course.

Kevin reported that the cost of a motor to be used as a back-up for the irrigation pump will cost \$2100. He does not have an estimate at this time of the cost for

the repairs to the old one. Approval to purchase a back-up motor was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Ron.

Kevin mentioned he got the grass seed in around the Civic Center. The wind, however, has been pretty high and he is sure some of the seed is gone.

Justin Holliday met with the Commissioners and said he has received three applications for the full-time Dispatcher position. Justin requested approval to advertise for a part-time Dispatcher. Approval was given to advertise this position.

Justin reported the tornado sirens' reset button is not working. G&G is working on the problem. Justin also reported he is considering purchasing a pressure washer; he would like an electric one. He will check with Pete Orth on the cost and Commissioner Boaldin will check with his staff to see how much the one they use cost.

Bob mentioned that he visited with Jennifer Senseley, FSA Office, and she said that Bill Fuller calls her quite often. Mr. Fuller is of the opinion that the County should put up some money to help the FSA Office out because when it was a possibility that the FSA Office might close, the County said they would do all they could to keep the Morton County Office open. The Conservation District purchased the building that houses FSA and has submitted their plan to remodel, according to their specs, to Washington. They have not heard yet if their plan has been accepted. A discussion took place. No action taken at this time.

A discussion took place concerning a fuel card to be used by employees to purchase fuel only when taking a county-owned vehicle to a long distance workshop. Consensus of the Commissioners was to apply for a Wright Express Business card with the stipulation that if the employee does not bring back a receipt for the purchase, the employee will personally pay for the fuel. The Clerk will apply for the card.

The Commissioners reviewed the Loss Prevention Report from Carl Eyman, KWORCC Loss Prevention Representative. One item Mr. Eyman suggested was to consider reversing the bathroom stall doors at the Civic Center to allow access in case of an emergency. A call was placed to Ashley Fiss, Architect for the Civic Center. Ashley stated she was not aware of any regulation requiring the doors to open out, instead of opening inward. She is aware that there must be enough room between the door and the counter to allow for a wheelchair to get through. And, the handicapped accessible bathrooms have a door that allows access in case of an emergency. Consensus of the Commissioners was to leave the doors as they are at this time.

The Clerk reported there were a lot of leaks in the Library roof during the last rain. She has contacted KCAMP and they will have the same adjuster look at the Library when he looks at the Courthouse roof.

A short discussion took place concerning the KAC hotel accommodations and registration. All Commissioners and the Clerk will plan to attend this year's annual meeting in Wichita.

Commissioner Tucker reported he checked at the Lumber Yard to see if they had an extension lift that could be rented to change light bulbs at the Civic Center or to get the electrical boxes down; they do not have one.

The Commissioners reviewed an invitation to Judy Moler's retirement celebration. Judy is the KAC Attorney. The Commissioners asked the Clerk to have something sent to Ms. Moler with their congratulations.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. on a motion from Allen, seconded by Ron.