

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 24, 2008

Bob called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with open doors.

Present: Bob Boaldin, Chairman; Allen Tucker, Vice-Chairman; Eric Witcher, County Attorney; Mary Gilmore, County Clerk

The Agenda was reviewed and approved with additions.

Minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting were approved as read on a motion by Allen, seconded by Bob.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

A discussion took place concerning the old Airport Courtesy Car. Consensus of the Commissioners was to add the vehicle at the end of an upcoming tax auction.

The Road Petition from Anadarko was reviewed and approved on a motion by Allen, seconded by Bob.

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

Tracie Nixon met with the Commissioners to discuss a concern that Intrada will not release approval for any 911 calls to come to Morton County from Texas County without a letter of assurance indicating Morton County will not try to get any of Texas County's 911 money. A lengthy discussion took place.

Vicki Peacock entered the meeting. Vicki stated that Morton County has had a peak deposit agreement with The First National Bank of Elkhart, as per KSA 9-1403, since 12/01/1992 and questioned whether in light of the current financial state of the nation if this is an agreement that we should continue. Vicki stated she visited with Steve Rice, Auditor, about this situation and Steve said it would be good to visit with the Commissioners about the matter. Vicki said she visited with The First National Bank but was told that the information she wanted was not available to anyone. A call was placed to Shan Hanes asking him to come to the meeting. Shan and Danny White came to the Courthouse and visited with Vicki in her office. They were able to give her web sites to assist in acquiring some of the information requested. Vicki reported to the Commissioners that she is more comfortable with the agreement now.

Vicki mentioned that Charley Tucker had asked her about setting up a new fund to deposit the income from the Festival of Trees project. Following a discussion the Commissioners were of the opinion that since the event is not a county-sponsored function the money should not be deposited with the County. A call was placed to Steve

Rice, Auditor, and to Tim Hardy asking if they could come to the meeting. Tim stated that he has already set up a Whistle Stop Park Lighting Fund and reported that the City Council is in favor of the project. Steve indicated that any donations made to the project will not be tax deductible because the group does not have a 501C3. A call was then placed to Charley Tucker asking if he could come to the meeting. Charley stated he is busy. The Commissioners placed the call on the speaker and a discussion took place. The Commissioners then informed Charley that the income from the Festival of Trees event will need to be given to the City to be placed in the Whistle Stop Park Lighting Fund. This information was also given to Vicki.

Joe Hartman and Charles Hull met with the Commissioners regarding the fire agreement between Morton County Fire and the Forest Service. Joe stated the Forest Service is interested in pursuing a mutual aid agreement as opposed to the reimbursable agreement used in the past. Joe said that the mutual aid agreement would entail all entities responding to a fire at their own expense, within a certain boundary zone. The Forest Service would also respond to any private land fire within that boundary zone. Charles said he has a concern about not receiving the funds generated by the reimbursable agreement concept. Following a discussion Joe said he would have a mutual aid agreement draft drawn up, along with a plan, and have the Commissioners and Eric review them prior to a final agreement being signed.

Joe reported that gas and oil production on the Grasslands is decreasing. He stated that this is something that needs to be considered during the 2010 budget preparation.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners at 11:00 a.m. Present were Charles Hull, Charley McKinley, Tracie Nixon, Gwen Rodriguez, Justin Holliday, Vicki Peacock, Kevin Shook, Deb Schnurr, Rhianna Shaw, Kendra Smith and Karensa Meek. The following items were discussed:

\*The Commissioners reminded everyone that only county employees are authorized to make charges to Morton County. Some bills have been submitted for payment that are signed by someone other than a county employee (contractors, spouses, etc.)

\*The Commissioners also reminded those present that the only credit card a department is authorized to use is a card to purchase fuel. Credit cards are not, and will not be permitted to make purchases.

\*The Clerk addressed comments made concerning the need for Payroll to have the timesheets early. Payroll deals with not only entering hours worked, vacation time, sick time, and overtime, but also garnishments, no pay hours, and the need to have payroll completed and the information faxed to the bank two days prior to payday and a tape of all of the information to the bank the day before payday (at 8:00 a.m.) This payday also presented a need for early timesheets because of the two days off for Thanksgiving and payday is the Monday following Thanksgiving. Other occasions Payroll may ask for timesheets early may be due to upcoming vacation time for the Payroll Clerk, etc. The Clerk expressed her sincere appreciation to those who unquestioningly provide the

timesheets when requested (day and time.) It takes a long time to do Payroll as the Payroll Clerk has many interruptions that include calling for clarification on timesheets, sometimes waiting for return phone calls regarding timesheets, performing Human Resource duties, etc.

Each Supervisor then gave their individual department reports.

Following the Supervisor's Meeting Rhianna presented the Commissioners a copy of the Health Department's monthly report 11/01/08 – 11/24/08.

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

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners and requested approval to open bids for a new grader on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Approval was given on a motion by Bob, seconded by Allen.

Deb Schnurr entered the meeting and presented the EMS monthly report for October. Deb also discussed the recent increase in the amount of Medicare reimbursement. Deb presented a suggested fee for services EMS might charge, which were just under the Medicare charges. Approval to change the EMS fees for services was given on a motion by Allen, seconded by Bob.

Deb presented the Contract and Agreement between Oklahoma Panhandle State University and Morton County Emergency Medical Services agreeing that EMS will permit students of the University to practice Intermediate Emergency Medical Technology under the direct supervision and responsibility of the faculty of OPSU. Morton County EMS will provide clinical experience and on-the-job instruction to the students. Bob signed the Agreement.

A call was placed to Steve Rice asking how a dozer might be purchased for the Landfill. Steve said he would come to the meeting and review both the 2008 and 2009 budgets. Steve said that whatever money the Landfill brings in from the sale of the crushed concrete can be used first and the balance paid out of one of the special road funds. Steve reminded the Commissioners that no funds were budgeted for a dozer in 2008 and any consideration would have to be made within the 2009 budget; heavy equipment is generally not purchased until the end of the year.

Justin Holliday met with the Commissioners and presented the application of Christie Kee to fill the part-time Dispatcher position. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to approve hiring Mrs. Kee at a wage of \$9.00/hr. Approval was given for Justin to begin advertising the full-time position on a motion by Bob, seconded by Allen.

The Commissioners approved hiring Leo Carrillo as a part-time Dispatcher on an as needed basis at \$9.00/hr. Leo will have to complete all of the requirements any new employee has to do because of his break in employment with the County.

A discussion took place concerning unused vacation days Tarah Burnett has. Justin stated that at this time it may be impossible for Tarah to take her vacation days because the Department is so short staffed. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Allen, to approve a carry over of three days, if needed, for Tarah. The vacation days will need to be used as soon as possible in 2009.

Shelby Chapman discussed some of the details of the Christmas Party to be held on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Clerk mentioned that the Morton County Landfill Groundwater Monitoring Report is on file in the Clerk's office.

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