

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 14, 2008

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

Present: Allen Tucker, Vice-Chairman; Ron DeGarmo, Commissioner; Eric Witcher, County Attorney; Mary Gilmore, County Clerk. Chairman, Bob Boaldin, was out of town this day.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved as presented.

Minutes of the December 12, 2007, December 17, 2007, and January 8, 2008 meetings were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

At this time the election of officers took place. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to keep the officers the same as in 2007; Bob Boaldin, Chairman; Allen Tucker, Vice-Chairman; Ron DeGarmo, Commissioner.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to transfer funds from the General Fund to Special Equipment Reserve; Rural Fire to Special Fire Equipment; Noxious Weed to Special Noxious Weed Equipment; Ambulance to Special Ambulance Equipment; and Road and Bridge to either Special Highway Equipment or Special Highway Improvement.

Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to designate the Tri-State News as the official newspaper for Morton County.

Motion was made by Allen, seconded by Ron, to designate the First National Bank of Elkhart and the Colorado East Bank as the official depositories for Morton County.

Resolution 2008-1 was signed on a motion by Ron, seconded by Allen (A RESOLUTION ADOPTING STANDARDS FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORTING.)

At this time Ron suggested Morton County put Orr Construction on notice. A call will be placed to Ashley today regarding the punch list not being completed at the Civic Center and the County's wishes to implement the penalty clause of the contract.

The contract between Morton County and Kirkham Michael to provide professional engineering services for the preparation of spill prevention, control and countermeasure plan for the Road Department was signed on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve the Road Petition from OXY.

The Commissioners signed the Change Orders from the Appraiser's Office and the Treasurer; the application for Adam Carey, Sheriff's Deputy (starting salary \$2000/mo); the Payroll Form; the Accounts Payable Warrant Registers; the Payroll Warrant Register; the Employer-Owned Vehicles forms; and the KCAMP Public Official's Bond.

The next January Commissioners Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 22nd at 9:00 a.m.

Brandi Fleming entered the meeting and presented the contract between KDHE and the Morton County Health Department (Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response – Pandemic Influenza.) The amount of the grant is \$5089. The Commissioners signed the contract on a motion from Ron, seconded by Allen.

The Commissioners approved Brandi and Rhianna to attend the KDHE workshop regarding packing and shipping diagnostic and infectious specimens on a motion by Allen, seconded by Ron. The workshop will be held in Garden City on March 12th.

Brandi presented the year end Encounter Report for 2007. A total of 4378 different services were provided by the Health Department in 2007.

A bill from Hobart for repairs to the Rolla Senior Center's dishwasher was discussed and reviewed by Eric. The Commissioners asked Eric to write a letter to this company regarding some of their charges.

The February Commissioners Meetings were tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 4th and Tuesday, February 19th.

Charles Hull met with the Commissioners and reported he will be sending specs out for a new fire vehicle for Richfield. Sealed bids will be opened on February 19th.

Eric requested approval to purchase a new copier for District Court from the Diversion Fund in the amount of \$12,039. Approval was given.

At this time Deb Schnurr and Tony Hoyt entered the meeting. Deb presented the Commissioners a copy of the EMS 2007 Report indicating how many calls each EMT/Paramedic took throughout the year. The Commissioners asked Deb to provide them a report indicating the amount collectible vs. the amount non-collectible. Deb said she would have this ready for the next meeting.

Approval was given for Deb and Tony to attend the Difficult Airway Course in Denver February 22-23. The Commissioners expressed their concern whether Morton County would be adequately covered if both Deb and Tony attend the course. Deb said one of them would not attend if they could not get coverage for Morton County. However, Deb said she thought someone from Guymon would cover for them.

Deb requested approval to purchase some new Stryker chairs (used when the EMTs have to use stairs to get a patient to the ambulance) out of the Special Ambulance Equipment Fund. Approval was given.

Tony reported the new EMS pickup is in at Ford. Once they get it all checked out he will have to have the topper put on it and then have the signage done.

Tim Hardy entered the meeting and reported that the Main Street Project will begin today. The plan is to begin in front of the Courthouse and work down Morton Street.

Leonard Hernandez and Quint Harn, from the Hospital, met with the Commissioners. Leonard presented the Commissioners a copy of the new Assisted Living Brochure. A short discussion took place.

A discussion took place concerning the alleyway east of the Assisted Living. At this time the area will not drain. Leonard and Tim Hardy asked if the County could do anything to help this situation since it is a county-owned project that has caused the problem. Leonard asked if the County could, perhaps, haul in some fill dirt and crushed cement. The Commissioners said they would look at the area following lunch this day.

Leonard reported that Orr Construction has asked for their contract days to be extended because of the "power situation." Orr thinks they need "about a month." Leonard informed Orr that they need to put their request in writing, indicating the exact number of days they are asking for (the current completion date is February 28th.)

A call was received from Todd Sherlock, Real Estate Manager for Duckwall-Alco Stores, Inc. A discussion took place concerning the wording in the contract for the sale of the highway property. Mr. Sherlock said he would make the changes requested by Morton County and send a new contract that can be signed on January 22nd. Mr. Sherlock stated that Phase 1 of the project should begin within the next week or so.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch. Following lunch the Commissioners went to the Civic Center to look at the floors. Sanding and vacuuming was taking place. One of the workers stated he doesn't know when they will be finished with the floors. Concern was expressed that there is an event planned for the weekend of the 19th and the floors have to be finished by then. No guarantees were given. A call will be placed to Mark Morrell, floor contractor. The Commissioners then drove to the Assisted Living project to view the alleyway. Tim Hardy and Charley McKinley met the Commissioners at the site. Tim stated that it is almost impossible for the trash truck to get down that alley because of the standing water and ruts. The Commissioners indicated they would further address this matter later in their meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Charley McKinley reported that the Road Department finished paving December 21st. Charley said that most of the asphalt work in 2008 will be in Richfield. Some patching

will also be scheduled. He hopes to do all of 2nd Street Road and nine miles up north of CIG (total of 30 miles). Charley has contracted for 5500 tons of ½ inch rock from Holly this year. He is looking for a place along Highway 27 to stock pile some rock at this time.

A discussion took place concerning the alleyway at the Assisted Living project. Consensus of the Commissioners was that the County could haul in some top soil, the City of Elkhart could grade it, and the Hospital could pay for the crushed concrete.

Charley mentioned that his biggest snow removal problems have been the Airport and the Civic Center. He is considering trying to get an old KDOT truck with a shovel on it that can be kept in the Airport/Civic Center area. He talked to Garden City but they don't have any trucks available at this time.

Charley reported that the new sign is on the Road Department Building and looks very nice. He also reported that Kirkham Michael has started on the spill containment plan.

Charley presented the Commissioners a copy of his November and December monthly reports.

A discussion took place concerning the landscaping at the Civic Center. Charley said he will begin stockpiling some dirt so it will be available when we need it. Ron stated that the County will probably have a landscaping firm do the landscaping with an underground sprinkler system.

At this time Rick Wolters, Wolters Construction, entered the meeting. Mr. Wolters stated that his company finished their work in the Civic Center in April 2007 and has still not received any of their retainage money. Rick said that there have been a lot of contractors going in and out of the building and he has been called back to make repairs to items that were in good condition when his company finished their work. There have been several events in the Civic Center, as well as rough contractors in and out since April, and he cannot keep coming back to make repairs to items that were in good condition when he left in April. The Commissioners were sympathetic to his situation and said they would visit with Ashley Fiss about the matter.

Rick further mentioned that Wolters Construction is finishing some clean up work at the Assisted Living project now. They are finished with the drywall and are owed about \$40,000. He said he knows Orr will no doubt make excuses to reduce the amount of retainage they owe him.

The Commissioners told Mr. Wolters that they will contact Jon Ryman, Orr Construction, and schedule a time to meet with him at their January 22nd meeting.

Kevin Shook met with the Commissioners and reported several golf memberships were sold as Christmas gifts. He will also begin advertising for more help at the Clubhouse when he gets back from his Florida trip.

Ron reported that Sam Eiland has agreed to have his name placed on the Advisory Board Ballot. The Clerk will prepare the ballot with the following names: Leonard Hernandez, Tate Grasz, Tom Wiggins and Sam Eiland. Three positions are to be filled on the Advisory Board.

Kevin reported he had 3.5 million gallons of water left at the end of December.

Vienna Lee entered the meeting. Vienna stated she is putting together a list of rail shippers for the upcoming WEKANDO meeting. Vienna also reported she has been invited to attend the 8 Wonders of Kansas ceremony in Topeka on January 29th. Governor Sebelius will announce the winners at that time. Approval was given for Vienna to attend this ceremony.

Vienna mentioned that plans are again being made for the Great Santa Fe Trail Horse Race. The riders will stay the night in Elkhart on September 4th.

Justin Holliday, Nate Gant and Adam Carey entered the meeting. Justin requested approval to purchase new front and rear light bars for the new Ford pickup at a cost of \$1674.90. The light bars will be installed by G&G in Guymon. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve this purchase. The Capital Outlay Budget Request Form was signed.

Justin gave a year-end report outlining staff who left or retired and staff who were hired.

Justin stated that Deputy Carey is on the waiting list to attend the Academy. An officer must attend the Academy within one year of active duty. However, since all of the dates are filled at this time, this requirement can be waived.

Justin requested consideration to send Deputy Gant to the D.A.R.E. training in Mississippi March 3-14. Cost of the training is \$1399 per officer, plus \$445 round trip air fare. Justin also plans to send a City Officer. The officers will stay at the training site and all meals are included in the registration fee. Justin said he would ask Eric if he would consider using some of the Diversion funds for this training. The City of Elkhart has agreed to send an officer regardless if Diversion funds are used. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Allen, to approve attendance at this training.

Justin returned to the meeting and reported that Eric has agreed to use Diversion funds to pay for the County Deputy's D.A.R.E. training.

The Commissioners asked Justin about two vouchers submitted for payment; one regarding the purchase of "building check" cards and one indicating a large number of text messages. Justin responded that the night officers are required to check buildings in both Elkhart and Rolla to make sure their doors are locked. A card is then left advising the owner that their building was checked. Justin also stated that he approves using the text messaging because it saves time vs. making a phone call.

Charley Tucker met with the Commissioners. Charley stated he attended the Lions Club meeting this day; the Theatre Group gave the program and they are looking for some help. Charley has made some contacts regarding various stages available and which ones might best suit the Group's needs.

Charley mentioned that the Civic Center Kitchen is not hooked up to the emergency generator and asked if it should be, since the Center is the designated emergency shelter and we would probably need the Kitchen. The Commissioners will visit with Ashley about this.

Charley reported the ice machine is still not hooked up. Ashley said we are still on Wildcat Electric's list to get it done. Wildcat Electric can also put the event hall lights on a separate breaker to allow some dimness for dances.

Charley stated he is still waiting for something to get done on the refrigerator that was delivered damaged. He said he feels the County deserves a new one rather than the company making an adjustment on the damaged one.

Charley said he wanted to make the Commissioners aware that the workers who have been doing the sanding on the floors at the Civic Center have been dumping the acid dust outside the back door in the flower bed (information only).

Charley gave an overview of the Fairs & Festivals conference he attended in Topeka. This was very informative. The Commissioners advised Charley that they do want him to bring entertainment to the Civic Center.

Charley mentioned there is a User's Conference (free) for the Fastbook Program in Mesa, AZ February 14-16. Approval was given for Charley to attend.

The Commissioners reviewed the I.T. Manager's Activity Reports (Nov. 26-Dec. 17 and Dec. 17-Jan 14). Also reviewed was the Architect's Field Report (12-12-2007) for the Assisted Living Facility.

The Commissioners reviewed information from the Treasurer, including the top ten taxpayers in Morton County in 2007. These Taxpayers paid over 68% of Morton County's 2007 taxes (\$11,479,415.73). Total 2007 Morton County taxes owed was \$16,696,290.24. The Commissioners also reviewed the Report of Idle Funds Investments and the 2007 Tax Abstract indicating the amount of unpaid taxes to date.

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