

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 26, 2009

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

Present: Bob Boaldin, Chairman; Ron DeGarmo, Vice-Chairman; Teresa Harder, Commissioner; Eric Witcher, County Attorney; Mary Gilmore, County Clerk

The Agenda was reviewed and approved with additions.

Minutes of the January 12, 2009 and January 16, 2009 meetings were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Teresa, seconded by Ron.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Teresa, to re-appoint Kent Hagman to the Southwest Regional Juvenile Detention Center Advisory Board.

Bob shared information he received from the State concerning inevitable cuts that will be made to both Cities and Counties in 2009. The Commissioners asked Steve Rice to take a look at the information and help to determine how these changes might affect Morton County's 2009 Budget.

At this time the following people met with the Commissioners to discuss the items still incomplete at the Assisted Living Facility: Jack Higgins, John Milburn, Kenny Mitchell, Hospital Board Members; Jeff Weaver, CFO; Lori Rodriguez, Assisted Living Director; Leonard Hernandez, CEO (by phone); Bryan Young and David Wright, Architects (by phone). A discussion took place concerning items to be discussed when Ken Kure, Orr Construction, was called. Consensus of all present was that the County should keep all money still owed on the project and take bids to finish all of those items not completed by the Contractor or sub-contractors.

Ken Kure came on-line to join the meeting. Bryan asked what the status was in completing the punch list for the Assisted Living. Ken stated he sent the list to Jon Ryman to mark up. Ken also stated that many of the issues on the punch list had been resolved as long as eight months ago, according to the sub-contractors. In fact, the doors are not even an issue! Ken said he sent Jon to the facility to visit with Lori and get a list of everything needing attention. Leonard, Quint and Lori all agreed that no one has ever come to the facility to visit with any of them. Ken said he absolutely disagrees that the items on the punch list are still incomplete and he is not going to argue about it anymore. Bryan told Ken that as of January 9, 2009 this list is correct but Ken said it is drastically incorrect based on what was accepted and not accepted. Ken did indicate that he felt he and Bryan needed to go over the punch list at another time, just between the two of them. Bryan stated there was no reason to talk separately if they are not at the facility to view the items stated. Commissioner Boaldin informed Ken that the punch list items need to

get done within a specific timeline or the County will get someone else to complete the items and pay them out of what is still pending to Orr Construction.

Following this lengthy discussion Ken Kure agreed to come to Elkhart and meet with everyone and review the punch list. Eric informed Mr. Kure that this needs to be done within the next 30 days. Ken said he will be in contact with Bryan and let him know when he can come to Elkhart. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to all who took time to attend this teleconference.

The Supervisor met with the Commissioners for their regular monthly meeting. Present were Sally, Rhianna, Vienna, Justin, Deb, Charley McKinley, Charles, Leon, Kevin, Tracie, Karensa and Larry.

The Commissioners shared information received from the State indicating that Cities and Counties, statewide, may lose nine million dollars or more. The Commissioners advised the Supervisors to start looking at this year's budget and keep it in check because next year's budgets will be less. With the economy the way it is expenditures will have to be cut now, we need to be realistic. Further, even though an item was budgeted for purchase in the 2009 budget, it is likely it may be denied. The Commissioners encouraged everyone to look at ways to reduce their budget spending and to keep in mind that the County will probably not be able to go to the taxpayers and ask for a big tax increase next year.

Each Supervisor then gave their individual department reports.

Rhianna gave the Commissioners a copy of the Health Department's Encounter Report for 1/1/09 to 1/26/09 for their review.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch. Following lunch the Commissioners and Clerk drove to the Civic Center to inspect the new doors to the storage room, look at the ceilings that need dropped ceilings installed, and looked at the floors.

A call was received from Dallas Bressler concerning the Rolla Senior Citizens Center's need for a new refrigerator. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to approve this purchase.

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners. The Commissioners asked if Tom Myers had returned to work yet. Charley stated Tom worked four days last week but had to take one day off to take his wife back for a check up.

Charley presented the Commissioners a copy of the specifications he had mailed out in December for the new motor grader for their review.

Charley reported he is almost ready to start sending the trucks to Holly for crushed rock (\$11.50/ton.) The Commissioners and Charley discussed the possibility of chewing up

North Street Road and have Klotz Sand do the hauling. Consensus was that at this time the County needs to concentrate on County road needs.

Leon Ellis met with the Commissioners and discussed the equipment at the Landfill. At this time the Caterpillar is doing okay but the John Deere is not in good condition and he was hoping to be able to replace it this year. Consensus was to check on getting the parts to repair the John Deere and have the Road Department do the repairs.

The Commissioners signed the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report, 2008; the Salary Resolution (2009-2); the Payroll Form; the Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrant Registers; the Micro Loan Agreement for Big C's; and the Change Orders from the Appraiser's Office.

Charles Hull entered the meeting and requested approval to prepare specs for a new Brush Unit for the Fire Department. Approval was given and bids will be opened on February 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

A discussion took place concerning a possible new agreement between the Forest Service and the Morton County Fire Department for fighting fires on the Grasslands. The County Attorney will review the agreement when it is presented.

A discussion took place concerning the Civic Center floor. Ron has been in contact with Orr Construction and the consensus was to have Artistic Flooring complete the flooring scope of the project. A discussion took place concerning looking into renting or buying a used buffer and waxing the floor ourselves. February 3rd is the date Artistic Flooring is to begin the project.

Kevin Shook entered the meeting and reported that 57 ballots for the Point Rock Advisory Board positions were received. The results of the election are as follows:

Sonny Jones 52
Ethan Harder 35
Emma Patrick 23

The By-Laws indicate at least one woman will serve on the Board. Teresa asked about the possibility of disbanding the Advisory Board. Kevin stated this change would have to be voted on by the Advisory Board and then recommended to the Commissioners. At this time motion was made by Ron, seconded by Bob, to appoint Emma Patrick and Sonny Jones to the Advisory Board. Teresa abstained.

Kevin mentioned that Monty Monroe may be able to start replacing the doors damaged by the break-in at the Clubhouse next week.

A call was placed to Ashley Fiss, Civic Center Architect. Ashley indicated she was aware that Orr Construction was sending Artistic Floors to do the Civic Center floor. The money held back for the project will be paid upon completion. The Commissioners also mentioned to Ashley that there are some subcontractors who have still not been paid on the Civic Center project. She will contact Orr Construction again about this matter.

Justin Holliday entered the meeting and requested consideration to purchase a new console system in Dispatch; a budgeted item. Following a discussion consensus of the Commissioners was to table the request pending further research of what is needed.

Bids were reviewed for the dropped ceilings at the Civic Center and tabled until the next meeting.

Deb Schnurr met with the Commissioners and distributed information containing the EMS year-end statistics. A discussion took place.

Deb requested approval for six EMTs to take the EMT Intermediate class. Cost of the class per student is \$483 plus books and testing fees. Deb said she is applying for a Kansas Incentive Grant to help defray the cost of the class for each student. If the grant request is denied, Deb indicated there is enough in her budget to pay the \$3000. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Teresa, to approve applying for the grant. The Grant Application was signed.

Deb requested consideration to purchase three Panasonic Toughbook Laptops for the ambulances to include touch screens, 3-year warranties, ambulance mount base plates, and docking station adaptors in the amount of \$13,122.00. Also requested was the purchase of the EMS Field Bridge Seat License (3) at a cost of \$4200.00 for the first year and an annual fee of \$1200 thereafter. A discussion took place. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to approve the purchase. Teresa voted no. The Laptops will be paid from the Special Ambulance Fund.

Charley Tucker was out of town this day but had left a list of items to be reviewed for reference. Charley reported that he cancelled the Sam's Club Membership. He had paid for this personally so they refunded him the money.

Charley took the Civic Center rental information to Tracie so this should be on the County's website soon.

Charley indicated he was going to pick up some kitchen shelving for the storage room at the Civic Center on January 23rd at Big L Rental in Garden City.

Charley requested approval to attend the Fastbook Users Education Conference February 19-21 in Mesa, Arizona. Following a discussion, and in light of the fact that we need to start cutting back where we can, this request was denied.

The Commissioners approved and signed the Cereal Malt Beverage License Application for the Civic Center. This will now go to the City of Elkhart for their review and approval.

A discussion took place concerning installing a card pump for aviation fuel at the Airport. Total cost of this project is now \$44,000. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to approve the increase in the project total.

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