

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JULY 20, 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 July 9, 2009 Special Meeting and July 13, 2009 Regular Meeting were read and approved, as amended, on a motion by Ron, seconded by Teresa.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

A call was placed to Ashley Fiss, Architect, asking if she would work up a preliminary drawing to add storage space at the south end of the Civic Center. Ashley said she could get something to the Commissioners in August. Information item only.

Further discussion took place concerning Kelly Funk meeting with the employees about moving their ING variable funds to an ING fixed account. The Clerk reported she had visited with Steve Cross about this matter and there have been some problems resulting from Mr. Funk's meetings with other cities/counties. Consensus was to not have Mr. Funk schedule meetings with Morton County at this time.

Glennis Bookstore has agreed to represent Morton County on the SouthWest Kansas Area Agency on Aging Sub-Region Council. Motion was made by Ron, seconded by Teresa, to appoint Glennis to the SWKAAA Council.

A discussion took place concerning a bill from ElderCare for food in addition to what is ordered from the foodservice truck. Consensus of the Commissioners was to ask Ed Johnson to come to the next meeting to discuss this matter.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Form, the Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrant Registers, the Semi-Annual Report for Great Plains Development, and FSA forms to participate in the DCP and/or ACRE programs. Also signed was Resolution 2009-8 (A RESOLUTION APPROVING REAFFIRMATION, RESTATEMENT AND RATIFICATION OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT PORT AUTHORITY BY AND BETWEEN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GRANT COUNTY, STANTON COUNTY, MORTON COUNTY, AND STEVENS COUNTY.)

The Commissioners received an offer from Permian Basin Acquisition Fund to purchase minerals and royalties owned by the County. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Ron, to decline selling any minerals owned by the County.

Justin Holliday met with the Commissioners and reported the jail now has a “no contact” visitation room. Prisoners will be able to talk to visitors through a window but will not be able to pass anything through. Visitors will be received on a first come, first served, basis.

Justin mentioned that the Expedition is back but needs new tires before it can be put back in the fleet.

Charley Tucker met with the Commissioners. Additional details regarding the new rental fee schedule were discussed. Also discussed was event insurance. If the County is not producing the event the individuals renting the Civic Center are responsible for providing their own insurance; the County will not be responsible for any accidents or damages.

Charley asked about renting the sound system. Consensus was to charge a \$150 deposit for use of the sound system.

Charley said he has visited with area Civic Center Directors and found that everyone’s bookings are down at this time due to the poor economy.

Alejandra Juarez, BCBS Representative, met with the Commissioners and presented a copy of Morton County’s “experience” for the contract period ending May 31, 2009. Morton County is experiencing a maximum negative group reserve in the amount of (\$597,037.59.) Alejandra stated that this amount will be used in determining the County’s insurance rates next contract year. This reserves status is also used in determining whether the County will receive a refund or not; Morton County will not receive a refund. Ms. Juarez offered to come to Morton County and provide wellness classes that she hopes would help make and/or keep the employees healthier.

The Supervisors met with the Commissioners. Present were Charley McKinley; Deb Schnurr; Rhianna Shaw; Tracie Nixon; Justin Holliday; Vienna Lee; Charley Tucker; Sally Akers; Leon Ellis; and Karensa Meek.

The Commissioners reminded everyone to trade at home all they can and relayed an incident where a business was upset that they were not allowed to bid on a county project and thus made the decision not to make their regular \$1000 donation to the Annual Rodeo. The facility involved told the Commissioners they will make a \$1000 donation to the Rodeo to offset this loss this year.

The Annual Free Barbeque is coming up on August 8th. The Commissioners stated they need a lot of help serving.

Commissioner Boaldin thanked everyone for the hard work they did in preparing their 2010 budgets. The hard work has paid off in that the mill levy only had to be raised by one mill.

The Commissioners mentioned that a new cell phone use policy is being worked on to meet the new IRS regulations regarding company-owned cell phones. All Supervisors were asked to provide, in writing, those in their departments who currently have county-owned cell phones and the phone numbers. This information needs to be turned in to the County Clerk before August 10th and will be further discussed by the Commissioners at their August 10th meeting. All county-owned cell phones being used by employees will need to be changed to a personal account whereby the individual will be personally responsible for all charges made to their phone. If the employee wants to keep the cell phone they are using they will be allowed to do so, if not, they will need to turn it in to the County. The Commissioners will determine whom they feel should carry a cell phone and those individuals will then be paid \$25/month for business calls made on that phone.

The Supervisors then gave their individual departmental reports.

Bob reported on a three year project, in conjunction with the WEKANDO counties. The project would include improving the current Cimarron Valley Railroad rails making them capable of carrying heavier loads. The project involves the State, Owner of the CVR, and the Counties all putting funds into the project. Bob stated that KDOT is excited about the project because it will save them money in maintaining roads. As of this day all of the above have signed off on the project and all of the CVR rails in Southwest Kansas will be upgraded, if all works out. Senator Morris made the comment that this is a monumental landmark event! Plans are being made to visit with other counties along the CVR lines to see if they would also be interested in investing funds. Oklahoma is already discussing putting money into the project to improve the lines going from Kansas into Oklahoma.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch. Following lunch the Commissioners drove to the Airport to view the work being done by the Road Department (filling the cracks in the runways.)

The Commissioners had received a complaint about a business removing old vehicles and parts from within the city and taking them out into the county, so they also drove to the site out in the county where the vehicles are being taken.

The meeting reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

At this time Charley McKinley and Leon Ellis met with the Commissioners to open bids for a new packer. The Road Department will purchase the equipment from the Special Road Equipment Fund and the packer will be included in the Road Department's Inventory. The Landfill will be able to use the equipment.

Foley Caterpillar was the only bid received. Leon stated he was told by Murphy Tractor that they could not meet the minimum specs received from the Road Department. Consensus of the Commissioners was to not open the bid received because there is nothing to compare it to. The Commissioners stated they would like for new specs to be sent out in an effort to compare apples to apples. The bids should include trading-in the

old John Deere packer. Charley said he would just let Leon spec the equipment. Leon stated he has some money in a special fund from the sale of crushed concrete that could be used toward the purchase of the equipment. The Commissioners agreed that this was a good idea; the balance could then be paid out of the Special Road Equipment fund. Bids will be opened on August 10th at 1:00 p.m.

Leon reported he did not have any additional information regarding the Gator bids. Teresa asked if Leon had a chance to visit with the schools about the possibility of one of the Shop classes building a site manager's building. Leon has not visited with the schools yet.

At this time George Bushnell and Larry Davis, Pioneer Electric, met with the Commissioners to discuss a new transmission line that will be constructed within the next 16 months; it is time to update the existing line. The existing line, however, will remain energized. The new line will upgrade the size of capacity and there are plans to build from Rolla to Richfield in the next three to seven years. The new transmission line will go through seven miles in Morton County and some new right-of-ways will be involved. The new poles will be constructed of either steel or concrete, will be 85-95 ft. tall, and Pioneer Electric will install 10-12 poles per mile. Mr. Bushnell stated he and Mr. Davis were here to ask for the Commissioners' blessing to utilize the County's right-of-ways. The Commissioners asked Pioneer Electric to make sure they work with the Landowners and not put the County and Landowners in a bidding war. Mr. Bushnell said there would be no bidding wars because Pioneer has set an amount to be paid for dry land, and an amount for irrigated land. There will be no deviation from those amounts to be paid.

Luann Watson entered the meeting and reported she will be investigating a possible new salvage yard site in the county. Her main concern is whether or not they have a permit for the site. She will keep the Commissioners informed of her findings.

John Nusser met with the Commissioners. A discussion took place concerning increasing the dollar amount of aviation fuel that can be purchased when fueling planes at the Airport. John explained the process of what happens when someone goes over their limit on their credit card and how it affects his business. Following this discussion, John agreed to increase the limit as high as allowable per transaction and will continue with that amount until he experiences his first loss; John said he would then return to the Commissioners to discuss any alternative plans.

A complaint was received that old plane batteries have been buried next to one of the hangars at the Airport. The Commissioners left the meeting to investigate this complaint. Consensus of the Commissioners was that these three batteries have been partially in the ground for many years, no dirt had been disturbed and grass has grown around the batteries. The Commissioners asked the Clerk to contact the Road Department and see if they would dig the batteries up and dispose of them properly.

The Commissioners reviewed two cellular telephone policies that Teresa and Mary have been working on. The Commissioners agreed on one of the policies and stated they

would like a cell phone safety paragraph added. The Clerk will have the policy ready for review at the August 10th meeting.

Charley Tucker entered the meeting and requested clarification on the charges for the EHS Reunion (1917-1975) next year; Memorial Day weekend. The Commissioners indicated they had agreed that the group could utilize the Civic Center at a cost of \$125 for the event; all deposits will remain in effect.

Rhianna Shaw met with the Commissioners and reported she is updating the Bioterrorism Plan. A discussion took place. Rhianna stated she will need a Memorandum of Understanding signed indicating that an emergency will take priority for use at the Civic Center over any other planned event. She will also need an MOU with USD 218, Elkhart City Hall, and Morton County Health System.

Rhianna requested approval to return the drug screening kits to the company they were purchased from. Rhianna stated the Health Department is not going to get a break in the cost because they do not conduct a minimum of 1500 screenings in a year. The Commissioners were in agreement to return the kits.

Eric stated he will review the Bioterrorism contracts and give his opinion at the next meeting.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was given by Teresa, seconded by Bob.