MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 9, 2010

Bob called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 Commissioners canvassed the August 3, 2010 Primary Election results. Seven Provisional ballots were presented and all were counted. The Provisional ballots did not change the results of the election. The Clerk will now certify the results to the Secretary of State’s office and send “Notice of Nomination” certificates to the winners. Those names will now be placed on the November 2, 2010 General Election ballot.

The business meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with open doors.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved with additions.

Minutes of the July 22, 2010 meeting were read and approved as amended on a motion by Teresa, seconded by Ron.

Bills were reviewed and approved for payment.

Ron reported on some of the happenings at the Civic Center during the Fair. He had received complaints that the bathroom doors were locked from the outside at 11:00 on Friday night and at 10:00 Saturday night. A short discussion took place. The Commissioners will visit with Charley about this when he comes to the meeting.

Teresa reviewed the punch list for the Conservation District building. She has visited with both Jennifer and Shala. Ron said he would take the list and visit with McBride about getting the items taken care of the complete the construction project.

At this time motion was made to regretfully accept the resignation of Deb Ferris as the Morton County EMS Director. Deb has accepted a full-time position at the Medical Clinic. Teresa said she has asked Deb to assist her in revising the job description for EMS Director and the position will be held open until filled.
A discussion took place concerning the County Maintenance job description. Consensus of the Commissioners was to give the job description to Larry to review and revise as needed. In an attempt to save money the Commissioners would like to do away with having to utilize Gray’s Yard Service and have Larry maintain the lawns. Larry was off work this day and the Clerk was asked to relay this information to him upon his return to work.

A discussion took place concerning the grounds around the Health/Extension building. In the past, the Extension Agents took care of the grounds; picked up trash, sprayed weeds, mowed. It would appear that very little has been done over the last few years. Consensus of the Commissioners was to contact the Extension Board and tell them they would like to have the Agent take care of the grounds since they do not have to pay any rent for use of the building.

The Budget Hearing was held at 10:00 a.m. with the following patrons in attendance: Crystal Bashford, Tim Jones, Garold Fisher, Barbara Luck, Virginia Johnson, Cindy Hittle, Dennis Lewis, Vienna Lee and Mary Beth Melia.

Crystal asked if the Commissioners would consider giving the Extension Office back half of what was taken away from their proposed 2011 budget. She said that if they had that money back she feels they could maintain their office with any staff reduction. Crystal stated that with the reduced budget they will possibly have to face a reduction in staff. They may also have to consider “Districting.” This is something K-State has been encouraging offices to do but most of the Extension offices have not had to face cuts such as the cuts made to the Morton County Extension office. Until some of the surrounding offices face these same cuts they cannot even consider combining offices.

Barbara said she was attending the hearing in support of the Library. Barb is a part-time employee at the Library and has just completed 30 hours of continuing education for her position; Barb catalogs the books.

Virginia said there is no doubt they will have to cut staff, as well as hours they are open, due to the reduced 2011 budget proposal. It is undecided at this time if they will have to spend all of their savings next year or not. They will be doing their own cleaning and yard work. One possibility Virginia suggested was for the County to pay the Library employee’s benefits; that would be a substantial savings to them. The Rolla Library would also lose their part-time employee; Elkhart would cut two part-time positions and all Page positions. They have already cut the automatic
book orders and next year may not be able to provide the Inter-Library Book Loan program.

Dennis Lewis said he was concerned, personally, with the higher mill levy. He asked if the County was aware of anything coming up in the future; new businesses, etc.

Mary Beth stated she is concerned about those taxpayers who are on fixed incomes and how they will be able to pay their taxes.

Commissioner Boaldin mentioned that since the budgets were published we have lost another five million in valuation due to the underground storage of the gas and oil companies.

The Commissioners thanked all those who attended the Budget Hearing and the group left.

Jennifer Sensley entered the meeting. She thanked the Commissioners for use of the Civic Center for the FSA meeting; it was a full house. Jennifer said the FSA is in the middle of the CRP sign-up. They have four weeks to service over 300 people. Jennifer discussed the need for letters of support to eliminate the requirement to include the continuous property in the CRP acreage. Motion was made by Bob, seconded by Teresa to support this effort.

Charles Hull presented the proposal for the new skid unit for Rolla in the amount of $12,775.90. The proposal was from Hays Fire and Rescue Sales & Service, LLC. The unit being replaced is 16-17 years old. Motion was made by Teresa, seconded by Ron, to approve this purchase. The Capital Outlay Request Form was signed. Purchase to be paid out of County Fire’s Capital Outlay fund.

Tony Hoyt entered the meeting and reported several of those who completed their EMT course have taken their test. Seven are ready to take runs; a couple failed their test but will re-test; and some have still not taken their test.

A discussion took place concerning the ventilators that months ago had been approved to be sent in for routine maintenance ($500 each.) They were not sent in and now one needs repairs at a cost of $1800. Tony said he is getting ready to send another one off for maintenance. Commissioner Harder said it was very surprising to learn the ventilators had not been sent off earlier; it could have warded off the need for the $1800 for repairs.
Tony reported there is no news on the tires that were stolen from the EMS building last month. The investigation is ongoing.

Tony mentioned that Elkhart is covering both the Rolla and Elkhart football games. Gwen has been really good to cover the Rolla games and Tony asked if the Commissioners would approve an EMT to take an Expedition or truck to Rolla and meet Gwen to help cover the Rolla games. The Commissioners asked if the County charges the schools for this service; Tony said they do charge both schools. Approval was given to send an Elkhart EMT to Rolla with a County vehicle to assist Gwen.

Tony reported that the Sheriff mentioned Rolla didn’t get paged out for their calls; the Dispatchers said they were sending out the pages to Rolla. Tony said there were some transmission problems and the channels are now switched back to where they are supposed to be.

Because of the above transmission problems Tony has distributed information to the Dispatchers with Fire and EMS Definitions and instructions on how to page out specific calls. He said he has also given Mike Rodriguez, Elkhart Fire Chief, a copy for his review.

Tony discussed a recent transfer from the Liberal Hospital. There was some miscommunication between the Morton County Hospital and the Liberal Hospital regarding just where the patient was to be transferred to.

The Commissioners mentioned that they have been informed that EMS is behind in billing. The Commissioners requested a copy of the bill tracking with aging, amounts pending, etc. They requested this information be provided to them before the end of the Commissioners Meeting today.

At this time motion was made by Teresa, seconded by Bob, to approve the 2011 Budget as published. The Budget was signed by all three Commissioners.

The Commissioners signed the Great Plains Development Semi-Annual Report; Added/Abated Order; Payroll Form; and the Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrant Registers.

A discussion took place concerning a FACEBOOK invitation from an employee that was extended during working hours. The invitation was soliciting support and donations for the Cheerleaders.
Notice was made that the next KLPG meeting will be held on October 7th in Ulysses.

A discussion took place concerning an email regarding a KCC case involving VOIP 911 calls and notice to PSAPs. A technical conference is expected to be held in the case the week of August 16. Kansas PSAPs are invited to attend the technical conference. No action.

The meeting recessed at noon for lunch.

Charley McKinley met with the Commissioners and reported he had a couple of the Road Department guys sweeping the road shoulders off. They are also working on a low spot at the south end of the Civic Center parking lot.

Charley mentioned that a pre-construction meeting for the Manter Road project was held on July 29th. They should get started later this month.

The Commissioners asked Charley if he would schedule adding some crushed concrete to the north side of the Conservation District building parking area. Charley said he would put that on his list. He also mentioned that if anyone asked, the Road Department sells the crushed concrete for $11.00/ton.

Gwen entered the meeting and presented a copy of the presentation for a Construction and Demolition pit (C&D) to be given by Elmer Zerr to KDHE on behalf of Morton County. Gwen also mentioned that on Thursday a demonstration for an alternative trash cover will be held by Posishell at the Landfill. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

A discussion took place concerning the chemical to be used for wildlife control. No action.

Gwen reported the Weed Department has seen more chemical sales but less labor and equipment usage. More people seem to be treating their weeds themselves.

Kevin Shook met with the Commissioners and reported on the approximate cost of the fence to be constructed near the Thangars. The FAA requires the Airport property to have a fence around it. Consensus of the Commissioners was to not build the fence until the maintenance building is constructed.
Kevin presented a copy of the Spec Sheet and Floor Plan for the new golf course maintenance building as prepared by McBride Construction. The Commissioners instructed Kevin to send these to area construction companies, as well as individual contractors in the County.

Justin and Shelby met with the Commissioners. Justin reported the jail is full! A discussion took place concerning the motorized skateboards on the sidewalks. Teresa said she witnessed a lady almost fall while being passed by one of the skateboards. Information only.

A discussion took place concerning some of the fights that took place after the dances at the Fair. Information only.

Charley Tucker entered the meeting and presented the following August Schedule of Events at the Civic Center:

- August 19  Oxy meetings
- August 29  Loewen Fundraiser/Lunch
- August 31  Scott Power Combine Clinic

Charley reported the lift at the Civic Center is not working properly and he needs to get the power stations back up in the ceiling before the upcoming wedding rehearsal dinner. The Commissioners instructed Charley to contact Jack Thompson at the Road Department and see if he can help figure out what the problem is.

The Commissioners asked Charley about the outside bathroom doors being locked Friday and Saturday nights. Charley said that was a Fair Board decision and they posted the hours on the outside of the building.

Charley asked what the Fair Board is responsible for at the Civic Center since they do not have to pay rent for use of the facility during the Fair. He would just like to know what the Civic Center staff is expected to do and what the Fair Board is expected to do for their event.

The Commissioners called Laura Bookstore, Fair Board Secretary/Treasurer, to come to the meeting to discuss some of the above concerns. Laura reported that it is her understanding that the Fair Board has full use of the Civic Center during the Fair. Teresa asked about keeping the Civic Center clean during their use. Laura said she was told that during the week the Civic Center has a full-time employee who is responsible for cleaning since she is there and on the clock. Ron stated he thought they had visited in the past about the Fair Board doing regular checks on the
condition of the bathrooms while the Fair was in progress; make sure the trash cans are emptied and everything picked up. Laura said they can’t get in to the building once the doors are locked between the Fair Office and the bathrooms. Teresa suggested the Fair Board and the Civic Center review the standard rental agreement form and follow the “rules” renters have to follow in lieu of not having to pay any rent for use of the entire facility. Ron also suggested Charley attend the Fair Board meetings and make sure there is open communications. Charley said he had attended meetings in the past and outlined what would be expected of the Fair Board and nothing has changed. Laura said none of the information was passed on to her; Cassie Coen was present at this time. All were in agreement that next year they would have something in writing (the rental contract) and know what is expected; also keep open communications. The Commissioners thanked Laura for coming to the meeting and she and Cassie left.

Notice was made that EMS did not bring the requested accounts information to the Commissioners.

There being no further business motion was made b Teresa, seconded b Ron, to adjourn the meeting