

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS
January 23, 2017

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

Present: Randy Bane, Chairman; JW Finn, Vice-Chairman; Jim Tucker, Commissioner, Eric Witcher, County Attorney; Gina Castillo

JW opened the meeting with prayer.

A motion by JW, seconded by Jim UYV to go into executive session at 9:03 for 10 minutes for Personnel. Back in regular session at 9:13. No action

A motion by Randy, seconded by JW UYV at 9:15 for 15 minutes for Personnel with Kevin. Back in at 9:30. No action taken

A motion by Jim, seconded by JW UYV to go into executive session for personnel at 9:31 with Amy for 15 minutes. Back in regular session at 9:46. A motion by Randy, seconded by Jim UYV to extend 5 minutes. Back in regular session at 9:51. No action taken.

Rhianna—Health. Updated the Commissioners on the purpose for **Local Board of Public Health**. Discussion took place regarding the services the Health Department provides and the contract with Haley McCammon. Commissioner Finn stated maybe there should be a meeting with all entities (Health Dept, EMS and Hospital) to discuss services. Rhianna will be at the Hospital board meeting tonight to also discuss services and work together for team services.

Dusty—Emergency Manager. Presented paperwork for credentialing for the Commissioners to complete. He will be attending a 2 day meeting in Feb. for homeland security leadership training. The western counties have to fight hard for the grant funding, so it helps to attend. March 7th in Dodge will have an ICS training, Commissioners are welcome to attend as well. FEMA.gov has a lot of online classes. Dusty also updated the Commissioners on the open-ended hanger where the dirt needed repacked underneath, the road department worked on this and cracked the surface. Commissioners will look at this at noon.

Tausha—EMS. Updated the Commissioner on number of calls for the year to give them an idea of the work load. Commissioner Finn attended the EMS employee meeting in the evening and felt it was very informative.

Vienna—Civic Center/Economic Dev. Updated the Commissioners on Becky McCray, a motivational speaker for rural and small towns, speaking to the public on Feb. 7th. Starting to get a booked calendar for February.

Supervisors—Tausha, Shelby, Kevin, Vienna, Charley, Stephanie, Dusty, Larry, Gwen, Rhianna and Tracie.

Dusty—Received moisture but not the bad ice storm that was expected.

Larry—1 firetruck down for repairs, it's in Salina right now, it's the bigger one that is located in Elkhart. There will be a training coming up about the use of the grasslands.

Gwen—They have been receiving lots of branches that came down in the storm. Starting to treat prairie dogs at the airport. Chris will be fixing to take his chemical test again.

Tracie—Installed a new copier in the Sheriff Department. Printed ID cards for Sheriff and Commissioners. Working on updates on the County website.

Shelby—Busy trying to get things going under her new administration.

Tausha—Getting ready for upcoming inspection time. Busy with calls and transfers. Thinking of doing CPR classes.

Kevin—The Road department has dug up a hole of dirt to use at the airport open ended hangar, lots of public questioning that. It will be filled in and grass put back.

Vienna—Reminded everyone to attend the public speaker Becky McCray on Feb. 7th at the Civic Center.

Charley—Plowed snow last Monday, which was nice and needed moisture. Have the graders out now. He welcomed the new Commissioners.

Rhianna—Staying busy flu and viral illnesses. January is busy with State policies and procedures.

Stephanie—Fees have increased for 2017. Received a large mortgage last month. Legislature is working on page fees.

Commissioners—Randy said starting this year with the new Commissioners, he has been very impressed already. Wants to have open door of communication with everyone. He also explained the contact Commissioner designated to department supervisors. Jim stated it's an honor to get to serve in this capacity. He realizes there are a lot of challenges ahead and he agrees for open communication. JW wanted to express he is willing to work with everyone. He agreed with the other Commissioners that communication is key. If we all work together to help strengthen rural America.

Gina—Reminded everyone of Washington National being here tomorrow for any annual updates. Also BCBS will be here to do Healthquest at the Civic Center on Feb. 2nd from 7 am until noon.

Eric—We have a new Sheriff and she is doing a very good job.

Gwen—Landfill/Weed. Gave the Commissioner the Noxious Weed 2017 control plan. The landfill has a board that meets annually to approve that annual plan. Annual noxious weed eradication report needs signed as well. The update on the 953D dozer still has problems with lead in the oil. The motor needs rebuilt she gave a quote. A motion by Jim, seconded by JW UYV for Gwen and Chris to attend the annual conference in March. Discussed Chemical bids from local, tabled until later. Commissioner Tucker asked if we need to purchase more acreage in the future to expand. Gwen stated that with the new pit we should be fine for 100 years.

Charley—He presented a couple of job applicants. He has interviewed two applicants and has asked to hire them both as they currently have CDL's. Commissioners approved Charley's recommendation to hire Kevin Day and Mike Varner at \$12/hr. He presented the Road Scholar program that he would like to send Bob Fillpot and Dana Baldwin to attend to complete this program. Road 16 the River north to Richfield is really rough, he would like to overlay it, the cost will be approximately 1.2 million. Commissioners asked about the Dairy road, Charley said it's been bladed and looks good. Discussed at length, how to proceed forward. He will also contact J&R sand about setting up on a County location and the possibility of getting a discount to do Road 16.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:10. Drove to the Airport and looked at the open ended hangar. Reconvened at 1:00.

Shelby—Sheriff. Informed the Commissioners she has chosen Mark Espinoza as undersheriff. She asked for an increase in his salary. Discussion took place regarding starting pay as \$19.50/hr. a motion by Randy, seconded by Jim UYV to approve her recommendation. She inquired about reserve officers. She would like to advertise to hire one officer position, Commissioners approved. Commissioners stated there should be no pets in patrol vehicles.

Commissioners adjourned the meeting to go to the Health Dept. facility and visit the employees from 2-3.

Barbara Anderson, CFO and Rich Bergling, CEO for Morton County Hospital entered to present an update. Barbara presented the battleship report showing the cash flow. Rich stated they are still waiting on the certificate of billing for Rural Health Certification. They are also still waiting to see if they will get Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement for 2015 & 2016 and if so that could be approx. \$1 million. Also looking to see if they are able to receive cost reimbursement. Rich stated they have made a lot of changes since the 1st of the year and cost cutting, looking at in house billing again. In a couple of months they should be able to see the effect of these changes. Commissioner Tucker stated he has seen Attorney fees paid by the County on behalf of the Hospital to Eric Witcher, in 2015 \$60,950 and in 2016 \$31,210. He stated we may have to decrease these services going into the next budget year.

Commissioners scheduled 5 interviews for Housekeeping, groundskeeper and maintenance position.

Rhonda Rich entered for an interview.

A motion by Jim, seconded by Randy UYV for a 20 minute executive session for Personnel at 3:35. Back in regular session at 3:55. No action taken.

Greg Stiver, entered for a job interview.

A motion by Randy, seconded by Jim UYV to go into executive session at 4:03 for 15 minutes for Personnel. Back in regular session at 4:18. No action taken.

A motion by JW, seconded by Jim UYV to approve the road permit by Scout Energy. JW made a motion, seconded by Jim UYV for Bob Fillpot and Dana Baldwin to attend the Road Scholar meetings. A motion by

Randy, seconded by Jim UYV that the County does not pay over \$12,000/year to Eric Witcher in Attorney fees for the Hospital. Parties agreed that if the Hospital enters into litigation that they will sit down and come to an agreement beforehand.

Cody Emmert, entered for an interview.

A motion by JW, seconded by Randy UYV for a 5 minute for executive session for Personnel at 4:38. Back in regular session at 4:43. No action taken.

Tony Hoyt, entered for an interview.

Justin Sparkman, entered for an interview.

Commissioners approved the appointed board positions of (4)Council on Aging, Mary Lou Coen, Ed Johnson, Wes Bressler and Iris Scruggs; (3)Morton County Historical Society, David Dunn, Arleen Clinesmith, Barb Iman; (1)Elkhart Cemetery Board Position, James Lavielle . There were 2 names submitted for the Hospital board position that Eric and JW will take for the current Hospitals board review at tonight's meeting.

A motion by JW, seconded by Jim UYV to adjourn at 5:40.