

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS
January 9, 2017

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

Present: Teresa Harder, Chair; Jay D Coen, Vice Chairman (Absent), Randy Bane Commissioner; Eric Witcher, County Attorney; Gina Castillo, County Clerk. Commissioners elect Jim Tucker and JW Finn. Clifford Blackmore with Tri State News entered at 9:55. Also in attendance were Jim & Diane Finn, Jaqueline Finn, Leldon & Carol Tomlin, James & Betty Chapman, Darrell Smith, Justin Holliday, Teresa Mathies, Jake Knelsen, Nate Schumacher, Susie Lewis, Amanda Wray, Sherie Kemp, Gary, Chevelle & Kage Ralstin, Shawna Tucker, John Tucker

Minutes of the December 30, 2016 were approved with corrections on a motion by Teresa, seconded by Randy.

Previously sworn in Morton County Clerk, Gina Castillo administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected officials; Eric Witcher, Attorney; Shelby Ralstin, Sheriff; Jim Tucker & JW Finn, Commissioners; Vicki Peacock, Treasurer; Stephanie Sinclair, Register of Deeds; and Thomas Kemp, District Magistrate Judge.

Darrell Smith entered for public comment. He presented a proposal on behalf of real estate company. He has been made aware that the property near the Landfill is available for accepting offers. He mentioned that the County owns at least 2 other quarters in the County and maybe there is possibility for negotiation. Discussion took place and it was decided to table.

At this time the election of officers took place. Motion was made by JW, that Randy be Chairman, seconded by Jim, UYV and a motion by Jim, that JW be Vice-Chairman, seconded by Randy UYV.

The Agenda was reviewed and approved as the morning was to discuss current County operations, updates and entities. Discussion took place over the following groups that assist the County; KNRC, WEKANDO, KLPG, KAC, KCAMP, KWORC, LKM and NACO. A motion by JW, seconded by Randy UYV to not continue the LKM annual dues.

Rodney Johnson, Morton County Clinic manager entered and asked to speak to the Commissioners in executive session. Approved on a motion by Randy, seconded by Jim UYV at 11:16 for 10 minutes for Attorney Client Privilege. Back in regular session at 11:26. No action taken.

The Commissioners looked at the list of County Departments and supervisors, and divided them evenly amongst themselves and the Clerk will email each supervisor the Commissioner assigned to that department for emergencies or immediate updates that affect that department. Discussion also took place on current happenings in each department.

Then the budget was looked over, with discussion and questions. Reviewed the levy sheet. Discussed the other County entities that receive appropriated tax revenues.

A motion by Randy to adjourn for lunch at 11:50, seconded by JW UYV. Reconvened at 1:00.

The topic of discussion was the conduct of future meetings. Meeting dates and times will remain the same that follows the current resolution. Briefly reviewed the County Handbook.

Motion was made by Randy, seconded by Jim, UYV to transfer funds from the General Fund to Special Equipment Reserve; Noxious Weed to Special Noxious Weed Equipment; Road and Bridge to Special Highway Equipment and Road and Bridge to Special Highway Improvement.

A motion by Randy, seconded by JW, UYV to designate the Tri-State News as the official newspaper for Morton County and First National Bank of Elkhart and TBK Bank as the official depositories for Morton County.

Motion was made by Jim, seconded by JW, UYV to sign Resolution 2017-2 (A Resolution Adopting Standards for Financial Statements and Reporting.)

A motion by Randy, seconded by Jim UYV for 10 minute executive session for Attorney Client Privilege/Personnel with the County Clerk for HR at 2:46. Back in regular session at 2:56. No action taken.

The Commissioners signed the following: Resolutions 2017-2 Adopting Standards for Financial Statements and Reporting and First National Bank signature card.

A motion by JW, seconded by Jim, UYV to go into executive session for personnel at 3:07 for 10 minutes. Back in regular session at 3:17. A motion by JW, seconded by Jim, UYV to extend 5 minutes. Back in regular session at 3:22. No action taken.

Also discussed the remaining balance of NFW to the Hospital, Insurance and retirees. Clerk stated a transfer needs to happen to make the NFW payment, A motion by Jim, seconded by Randy UYV, to transfer \$207,785.81 from County General into Bond & Interest.

A motion by JW, seconded by Randy UYV to go into executive session for Attorney Client Privilege at 3:38 for 10 minutes. Back in regular session at 3:48. A motion by JW, seconded by Randy UYV to extend 10 minutes. Back in regular session at 3:58. No action taken.

A motion by Jim, seconded by JW UYV to adjourn at 4:04.