

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS  
February 13, 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 and Cliff Blackmore with Tri-State News. Mike Emmert entered at 9:45.

JW opened the meeting with prayer.

A motion by JW, seconded by Jim UYV to go into executive session for personnel with County Clerk for HR at 9:02 for 10 minutes. Back in regular session at 9:12. No action taken.

Teresa Harder entered to update the Commissioners on the Lesser Prairie Chicken and the upcoming meeting in Dodge City, March 28-30<sup>TH</sup> and the importance of the coalition of KNRC.

Greg Wellbrock with Landmark Appraisal Inc. and Susie Lewis entered to update the Commissioners on several things; what requirements the state has for certified appraisers, revaluation maintenance specifications and updates on projected Oil and Gas values, currently showing an increase. This will help the County, but it also depends on production. By April 1<sup>st</sup> we should have a firmer projection. Discussed the added/abated orders and the process.

Todd McCabe with SW Prediitorial Lawn and Pest Control. He presented the incentive option for even more savings for the County. For each County department listed with him, if they get 10 individuals signed up under that entity, that entity will have no fees. Commissioners agreed to continue original services agreed upon.

Kevin—Golf. The dirt work has been completed for the airport hangar, he needs to order grass seed to plant where it was taken by May. The Commissioners stated that it was said that Darren Buck had offered this service, Kevin will check with the airport manager. Greg's working out real well; it seems to be a good fit between golf and maintenance.

Tausha—EMS. A motion by JW, seconded by Jim UYV to approve to send \$4224.90 to ARSI collection. The software for timekeeping and reports works well.

Vienna—Civic Center/Economic Dev. Public speaker, Becki McCrae was well attended and afterwards she was taken on a tour of the town. The breakout sessions had a lot of great ideas. Ms. McCrae will be submitting an article for the newspaper. IDM will be here next week and meet with groups made up of planning, executive and think tank committees. Vienna was contacted by some in the community with an interest in HB 2182, which is authorizing growth of Kansas agribusiness through development of industrial hemp. Aaron Cromer entered to further discuss this bill and the need for our local Economic growth. He is asking for a letter in support of this, which needs to be submitted by noon today. Aaron will be allowed to speak at the Capital on Wed. the 15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners encouraged the process, but due to time restraints the letter will not be submitted by noon today, as well as public input preferred before a letter is acknowledged by the County.

A motion by Randy, seconded by JW UYV, for a 5 minute executive session for Attorney Client Privilege at 11:18. Back in regular session at 11:23. No action taken.

Gwen—Weed/Landfill. Zach is still learning a lot. We really need to be able to use our new pit, as we are running out of room. There is a noxious weed law (SB 117) to add the wild blackberry, this does not affect Morton County as we do not have it. She has asked to send Chris to basic noxious weed class on 3-27 to 3-31 in Manhattan. Table until next meeting. Chris retakes his 9A chemical license on 2-21-17. She received another bid on the doors from Elkhart Lumber \$1721.86 + labor total of \$2621.86 and Overhead Door is \$2620. A motion by JW, seconded by Randy UYV to purchase the supplies at Elkhart Lumber to fix the garage doors and our maintenance man will install them. Commissioners asked Gwen to come back after lunch.

Charley—Road. A motion by Randy, seconded by Jim UYV to approve Bob Fillpot to attend the Road scholar class on 3-9-17. The rock has been put on the dairy road and loose gravel signs up. The cost to overlay the Highway North of the river is about \$1 million; there is \$600,000 in the Special Highway fund. The new hire has backed out, but there is another individual with a CDL that has applied. 2 Road dept. employees have met with Lance Brown about the gravel pit; he thinks we are ok for a while. JW received several calls on the county roads in Dermot and Richfield areas of concern. Charley is also aware of it and he will look and

make sure they are good. Charley provided a maintenance agreement by Foley for 16 services at \$376/each for the 2011 CAT, it has had this service and hasn't had any problems. Commissioners approved the service plan.

Adjourned at noon for lunch. Reconvened at 1:00.

Approved bills. A motion by Jim, seconded by JW, UYV to approve minutes of Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> as amended. Minutes of Special meeting Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> approved as amended on a motion by JW, seconded by Jim, UYV.

Commissioners signed the following; 3 A/P Warrant Registers; 1 P/R Form and Warrant Register; KS Workforce One Agreement; Added/Abated orders 2015, 125-128 and 2016, 37-97.

A motion by Randy, seconded by Jim UYV to go into executive session for personnel for 15 minutes with Gwen and County Clerk for HR at 1:18. Back in regular session at 1:33. No action taken.

Went to the EMS building to look at facility and meet with the staff from 1:30 to 2:30.

Lance—Forest Service entered at 2:30. Gave an update on the gravel pit, we are working towards getting the County an active permit. The forest service does have 2 full time fire and a summer help. Lance updated the Commissioners on a couple of vacant positions, currently the federal government is in a hiring freeze. A fire drill will be done this Saturday along with local fire departments. Cimarron National Grasslands will be hosting the National Grasslands Managers meeting on May 15-18. Meetings with speakers will be in Liberal.

Kent Boaldin entered to let the Commissioners know that he noticed the Courthouse electrical wires need to be resupported. Also the Sheriff requested to have the sirens moved to the Courthouse and connected to the generator. He can work on both of these at the same time. The Commissioners approved to go ahead and fix it, if under \$500. If it looks to be more than that then submit an estimate. Kent also expressed the need to look at the HVAC setup at the Civic Center. In the past it has been temporarily fixed by both he and Knipp Energy, but it is a complicated setup.

A motion by JW, seconded by Jim UYV. To go into executive session for Attorney/Client Privilege for 10 minutes at 3:03. Back in regular session at 3:13. No action taken.

Jim Tucker left the meeting at 3:30 for an appointment.

A motion by JW, seconded by Randy to appoint Todd Johnson to the Morton County Hospital Board and Wade Wisdom agreed to serve another term on the Airport Advisory Board.

Commissioners reviewed and discussed the abated orders. Also discussed the sale of County equipment through Morton County Facebook page on local trader page.

A motion by Randy, seconded by JW to adjourn at 4:25.