

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
1025 MORTON, ELKHART, KS  
APRIL 10, 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; Wanda Davis, Deputy County Clerk; Jamie Stricker, Tri-State News; Pastor Shelia Choi; Pastor Terrell Giddens.

Pastor Choi opened the meeting with a prayer.

The agenda was reviewed and approved with additions.

At 9:05 a.m., Randy called for an executive session for 15 minutes for personnel. Jim seconded UYV. At 9:20 a.m. executive session was extended for an additional 5 minutes.

At 9:25 a.m. the meeting called back to regular session with no action taken.

Dot Leiker came to the meeting at 9:25 a.m. She gave an informative report of the meeting she had attended with SDSI, along with a brief background of the history of SDSI. She also presented a copy of the minutes of her last meeting with SDSI. She asked the Commissioners to consider funding this program at budget time.

A road permit for Pioneer Communications was reviewed. Jim made a motion, seconded by JW, UYV to approve this permit.

Vicki Huben with Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center entered the meeting to do a presentation of their services. She also presented a pledge form for budget purposes.

The contract for Cimarron Basin FY 2017 was discussed. Eric will take the contract to review and have a recommendation for next meeting.

At 10:00 a.m. Gwen came to the meeting. Eric said the Groundwater monitoring contract was OK to sign. She gave the commissioners a copy of the crushed concrete policy at the landfill. Holiday hours were discussed and Gwen said the landfill would be closed Friday and Saturday. Chris passed his basic class and his next test would be in Dodge City next week. There was discussion on the status of the new pit. She has had 9 applicants for the operator position. She will make a recommendation for that position at the next meeting.

Kevin came at 10:15 a.m. for the golf course. He has recommended A.J. McKinley and Hannah Hattabaugh for summer part-time help. A motion was made by Randy to accept these recommendations at \$9.00 per hour. Jim seconded UYV. Tomorrow starts the tournament season. JW mentioned how nice the Courthouse lawn is looking. Kevin said he and Greg are working well together.

Minutes of the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and approved with corrections on a motion by Randy and second by JW. Minutes of the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved as read on motion by Randy and second by JW, UYV. The bill from WEKANDO was budgeted for this year and is OK to pay. This will be reassessed in next year's budget.

Mary Lou Coen and Sherie Kemp came to the meeting for the Council on Aging. They had questions regarding bills. They were advised to meet with Terry Ryman to get their bills from her to be reviewed by the board before payments are made.

The membership agreement with Great Plains Development was reviewed. A motion was made by Randy, seconded by Jim, UYV to approve and sign the agreement.

Tausha came to the meeting at 10:45 a.m. She reported that there were no leaks at the EMS building. There is a possibility they will have an EMT class this fall. There will be a CPR class on April 22 and fourteen people have signed up. Eric said a coroner had been appointed for this district but he is in Topeka. Fees, transportation, etc. are still being worked on. Eric is going to research the possibility of Morton County using a facility in Amarillo, Texas for autopsies.

At 11:00 a.m. Randy made a motion, seconded by JW, UYV for a 15 minute executive session with Charley for personnel. No action taken after returning to open session.

Barb and Rich from Morton County Health Systems came to the meeting and brought financial printouts. They said they have received a letter from Dr. Lastimosa stating his intent to come to Morton County Health System. He is an Internal Medicine physician and has his Kansas license. Eric will draw up a contract and anticipated start date is December 1st.

At 11:30 a.m., Jim made a motion, seconded by JW, UYV to go to executive session for 20 minutes with Charley, Dana, Bob and Shelden, for personnel. After returning to open session, the Commissioners announced that with the upcoming retirement of Charley, there would be a reassignment of duties. Dana will be Road Supervisor at \$24.00 per hour; Bob will make \$20.00 per hour

as office manager and Sheldon will be making \$23.00 per hour as lead mechanic. This reassignment will be effective May 1.

Lance Brown from the Forest Service came to the meeting and reported this has been a busy time for the Service. The moisture came at an opportune time. There has been a translocation of 11 hens and 8 males of the Lesser Prairie Chicken. He has two open positions and should know by this week if there will be a biologist assigned to this area. The Cimarron National Grassland will be hosting the National Grassland Managers meeting in May. On May 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a luncheon at the Civic Center for approximately 100 participants with representation from all 21 National Grasslands. Lance invited the Commissioners to attend. All three Commissioners will attend the Grasslands luncheon on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Lance and the Cimarron NG have been invited to be part of the Economic Development strategic planning committee and he is very excited to help with this project.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 for lunch at the Rolla Corner Stop. After touring Rolla and stopping by the Rolla Senior Center the meeting returned to open session at 1:30 p.m. at the Landfill/Weed Dept. Gwen and Chris gave a tour of the facility and equipment. Chris demonstrated the tire cutting machine. Upon returning to the Courthouse at 2:30 p.m. the Commissioners discussed the bid from Lehman's Heating & Air Conditioning for the civic center. The bid is for diagnostic and troubleshooting only. Jim will go to the civic center and visit with Vienna about this. They will then request a bid from Lehman's and from Boaldin Electric to remove automated control and rewire for traditional system.

The Commissioners reviewed the bids for replacing the main entrance doors. The bids were:

Kinney Glass	\$5318.00
SW Glass & Door	\$8560.00

Following a recommendation from Greg, a motion was made by JW and seconded by Randy UYV, to accept the Kinney Glass bid to replace 2 sets of 2 doors for the main entrance of the courthouse. Eric will be drafting a demand letter to Cactus Roofing for repairs of the roof of the courthouse.

Jim asked Eric why the last 2 bills exceed \$1,000 for legal counsel to the Hospital, Eric thought it was agreed any additional would come from the Diversion Fund. Commissioners clarified, per minutes of Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> \$1,000/mo for legal services for the Hospital to be paid by the County, nothing from Diversion Fund. A question was asked, if 100% of the rent and utilities was paid by the County to Graybill & Witcher and why when it is a joint practice. Eric stated yes. Commissioners asked how is that fair to tax payers that it's also a private practice, city attorney and partnership. Eric offered to bring a proposal with a

change.

Randy made a motion, seconded by Jim UYV, to adjourn at 4:40 p.m.

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Randy Bane, Chairman

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JW Finn, Vice-Chairman

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Jim Tucker, Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gina Castillo, County Clerk

