

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS
May 22, 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 Jayme Stricker with Tri State News.

Pastor Ed Richards opened the meeting with prayer.

Vicki, Treasurer entered to discuss the statute pertaining to Vendors that owe delinquent taxes. A motion by JW, seconded by Randy UYV pursuant to KSA 79-2011, 2012 and 2013 to authorize the county treasurer to credit the delinquent taxpayer(s) detailed in her report, and to comply with the balance of the procedures therein set forth with the amount of said claims detailed in her report to satisfy the delinquency. And further move we issue warrants against the proper funds of the county, in favor of the county treasurer and authorize her to credit such warrants to the county tax account for distribution as allowed by law. The Commissioners also asked Vicki if vehicle tags are being switched from out of State to Morton Co. she said there have been some, but not a lot.

Commissioners signed the following; 3 A/P Warrant Registers; 1 P/R Form and Warrant Register; 2 part time applicants for Golf. A motion by Randy, seconded by JW, UYV to approve the minutes from May 8th as corrected.

Dusty—Emergency Manager. Also present Jason with Motorola and Shelby, Sheriff. Discussion took place regarding the new 911 console and having a backup to that. The State wide system required the upgrade several years ago. Jason with Motorola explained the quote for the backup and spare parts. The State has an approx. life expectancy of 15 years. The costs for this back up and spare parts approximately \$94,000. He would also like to switch out all pagers to dual band for all departments would be approximately \$36,000. There is always a problem with VHF. Commissioners tabled this until the next meeting, to review the information.

Rhianna—Health. Asked that she and Kendra attend the mandatory Immunization conference in June. A motion to approve by JW, seconded by Jim UYV. She asked about the sponsorship for the fair with a

donation of \$300 to the Fair. Commissioners said not at this time, with budget restraints. She is asking to purchase a new generator, as this one has been not working very well and they have had it since 2003. A motion by Randy, seconded by Jim, UYV at 10:07 to go into a 5 minute executive session for **Local Board of Health**. Back in regular session at 10:12. No action taken.

Missi Martinez and Lisa Southern entered for Compass Behavioral Health. They explained some of the services they provide. They appreciate the support by Morton County.

Dana—Road. Talked about the tree pile, setting an end date so we can haul off to the landfill to finalize the requirements for FEMA. They set June 10th as the final date to accept limbs at the designated emergency sight and Dana will get a cost of leasing equipment to load with. An approximate cost for 8 miles of a dirt road is \$12,500/mile. He asked about getting some bids on County Rd. 16 overlay, County Attorney stated to have a bid sheet with all the specs and send it to interested entities. Then set a date to open bids on a Commissioner meeting date.

Lance Brown—Forest service entered to thank everyone for the participation in last week's luncheon.

Vienna—Civic Center/Economic Dev. Business appreciation luncheon will be June 1st with a presentation by Simone Elder. The generator went down during the storm and needs a new battery.

Supervisors—Gwen, Shelby, Dana, Vienna, Tracie, Crystal, Dusty, Larry, Vicki, Rhianna, Tausha and Susie.

Larry—There have been 2 fires and 1 was during the storm.

Gwen—Been out spraying. Finally got approval to use new pit, but with the rain unable to get in. They were inspected last week, seemed to of gone well. Commissioners stated that the tree piles will be brought to the Landfill after the drop-off deadline of June 10th.

Tracie—Not much to report, she has been on vacation. Commissioner Bane stated that lots of Rolla people are reading the County webpage.

Crystal—Tractor safety is coming up. 6 counties will be hosting, grain, dairy, beef stations 4-H here in Morton County. Lots of activities coming for the summer.

Shelby—She has been helping Dusty with the Emergency disaster reports. Keep Ben Hogan in your prayers, as his mom just passed away. They are still issuing notices to residents on out of county vehicle tags.

Susie—All the hearings have been completed by the Appraiser, and will be getting the certifications to the clerk by June 1st. The valuation has increased.

Rhianna—Been seeing strep and stomach bugs. The State has lots of implementations she is working on.

Vienna—Invited everyone to business appreciation luncheon on June 1st at the Civic Center. Busy with the Strategic planning. Reminder that Grassland Heritage Festival will be starting on June 3rd with the fishing derby and ending on June 10th with a dance on main street.

Dana—Trying to get the roads back in shape from the blizzard, but then it rains. Although not complaining about the rain. Has some repairs to do on graders when there is a little dry spell.

Vicki—Has received 2nd half of tax collection just a little under 98% collected. Interest rates are a little better.

Dusty—FEMA and KEM were out last week to look at the disaster areas, he thinks it looks good by getting the information to the President. This will take a while but, it's in the works.

Tausha—Teaching CPR classes with 2 or 3 left. National EMS week is this week, they will be going to the Sr. Centers with helpful information to pass out.

Commissioners—JW wants to thank everyone for all the help during the storm and doing the paperwork to prepare for FEMA. Jim also thanked everyone and reminded them of budget hearings coming up. Randy thanked everyone for all that was done during the storm, as he is the older one here and was not able to do much.

Gina—Reminder that budgets are due June 23rd, Commissioners did not request any cuts this year since hearing that the valuation will be increasing but encouraged to keep numbers close to last years. This year is the City/School elections for Richfield, Rolla and Elkhart, it's not looking like there will be a Primary just a General in November.

Eric—Also noted in speaking with Steve Rice, CPA for the County with the property tax lid in place, he doesn't anticipate we will see too many changes. The difference between this tax lid and the one in previous years was that this one does not take the County value into play as much as just the mill levy needs to stay about the same.

Gwen—Addressed the survey requirements that KDHE have addressed, these are going to be done but Dan Garber has had cardiac problems and not working a lot, but he is getting it done soon. The 953 C dozer track needs repaired at approximately \$3,300. A motion by Jim, seconded by JW UYV to proceed with these repairs. A little behind on spraying with the wind and rain. There is some musk thistle in Morton County now.

Adjourned for lunch at 11:55. Reconvened at 1:05.

Fred Claassen entered to discuss the federal funding information that he was informed about and encouraged the Commission to call Mark Rude. A conference call was made to Mark Rude with Groundwater management to find out more information. County Attorney will research this and report back at the next meeting.

Tausha—EMS. Presented the "File of life" that they will pass out to individuals. She asked about the Coroner charges, discussion took place regarding the one billing just received. The transport fee to Topeka is the additional charge we did not have before at approx. \$1400. She also gave information on Medicare changes that will hurt our rural communities, and urged everyone to contact legislature. She is organizing a meeting with EMS, nurses and hospital staff to brainstorm ideas on transfers.

A motion by Randy, seconded by Jim UYV at 1:32 for a 10 minute executive session for Attorney Client Privilege. Back in regular session at 1:42. No action taken.

Commissioners went to tour the Treasurers office and the District Court.

A motion by JW, seconded by Jim UYV to adjourn at 3:32.