

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS
December 11, 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, County Clerk.

Denny Huebner opened the meeting with prayer.

Todd McCabe with SW Predatorial entered to discuss the pest control service contract and asked if the County would continue another year. Commissioners approved an annual agreement.

Reviewed the agenda. Commissioners signed the following; 2017 Added/Abated orders 23-31, 2 P/R forms and warrant register, 2 A/P Warrant Register listed below. A motion by JW, seconded by Jim, UYV to approve minutes of November 27th and a motion by Randy, seconded by JW, UYV to approve Special meeting of November 20th.

General	\$	52075.39
Road & Bridge	\$	26458.08
Airport	\$	5,260.51
Noxious Weed	\$	19.37
Health	\$	4878.87
EMS	\$	5581.06
Fire	\$	1518.54
Council on Aging	\$	12870.98
County Building	\$	1973.90
Spec. Econ Dev.	\$	201.83
Mt Co Health System	\$	17370.37
Payroll W/H Fund	\$	5108.45
Emerg. Preparedness	\$	497.99
Diversion Fund	\$	164.99
Civic Center	\$	<u>3425.00</u>
		138,101.44

We received the cost savings chart from 360 Energy for a year it was \$1365.00 this first year, over the projected amount of savings.

Tausha—EMS. She presented a report of monthly runs; it's a work in progress. Discussion took place regarding which medical facility patients are taken to and the charges if out of County.

Chris—Landfill/Weed. Greg has looked at the garage door, it's working for now. The hinges are a year old and will work on a new door. Chris will get bids on a new door. He discussed an individual asking to get rid of drilling mud, and after researching, per the State we cannot take it without a lot of changes in permitting and regulations.

Kevin—Golf. He attended the Turf Grass Conference last week and learned a lot about diseases and received his credit hours. He will use his part-time employees while school is out, with maintenance work.

Dana—Road. He would like to sell the rock crusher that they do not use anymore; there is a County that is interested in it. If it does not sell, he would like to put several things on Purple Wave. Commissioners also stated there is another auction company Gavel, that sells equipment. He presented a bid on a new pickup to buy this year. It will replace his, and his will go to a grader operator. Discussion took place, regarding the need for pickups. This was tabled, after the first of the year he will see what needs sold and where the need is for a pickup.

Vienna—Civic Center. Collecting tax credit commitments for the E community. They contacted the Department of Ag regarding information about the Tyson plant, the Kansas project is on hold right now until after the 1st of the year. They have realized that smaller communities do want to add value to agriculture and are working on ideas in that way. Kansans for wind has information on the website that Vienna is looking in to. The airline tickets are approximately \$500 for the World Ag Expo she and Becki will attend through KREDA Feb. 13-15th. Meals and airfare are the only expenses the County will have.

Greg and Susie—Appraiser. A motion by Randy, seconded by Jim UYV, for a 10 minute executive session for personnel at 11:04 back in regular session at 11:14. No action taken. Discussed the possibility of the salt water disposal wells being zeroed out in value. There was a question made about the Care Center being classified as Residential instead of Commercial. Greg stated that it is classified by the State, as it is due to length of stay. There was lengthy discussion regarding taxing commercial versus residential.

Rich and Barbara entered for the Hospital and discussed the financial report. They are still using TruBridge for billing for approximately 3 years. After the first of the year, things will be better with reimbursements and additional providers.

Shiloh and John —Forest service. They will be advertising for the Ranger position but may not get someone hired until approximately March as Washington has had a hiring freeze and are looking at the needs individually. Shiloh will be gone for about 120 days. John gave an overview of what was going on through the forest service. Budget cuts, fire training, and prairie chicken updates.

Adjourned for lunch at noon. Drove by the Museum to look at the road behind where the trash truck goes through.

At 1:30 until 2:40 Commissioners invited the following County leaders to discuss concerns regarding past and present drug issues within Morton County and ways of prevention. USD 217--Mr. Schnauble and Mrs. Mauk; USD 218-- Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hattabaugh, Chris Scott and Chris McCammon; Morton County--Shelby Ralstin, Rhianna Shaw, Marla Houtz, and Tausha Hoyt; Morton County Health Systems--Rich Bergling, Tuwana Trout and Rodney Johnson; Richfield City--Cole and Becky Hanna; Elkhart City--Tim Hardy; and Compass Behavioral Health--Missy Martinez. Each entity spoke up about what they are currently doing or looking at implementing soon. A major point was education. Each group was encouraged to look into some ways to educate our community and what resources may be available. It was decided to meet again in 90 days to discuss the next steps.

Dot Leiker entered at 2:45 to discuss the SDSI meeting updates. The board amended the budget. She also expressed enjoying serving on this board.

A motion by Randy, seconded by Jim, UYV for an executive session for personnel for 5 minutes at 3:20 back in regular session at 3:25. No action taken.

Commissioners discussed longevity pay and approved to continue the longevity up to the cap of \$200.

A motion to adjourn by Randy at 3:37, seconded by Jim, UYV.

Randy Bane, Chairman

JW Finn, Vice-Chairman

Jim Tucker, Commissioner

Attest:

Gina Castillo, County Clerk