

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS
February 25, 2019

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

Present: JW, Chairman; Jim Tucker, Vice-Chairman; Bill Light, Commissioner; Eric Witcher, County Attorney(entered briefly went home sick); and Gina Castillo, County Clerk.

Eric—Briefed the Commissioners on the cash rent payment was made in full by Pete Loewen for Ag Land. He and the Treasurer are still working on finishing the foreclosures.

Pastor Terrell Giddens of Hillcrest Baptist Church opened with prayer.

Commissioners reviewed the agenda. Commissioners signed; 1 P/R Form and 1 Warrant Register; 2 A/P Warrant Register listed below, added/abated orders 2018-44, 2017-153. A motion by Bill seconded by Jim, UYV to approve minutes of February 11th as corrected.

	2019	2018
General	\$37363.91	\$3,162.79
Road/Bridge	\$10,611.55	
Fire	31.41	
Airport	\$794.04	
Emp. Benefits	\$3644.11	
Ambulance	\$3108.75	
Health	\$691.35	
Special Eco. Devo.	\$200.00	
Diversion	975.00	
P/R Withholding	\$4162.82	
Treas. M/V	\$279.80	
Civic Center Dep		
Extension Council		
Noxious Weed		
Library		
Sales Tax Hosp.		

Em. Prep.	\$106.99	
911	\$636.74	
Hospital		
Fair		
Conservation		
Mental		
Totals	\$62,606.47	\$3162.79

Shelby—Sheriff. She is requesting to hire Craig Harrington as a deputy. Discussed he will have to attend the academy, and starting salary is \$2100/mo. until after the probationary period or the academy. A motion by JW, seconded by Jim, UYV to approve Shelby's recommendation. She updated the Commission on the recent arrests that were made. Five arrested for theft and 3 were given OR bonds and released. All of her older vehicles were sold on Gavel Road just over \$14,960.

Rhianna—Health. Kansas public health conference will be in April, Pam is required to attend but all 3 would like to attend. Commissioners approved. There is a food supplemental grant geared more towards Senior Citizens over 60 and she would like to ask the Senior Center if they can store the food boxes. Flu, RSV and Strep cases are increasing. She contacted Frontline and the Hospital about restricting visitors. A motion by JW, seconded by Jim for executive session at 10:25 for **Local Board of Public Health** for 5 minutes. Back in regular session at 10:30. No action taken. She and Crystal applied for the opioid grant last year, it was not granted. They are limited to only applying for this grant once a year. So they will apply this year.

Kevin—Golf. Has ordered chemical, so there will be some higher vouchers coming for that. The golf board will meet this week. He has had people contacting him about grinding the reels, there is interest, and he will start getting quotes on the equipment.

Dana—Road. Does not have all the bids yet for the County road P project. He received the bid on rock \$36/ton. City of Rolla is willing to trade water for rock. He will call the city back and see what the rate is on the water to make it equal. Last week he attended the meeting on opening and vacating roads. He presented the information from KDOT, Morton County's project is listed and the big project this year is making HWY 54 into a 4 lane all the way to Wichita.

Vienna—Economic Development/Civic Center. She presented the March calendar and the Network Kansas Opportunity Profile. March 27th in Hays will

have the youth entrepreneur challenge, where she and Becki sit on the panel. April 2-3 rural opportunity conference in Dodge City. Commissioners approved her attendance for both events. She said Central Power has had to order a part for the Generator and she is not sure of the cost.

Supervisors—Vicki, Steph, Tracie, Rhianna, Crystal Bashford, Kevin, Vienna, Dana, Larry, Chris and Susie.

Crystal—County club days for 4-H. Board leadership series every Tuesday in February. She is getting ready for spring shows. There are 80 members of 4-H throughout the County.

Rhianna— Heart Health month for February. Also, oral health month, with free toothbrushes. Flu cases are increasing.

Tracie—Completed the 911 expenditure report. Replaced the lap top in Sheriff's office.

Stephanie—Busy doing daily recordings and back indexing. Updating older records on the computer.

Vicki—Working on the tax foreclosures with the County Attorney. Getting documents for the new auditors.

Larry— They assisted with a grass fire by the Colorado/Oklahoma state line. The task force team for SW Kansas, has been formed to help each other in Kansas with fires.

Chris—Getting ready to finish treating prairie dogs.

Dana—Plowed snow over the weekend and getting roads caught up from the last snow.

Vienna—Chamber banquet is coming up in March. Incentives for the small business' is being brought up in the legislature. She brought copies for anyone that wants the Economic Development Network Kansas Opportunity Profile.

Kevin—When it's been nice they have had golfers. Thanked the Road dept. for hauling the dirt he did not need to the landfill.

Susie—Mailing out property valuation notices. May start getting calls and hearings. She also mentioned an appraiser had told her Seaboard is expanding in the curing department in Oklahoma, but it will add a lot more jobs. There will also be a need for housing and schools.

Gina—Lisa and her team with Lewis, Hooper and Dick were here on Feb. 7th . Just watch for information auditors will request, as it may be different than in the past. Also we will be having a special mail ballot election for USD 217 coming up.

Commissioners—JW stated we are excited about what the new auditors will bring in helping us all understand the budgeting process better. Commissioners stated they all appreciate your hard work.

Susie—Appraiser. She entered to ask about time off and comp time. After lengthy discussion the Commissioners will discuss this and get back with her later today.

Mary Fisher—Entered on behalf of herself and her neighbors. By their property in Wilburton, there are 2 lots that everyone is concerned about being abandoned/unattended and collecting a lot of trash. This could possibly be a fire hazard and also cause a rodent problem. The Commissioners will check into this and see what can legally be done.

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

A motion by Jim, seconded by JW, UYV to go into executive session for HR with the County Clerk at 1:00 for 15 minutes. Back in regular session at 1:15. No action taken.

The Commissioners and Gina left to go tour the Road Department. Back at 2:30. Chris McCammon entered to have paper signed.

Susie entered to talk with Commissioners about the hours. They stated there was no comp time. In the County handbook it's stated the Courthouse hours are 9-5 with lunch hours.

Commissioners discussed the following; County handbook and visiting with the appropriated entities more than once a year at budget time. Pest control service and these things are being reviewed and will table until next month.

A motion to adjourn at 4:35 by Jim, seconded by JW, UYV.

JW Finn, Chairman

Jim Tucker, Vice-Chairman

Bill Light, Commissioner

Attest:

Gina Castillo, County Clerk

