

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS
March 11, 2019

JW called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with open doors.

Present: JW, Chairman; Jim Tucker, Vice-Chairman; Bill Light, Commissioner; Eric Witcher, County Attorney; and Gina Castillo, County Clerk.

JW opened with prayer.

Commissioners reviewed the agenda. Commissioners signed 1 P/R Form and Warrant Register; 2 A/P Warrant Registers listed below; Abated orders, 2014-179, 2015-133, 2016-116, 2017-154, 2018-45-53. A motion by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV to approve the minutes of Feb. 25th as amended.

	2019	2018
General	\$33,397.91	
Road/Bridge	\$10,111.07	
Fire	\$1,631.02	
Airport	\$1,650.87	
Emp. Benefits		
Ambulance	\$3,478.94	
Health	\$1,983.41	
Spec. Eco Dev.	\$345.61	
Historical		
P/R Withholding	\$2,514.94	
Treas. M/V	\$50.00	
Civic Center Dep	\$600.00	
Co. Att. Diversion	\$164.99	
Noxious Weed	\$ 90.00	
Library		
Sales Tax Hosp.	\$14,366.73	
Em. Prep.	\$102.99	
911	\$50.00	
Totals	\$70,538.48	

Dusty—EMS. He presented the call report. They have been working with the Hospital and they have provided a nurse at times to do a transfer. Dr. Caganan has agreed to be the Medical Director, as the Hospital is better staffed and has time now. Conference will be in April in Hays \$160/each plus motel room. He has given them until the 22nd to let him know if interested, currently there are three. They have applied for a grant to cover expenses for some training he wants to do. He asked about straight time pay for Holiday pay, if someone does not work.

Chris—Weed/Landfill. Approximately \$1100 to replace the wheel loader cutting edge that was damaged from the snow. The Conference was good; they discussed the importance of water quality when spraying. The new noxious weed law went into effect last year. He now has to keep record on Drift Watch. Star programming was discussed a lot at the conference and can be used at the landfill, he wants to utilize that. Next year he may look at a UTV, to replace the 4 wheelers and prairie dog baiter. Terracon should be here Thursday and Friday, the information will be back next week. He would like to ask to hire a full time person instead of part-time, this person could possibly be a shared employee with the Road Department. He and Todd could get their CDL so they are able to help at the Road department.

Dana—Road. He presented 2 bids for chip seal County Road P project. Bids by B & H for \$116,560.00 and Apac for \$184,922.00. A motion by Bill, seconded by Jim, UYV to approve the bid with B & H and rock, cement and reclaimer expenses totaling \$323,766.00. Rolla offered to give the County the water, but the Commissioners said we need a cost to exchange rock in an equal amount. Dana is interested in looking at a chemical that Hamilton County uses to put in with caliche.

Kevin—Golf. Had a representative demonstrating grinding reels at the course, he invited the Commissioners. They did not have time to attend.

Hospital—Rich Bergling, CEO. Mike Horton and Steve Brillhart, board members. Rich presented A/R reports. He had a report for utilities on the North Wing. Rich suggested he could start sending the clerk weekly reports he gives Hospital board members before their meeting. Commissioner Finn stated that sounds good. Commissioner Tucker asked about the cash on hand is half of what it was last year. Rich explained it is due to the change to Azalea and slower getting Medicare reimbursement in the beginning. A motion by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV to go into executive session for Attorney Client Privilege at 11:12 for 5 minutes. Back in regular session at 11:17. No action taken.

Angela Eichman and Susie—Appraiser. The Hospital staff stayed for discussion. She presented the property appraisal report for the Hospital and North Wing and

discussed the exemption. Angela discussed questions people were having at recent hearings, receiving more questions regarding the irrigated values. Commissioner Light asked if she would give an update when the hearings are over. Angela agreed.

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

Drove out to the Landfill/Weed department and toured the facilities.

Angela Eichman and Susie—Appraiser. Entered again to discuss values. She presented an Irrigated Ag land value change report from 2018-2019.

Commissioners asked the County Attorney about the Wilburton Property that has been abandoned and unmaintained. He will check on this and let them know. There are 34 properties up for the tax sale.

A motion to adjourn at 4:39 by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV.

JW Finn, Chairman

Jim Tucker, Vice-Chairman

Bill Light, Commissioner

Attest:

Gina Castillo, County Clerk