

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS
May 13, 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(9:10) and Gina Castillo, County Clerk.

Pastor Denny Huebner with Elkhart Church of God opened with prayer.

A motion by Bill, seconded by Jim, UYV to approve the amended minutes from April 22nd. Commissioners signed 1 P/R form and 1 Warrant Register; 3 A/P Warrant Registers listed below; Abated Order 2018-58.

	2019
General	\$29,449.99
Road/Bridge	\$27,110.76
Extension Council	
Airport	\$1,322.89
Emp. Benefits	\$924.17
Ambulance	\$4,463.24
Health	\$9,301.79
County Building	\$2,797.37
Fire	\$3,636.12
P/R Withholding	\$3,793.32
Emerg. Prep.	\$1,012.45
Civic Center Dep	\$2,255.00
Diversion Fund	\$164.99
Noxious Weed	\$20,646.91
Special Eco. Devo.	\$222.93
Sales Tax Hosp.	\$13,963.73
Treas. M/V	\$176.05
911	\$6,820.11
Hospital	
Fair	
Conservation	
Mental	
Totals	\$128,061.82

Gene Higgins van driver for the Council on Aging entered to let the Commissioner know that the large commercial van is too tall and hard for the people to get in and he wondered if something could be done. The Commissioners said they would check with the Sheriff dept. about trading vans.

Dusty—EMS. He presented the run reports. He also explained the EMT class grant and reimbursement voucher, we have to pay it back to the State and they try to collect from the individuals that do not stay in the class. He attended a homeland security meeting last week, any upcoming projects need to be turned in for the year 2020. Commissioner Light said he visited with Doug Smith with KLPG about insurance being the reason the bill did not pass for a driver to work for EMS.

Chris—Landfill. He has not heard anything back on the wells yet. They are busy pumping the rain water out of the pit. He is going to come in and spray county properties today. They are also repairing the office a little bit. He wants to look at the budget to see if there is room to change the flooring to a laminate. The garage doors have been installed and he is pleased with them.

Dana—Road. The patching job will be completed today. He asked about renting the larger grinder and using it to grind down County Road D also. APAC called and has an extra 8000 tons of millings if the county wants to purchase it. We are already getting 4000 tons for them using County property. A motion by Bill, seconded by Jim, UYV to approve the purchase of 8000 tons of millings and also renting the larger grinder.

Vienna—Civic Center/Economic Development. Laura Martin, owner of the quilt shop has asked if they could leave vehicles parked at the Civic Center and leave from there on a tour bus. Vienna said there are no events that week; the Commissioners said that was ok. Fire inspection has been done by the company that installed the equipment in the kitchen. The report stated nozzles need replaced at approximately \$3900. Commissioners asked if they could come to the next meeting and explain these upgrades. Dodge City is looking at a midlevel college at the St. Mary of the Plains. They are reaching out to only 5 other counties as an end user location with audio/video, camera, screen and computers to provide a distant learning facility. They are requesting a letter of a financial commitment of \$1952 annually for 3 years. The location would be at Hospital. A motion by Jim, seconded by JW, UYV to participate in this. She also asked if July 8th would be a good day to schedule the Top taxpayers luncheon. Discussed maybe doing it in the fall, table for now.

Chris Lund—City on a Hill. He presented the financials for City on a Hill. One big challenge is the roof needs replaced at about \$83,000 and it is not covered under the insurance policy. They appreciate all contributions.

Hospital—Rich, CEO; and Mike Horton board member entered and presented reports. He also presented 2 signed lease agreements, C&R Pharmacy and Clinic lease. Angela Willey called and needs to reschedule. They just started with Azalea on May 1st with the A/P reporting.

Jonathan Harold with Western Child Advocacy. He explained the services they provide in 34 western counties.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:00. Reconvened at 1:00

Matt Jacobs and Chris Flageolle with Lochner. Airport board members Darren Buck, Ty Koonce, Reid Shrauner, and Managers Dusty Brillhart and Dennis Tevebaugh. Matt and Chris went over both grants; the KDOT grant approved for FY 2019 to correct the GIS Surveys the County match is \$4000. Commissioners approved to proceed with this 1st, Board in agreement. The other is the next phase of our CIP, lengthy discussion about the next 3 yrs of entitlements banked for the next 3 years projects. The downfall to the County is possibly having to pay upfront and get reimbursed in the end for the entitlements. Commissioners stated we need to have auditors review before we proceed. The deadline to proceed is May 31st. The Clerk will contact Lisa, with LHD to be on the agenda the next meeting to look at this and also explain the transfer suggestions after the Audit.

Kevin Taylor—Forest Service. Updated the Commissioners on current items. They have put more cattle on the grasslands. The Tunerville buildings are in need of maintenance, and they want to remove the corrals and building and add a forty foot concrete slab to put shipping containers for storage. They were able to burn 300 acres this year. Vicki, treasurer entered to discuss the GWM assessment and how it is going to get collected. Kevin is hoping to have the permit signed for the gravel pit, it is in Pueblo right now. Both Vicki and Kevin agreed the publication fees are high and hoping to find a solution to this. The Commissioners will try to contact GWM later today. Kevin said they have some roads to add and maybe some to take off of the list that the County maintains, the Commissioners suggested to contact Dana and bring it back to present to the Commission.

Commissioners made a call to Mark Rude with Groundwater Management. Discussion took place on how to collect the water assessment from the US forest service. He will do some more research on it and contact us at our next meeting.

Commissioners approved new gutter for the Museum proposed by Stanfield Roofing in the amount of \$3399.00 from County Building. A motion by Jim,

seconded by Bill, UYV to approve \$1000.00 contribution to Grassland Heritage Festival out of Commissioners budget. Commissioner Finn gave an update on the airport water leak to the spray pads, Fink Water well went out last week and repaired it and he also gave an estimate to meter both locations at approximately \$5000.00. Clerk also presented the annual water usage costs. The Commission decided to amend both contracts the cost of utilities. The County Attorney will draw up 2 amended contracts with additional amount due, as this is a cheaper route than redoing the meters. A call was made to the Director of Morton County Library to clarify the open position being filled by an Elkhart resident; she stated that statute is to have a person from Richfield, one from Rolla and 3 from Elkhart. A motion by JW, seconded by Jim, UYV to approve the recommendation of Brandi Burnett to fill the unexpired term of Patti Bellomy.

A motion to adjourn at 4:28 by Bill, seconded by Jim, UYV.

JW Finn, Chairman

Jim Tucker, Vice-Chairman

Bill Light, Commissioner

Attest:

Gina Castillo, County Clerk