

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS
February 16, 2022

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

Present: Jim Tucker Chairman; Bill Light, Vice-Chairman; JW Finn, Commissioner; Adam Carey, County Attorney and Gina Shores, County Clerk.

Terrel Giddens of Hillcrest Baptist Church opened with prayer.

Commissioners approved Jan. 24th minutes on a motion by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV. Commissioners signed 1 P/R form and Warrant Register; 3 A/P Warrant Registers listed below; KDOT engineer agreement; MOA with Hospital for Assisted Living Facility.

		2022	2021
General		\$156,375.50	\$510.67
Road & Bridge		\$11,932.51	
Fire		\$914.22	-
Airport		\$4,961.05	
Ambulance		\$6,483.91	
Sheriff		\$4,154.71	
Weed		\$2,460.00	
Co Building		\$4,025.00	
Health		\$16,002.65	
Civic Center Dep Fund		\$890.00	
Payroll			
W/H		\$3,247.46	
Emergency Prep		\$104.72	
911		\$496.11	
Sales Tax-Health System		\$19,426.65	
E-Community Loan		\$280.00	
Treasurer M/ V		\$176.05	
Total		\$231,930.54	\$510.67

Kevin—Golf. Kevin entered with golf board members Sam Eiland and Darrell Smith. They discussed the request by Ernie Barnes for the County to give back 10 acres of water rights. They also reviewed the email sent by Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner of Water Resources and tried to contact him. Mike replied he would be available later today.

Commissioners discussed the Economic Development director position and pros and cons.

Commissioners called Tracie Nixon IT. She is asking to approve the server AS400 at \$29,216.98 and 5 sonic walls for \$9,375 and this is in the IT C/O budget. Approved on a motion by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV. Renewing the Veam licensing 1-year contract is \$742, next year we can budget for a 3-year contract. Commissioners approved her to purchase more Office 365 licenses for supervisors. A motion by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV The Airport needs a new printer, it is older and not working.

Dusty—EMS. He would like to continue to serve on the SWKREPC for Morton County representative. Commissioners signed and approved. The County shop foreman; Sheldon received recall notices for the Ambulance and Fire truck. Fire Truck has one for both the transmission and frame, ambulance has one for the transmission. The AMT class starts next week with 4 employees taking it and 2 are volunteers and Dusty is asking if the hourly rate can be \$16.20/hr. Tabled for now as the class will take 5 months to complete. Larry gave him a fire grant for wildland PPE and communication equipment it's a 50% match from the County. Dusty is going to start training with Rolla and Richfield Fire. The EOP expired at the end of 2021, it is still in affect he is just working with SW counties to get this completed.

Toni Bressler and Barbara Luck entered to express Library Lovers day at the Library and shared a picture of story time with about 50 kids today. Toni also wanted the Commissioners to know that they have received Kansas Humanities grant funding to start on Phase 1 of updating lighting in the Adult Fiction area. They are working with Boaldin Electric. They received a grant from Tri County Electric that they have used on the courtyard of the Library.

A motion by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV to approve the purchase of a swivel nozzle for the Rolla station brushtruck from Weis Fire in the amount of \$740.00 plus freight.

Hospital--Patrick, CEO. They are advertising and taking applications for Assisted Living at approximately \$2,000/month. The hospital is estimating about \$100,000 loss this year on getting all things in operating mode. The County Attorney drafted an operations agreement Patrick has signed Commissioners will review. The 2 empty buildings have electricity but he has had the water drained after the water line broke and will look at that later. The C&R Pharmacy has sold to Heather Blackburn, and Jeremy, the pharmacist is overseeing the pharmacy. The lease is currently \$1200/month, the board is raising it to \$1800/month with an 8% increase each year.

Angela Eichman—County Appraiser entered and asked about a property that the Commissioners sold in a sealed bid. They discussed HB 2618 just for consideration right now.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:30. Back in regular session at 1:15.

Kendra—Health. She needs to apply for an E grant in the amount of \$112,000 by June 2023. She is considering updating her office, making sure they are staying in that building. She has applied for a leadership training class. She and Catherine are attending a training in Hugoton tomorrow for regional health preparedness. They have turned all their COVID cases over to KDHE, overall statewide numbers are low. She appreciated the snow days and feels it keeps the community safe. A motion by Bill, seconded by JW UYV to go into a 5-minute executive session for Personnel at 1:30. Back in regular session at 1:35. No action taken.

Vienna—Economic Dev/Civic Center. The Youth Entrepreneurs Challenge was today and she gave an update. The winners were Cesar Gomez, Holly Hollingsworth, Clayton Cole, Kaden Perry and Isaiah Alvarado.

Mike Meyer, Water Commissioner called into the meeting. After much discussion the Commissioners with Kevin and the golf board the consensus was to decline Ernie Barnes request to transfer water acreage, they want to proceed with the split of water rights on a motion by Bill, seconded by JW, UYV. Mike confirmed that this would not change the Golf Course water rights going forward.

Concluded with Vienna and discussed the 2 applicants.

Commissioners called Richard Adams, after lengthy discussion he accepted the Economic Director position. They asked Alexis O'Hair if she could come to the meeting, she agreed. They offered her a job, as a cross functional assistant to all departments. She stated she was interested but would like to take a few days to think it over. Commissioners agreed.

Clerk updated the Commissioners for Chris, he was attending a meeting out of town. He and Sheldon would like to attend the Road Scholar training in Garden City on February 22nd A motion by Jim, seconded by JW, UYV to approve training. The Clerk also gave them a copy of the Road projects and memos from the auditors. The Commissioners stated the Road department could go ahead and get rock bids.

A motion to adjourn at 3:24 by JW, seconded by Bill.

Jim Tucker, Chairman

Bill Light, Vice-Chairman

JW Finn, Commissioner

Attest: _____
Gina Shores, County Clerk