

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS  
March 14, 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.

JW opened with prayer.

Commissioners approved February 28<sup>th</sup> minutes on a motion by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV. Commissioners signed 1 P/R form and Warrant Register; 1A/P Warrant Registers listed below. Abated orders 2021-32,33; MOA/Lease County Attorney; 2 Job applications for Economic Development.

2022		
General		\$52,964.04
Road & Bridge		\$10,772.07
Fire		\$4,807.04
Airport		\$1,302.27
Ambulance		\$2,837.35
Sheriff		\$3,316.61
Weed		\$486.20
Treasurers M/V		\$176.05
Health		\$3,115.24
Civic Center Dep Fund		\$250.00
911		\$496.11
Employee Ben		\$3,014.88
Emergency Preparedness		\$1,284.84
	-	
Total	-	\$84,822.70

Opened sealed bids for the Manter crossing. Received one by Conant, east side \$67,470.00 and west side \$129,815.00. Discussed these repairs, and adding additional lighted caution signs to put out.

Chris—Public Works. The monitoring well agreement with Terracon is \$11,000.00, needs Commissioner approval and signature. Chris will discuss with the clerk later brooming at the airport further. Commissioner Light stated that the road department may start looking at ideas for the Manter crossing guard rails. Commissioner Tucker asked Chris to discuss with Dana and Sheriff about lowering speed limit to all paved county roads to 50 for trucks 60 for passenger vehicles.

Jeff Outhier—Forest Ranger. He is the acting ranger, from Colorado until mid-May. They are currently looking to hire a ranger here. He will be meeting with the grazing association at the end of this month. They are also planning on doing 3 controlled burns on the grassland.

Dusty—EMS. He is going over budget numbers, on personnel. He feels good on budget numbers, but will have a volunteer out for a couple months and fulltime staff will have to cover. Table top with the hospital last week, covered emergency preparedness with Shaina Peacock and about 14 employees.

David Luke—KCAMP. Loss ratio. He explained the Interlocal agreement and explained additional services offered by KCAMP.

Hospital--Patrick, CEO. After CMS audit they had to repay \$248,000 which they had not allowed for in the budget. The Hospital has switched auditing firms, due to their lack of communication with the Hospital. Currently, there are 5 in the independent living and 3 in the assisted living and have others that have inquired. They currently have staff for this facility and are looking for additional staff. Patrick also asked about the empty facilities A/C units and generator, he has someone interested in them. County Attorney will check into this, table it for now. A motion by JW, seconded by Bill for 5-minute executive session for personnel at 11:40. Back in regular session at 11:45. A motion by Jim, seconded by JW, UYV to extend 5 minutes. Back in regular session at 11:50. A motion by Jim, seconded by JW, UYV to extend 5 minutes. Back in regular session at 11:55. A motion by Jim, seconded by JW, UYV to extend 5 minutes. Back in regular session at 12:00. No action taken.

Vienna—Economic Development/Civic Center. She is just inquiring about what the vision and plan is for Economic Development employees. Discussion took place with opinions and ideas on how to restructure responsibilities for the two new hires.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:40. Back in regular session at 1:40.

A motion by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV to move part-time to \$14/hr. Any new CDL hires will now be at \$15/hr. Any current CDL driver under \$15 will be adjusted to \$15/hour.

Tim Hardy, Elkhart City Administrator entered as a courtesy to the Commissioners about a chip seal project they have for this year that will go by the Civic Center and Golf Course as he says it's platted to the City of Elkhart. The Commissioners approved this.

Commissioners discussed the following; A motion by JW, seconded by Jim, UYV to pay the remainder of the County Attorney copiers lease in the amount of \$2,047.30 from Special Equipment. The County Attorney is also proposing a MOA and private practice office lease agreement and asked the Commissioners a rent amount. A motion by Jim, seconded by Bill, UYV to go into executive session for personnel for 5 minutes at 2:32. The County Attorney and Clerk left the meeting. Back in regular session at 2:37. The Commissioners set the rent for the County Attorneys private practice rent at \$100.00/month approved on a motion by Jim, seconded by JW, UYV. This will be reviewed annually.

A motion by Bill, seconded by JW, UYV to approve Conant East and West bids to repair Manter bridge/crossing. No other bids came by mail. The Commissioners asked Stephanie Sinclair to enter to discuss about not allowing pets in the Courthouse. She stated she understood. They discussed the golf course water rights, the County Attorney will make phone calls for further clarification, tabled until the next meeting. Clerk asked for Greg, maintenance to purchase a lawn edger from American Implement in the amount of \$359.99, the price was similar where Kevin, golf superintendent orders his. The Commissioners approved to purchase local with American Implement on a motion by JW, seconded by Jim, UYV. The clerk also updated the Commissioners on the installation of the new server on March 24-27<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn at 3:35 by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Tucker, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Light, Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
JW Finn, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest:  
Gina Shores, County Clerk