

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS
April 11, 2022

Jim called the meeting to order at 9:01 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 amended March 28th minutes on a motion by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV. Special meeting amended April 4th minutes approved on a motion by Bill seconded by JW, UYV. Commissioners signed 1 P/R form and Warrant Register; 2 A/P Warrant Registers listed below; 2 added/abated orders.

	2022
General	\$49,289.61
Road/Bridge	\$32,413.17
Hospital	
Sheriff	\$4,777.59
Extension Council	
Fair	
Airport	\$54,025.52
Emp. Benefits	\$13,803.89
Ambulance	\$2,743.05
Health	\$4,258.28
Covid Relief Fund	\$8,000.00
Fire	\$9,516.97
Sales Tax Health	\$21,249.25
P/R Withholding	\$1,599.84
Treas. M/V	\$176.05
Emerg. Prep.	\$1,377.26
Civic Center Dep	\$340.00
Diversion Fund	
Noxious Weed	\$72.24
Historical	
Special Eco. Devo.	
Library	
Special Hwy	\$15,582.63
911	\$496.44

County Bldg
Totals

\$3,749.29
\$223,471.08

Chris—Public Works. A motion by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV to go into executive session at 9:38 for 5 minutes for personnel. Back in regular session at 9:44. No action taken. Chris asked to hire Mike Thompson at \$14/hr. for the Road department, approved on a motion by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV. He presented Chemical bids per purchasing policy on subsection 6, long term contracts averaged monthly, he can purchase from the best quote. Road 16 project, they are unable to get concrete. So, we are looking at other options. He is working on the narrative for lowering speed limit. Commissioners asked for a cost of the changed project, Chris will get this for the next meeting.

Stephanie—ROD. She presented quotes for a new printer to purchase out of her tech fund in the amount \$2319.49 from Southern office it's the only vendor that has it in stock. A motion by Jim, seconded by Bill, UYV.

Tracie- IT. She said Veeam is higher than previously at \$6,925. This is the backup and recovery for all computers. A motion by Bill, seconded by Jim UYV for Tracie to proceed with the Veeam renewal out of IT contractual. The IT budget will be over as, former IT Adam Lovelle didn't go over budget with Tracie and there are renewals that were not in there. She is going to try to go with Microsoft for the licenses instead of CDWG.

Kendra—Health. She presented information by Mica Ratzlaff, architect student and she would like to remodel the health department with the remaining ELC grant funds of about \$90,000 that have to be spent by June 2023. She will have to have updates on the medical requirements. County Attorney mentioned that we will have to go with the bidding process. Commissioners agreed to proceed. She and Marla are working on applying for grants. They received an additional \$1,000 in grants that she had to spend in 3 days, so she purchased supplies. She and Katherine attended Governors Public Health Conference in Manhattan. They are working on a community assessment for needs. She asked about the care center possibly being a low-income living facility or homeless shelter. The Commissioners are open to suggestions.

Hospital--Patrick, CEO and Board member Richard Adams. Sharmilla Hall and Cole Parks also entered. Sharmilla gave an update on the Assisted Living. They have received a lot of applications for residents and have not even advertised out of our area. They have a few things they are looking into like transportation for food and individuals needing to go to hospital or clinic. They hired a dietician. Nena Aranda is the head cook, and will have to go through some training. Cole has had to do a lot of work with the phone system. Patrick said they have hired a new RN. There will be a mandatory meeting with providers this Wednesday, invited the Commissioners. This last quarter was the worst they have had, due to providers scheduled times off. But things are looking to be better going forward. Patrick also explained the Rural designation.

Richard Adams—Economic Development and as hospital board member. He and Patrick have been discussing a lot of options for the Long-term care and Special Care facilities. He stated that he, Alexis and Vienna attended the SW Eco/Devo meeting. He is reaching out to Shan Hanes at Heartland Tri-state bank to discuss a truck stop and Rusty regarding discussion again on a vet in Elkhart.

Vienna—Civic Center/Economic Dev. She wanted to discuss the budget and how it splits between both Civic Center and Eco Devo. The Special Eco Devo fund has around \$125,000, which was started by loaning Elkhart and Rolla funds for infrastructure improvement, grants awarded and some county properties sold. Discussion took place regarding the operations of the Civic Center. Kaden Perry is going to the state YEC challenge, the 2 other youth have baseball games to attend. Vienna is going to book 2 rooms for Crystal and Alexis to attend those expenses will be paid out of the E Community fund from Network Kansas. Vienna and Richard both discussed the biggest topic of the SW round table was the Dairy going in at Dodge City a 2-year process. It was stated they are contracting in a 60-mile radius but Commissioners suggested keep after them and working with our local dairy. Richard asked how the budget is structured and discussion took place on working with the Clerk and Lisa, our auditor.

Chris—Public works. May 16-18th is the Road conference in Dodge City, 3 people for 3 nights would be about \$900 total cost. Commissioners stated they wanted a Supervisor here instead of all 3 attending, Dana will stay and Chris and Sheldon will attend. Approved on a motion by Bill, seconded by JW, UYV. JW, seconded by Bill, UYV to proceed with 12 mile chip seal project to be sealed bids opened on May 9th.

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

A motion by Jim, seconded by Bill, UYV to approve recommended transfers after the Audit by Lisa, Lewis, Hooper and Dick. \$75,000 from County General to Special Equipment; \$390,560 from Road to Special Highway; and \$40,000 from Fire to Special Fire.

A motion by JW, seconded by Jim, UYV to approve Syntech fuel circuit board at \$2803 out of Airport budget. Discussion took place regarding UNUM policy increase. We will visit this again at the next meeting. The Clerk discussed looking at CBIZ, PIC and HUB as Employee Benefit coordinators.

A motion by JW, seconded by Jim, UYV for 5-minute executive session for Attorney Client privilege at 2:04. Back in at 2:09. A motion by Jim, seconded by JW, UYV to extend 2 minutes. Back in regular session at 2:11. Commissioners are all in favor of proceeding in contracting with Kirkham Michael, engineers for the Manter crossing. A motion by Bill, seconded by JW, UYV to sign the water rights division with Ernest Barnes. Tax foreclosure hearings will start in May per the County Attorney.

A motion to adjourn at 2:28 by JW, seconded by Bill, UYV.

Jim Tucker, Chairman

Bill Light, Vice-Chairman

JW Finn, Commissioner

Attest:
Gina Shores, County Clerk