

MINUTES  
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS  
May 8, 2023

JW called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. with open doors.

Present: JW Finn, Chairman; Jim Tucker, Vice-Chairman; Andy Bane, Commissioner; Clint Floyd, County Counselor and Gina Shores, County Clerk.

JW opened with prayer.

Commissioners approved April 24th amended minutes on a motion by Andy, seconded by Jim, seconded by Andy, UYV. Commissioners signed 1 P/R form and Warrant Register; 1 A/P Warrant Registers listed below; Added/Abated order 2022-42.

	2023
General	\$50,086.03
Road/Bridge	\$8,403.09
Sheriff	\$12,761.75
Airport	\$1,625.46
Emp. Benefits	
Ambulance	\$900.62
Health	\$4,799.73
Golf Course G &G	\$452.81
Fire	\$315.73
Sales Tax Health	\$17,951.44
P/R Withholding	\$1,876.20
Treas. M/V	\$567.08
Emerg. Prep.	\$22,007.06
Civic Center Dep	\$750.00
Diversion Fund	
Noxious Weed	\$310.89
Special Hwy Improve	\$117,562.50
911	\$1,301.11
Capital Improvement	\$8,262.73
Totals	\$249,934.23

Public comment-- Forest Ranger entered to give an update since he has come back for a while. The fishing derby is scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in June. They will not have a fire truck here any longer and are scheduled to meet with Elkhart Fire department to discuss this.

Dusty--EMS. The Verizon tablets are actually going to be \$1440 instead of the \$1200 it is still cheaper than the others. Commissioners approved the increased amount.

Chris--Public Works. Weed department has started spraying. He presented costs for a Skid loader \$69,000 and soil compactor \$177,000, this is still cheaper than purchasing a new blade. Commissioners approved the soil compactor and waived the purchasing policy as this product is hard to find, motion by Andy, seconded by Jim, UYV from Special Highway Equipment fund with a balance of \$540,832.

Don Rivera with Western Child Advocacy Center entered to discuss their services for Morton County.

Tim Hardy--Elkhart City Administrator. The Council asked that he contact the Commissioners about the bad properties that need demolished. The city has narrowed it down to about 17 properties. Tim talked with Vicki about the tax sale, which makes it about 6 properties now that may need demolished. It will be closer to Fall/Winter to get this done, with all the legalities. The City wondered if the County is still willing to help when everything is ready. Commissioners suggested keep in communication with Chris, Public Works director about taking condemned trailer houses.

Mike Horton entered to discuss the Rural Champion project, he likes the building at the Airport and would like to move it between the Health Department and Morton building. Commissioners approved and said to work with Chris, Public Works to do dirt work and Brent to help move the small trailer. He is also putting this in the paper to help assist with Mental Health month.

Compass Behavioral Health--Lisa Southern and Brooke Cooper. They all continued discussion that Mike Horton brought up with the 988 Hotline and crisis centers. Lisa and Brooke also went over their services in Morton County.

Shelby--Sheriff. She is requesting to hire Jamie Blaha for dispatch, approved her recommendation at \$14/hr on a motion by Jim, seconded by Andy, UYV.

Richard Adams, CFO with Hospital gave updates. State of Kansas sent them confirmation that Morton County Health System meets the requirements for Critical Access designation. Over the next several months they will go through all the details to receive that officially. Filming was done by West Texas A&M to put together a video by staff and locals to help promote our hospital. 1<sup>st</sup> quarter revenues were up this year. They have hired a DON(director of nursing) and two Nurse Practitioners. They have met with Pedro Loewen and a non-profit group about leasing the memory care unit. Patrick has been working on a triple lease agreement.

Alexis—Economic Development. Commissioners called her to discuss the windmill project for the Museum. She applied for the grant has not received it yet, requesting to go ahead and pay Fink Water well service to put it up before Bike Across Kansas starts. A motion by Jim, seconded by Andy, UYV to proceed and pay from county general and reimburse when the grant is received in the amount of \$1200-\$1500.

Tracie—IT. She entered to updated the Commissioners on installing the new servers and working with Ryan, newly hired IT. She felt everything went well while she was here doing that. She will be working with Ryan remotely when she gets back to Michigan.

Clerk brought up a few things for the Commissioners; Greg, maintenance would like to replace his chainsaw with one from the Lumber yard for \$200. And asked to purchase flowers for the grounds from Hugoton as the Lumber yard is no longer selling plants. Commissioners approved. Civic Center just now received several invoices from last year from Boaldin Electric, and it's too late to take it from prior year. Barbie just wanted them to know for budget purposes.

A motion to adjourn at 1:02 Jim, seconded by Andy, UYV.

_____	_____
JW Finn, Chairman	Jim Tucker, Vice-Chairman
_____	_____
Andy Bane, Commissioner	Attest: Gina Shores, County Clerk