

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting
Courthouse Lower Level Conference Room

September 30, 2010

Present were Ronald Freeman, Gene West, Don Richards and Ray Stegman. Rhonda Whitney took the minutes in the absence of the Clerk.

Terry Mayhew opened the meeting with prayer.

Ron would like to add transmission lines to the agenda for 9:30. Don moved to approve the agenda with this addition. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Gene moved to approve the minutes for September 20, 2010. Don seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Gene then moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers and September payroll subject to the County Council's approval. Don seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Ron Freeman, as Chairman, signed the Cimarron Basin Community Corrections agreement. Don moved and Gene seconded to sign Joseph Roth's contract for the Appraisal office, motion carried.

Gunnar Stauth wished to relay a call he received from Clark Smith concerning road work needing to be done at 29 & Y. Gunnar is aware of the problems and agrees much work will need to be done. Gunnar then reminded the commissioners of the upcoming T Works meeting in Hutchinson on the 28th of October. They will check their calendars.

Don Richards asked Gunnar if RC&D has been remitting funds to the county. He's curious about donating some aluminum cans to the Twilight Theatre project or asking RC&D to donate a portion of our contributions.

The Commissioners mention that they have received numerous calls regarding Nisly trash pick-up scheduled to start in January of 2011. Again it is discussed that this will be much more efficient and cost effective.

The Commissioners want to research the possibility of rerouting transmission lines through Kiowa County. This would greatly increase the county valuation. The KCC says we would need someone to represent us at all the KCC meetings, the first of which is in Dodge City on October 18th. It is agreed that hiring a representative would be money well spent. The KCC has indicated that the tax rate in this county being lower than in the counties currently proposed would be an advantage. Also, other proposed counties have had considerable land owner opposition. Dawn will draft a letter indicating the county's interest.

Ray Stegman informed the commissioners that Mullinville has agreed to the mutual aid agreement and presented two copies for signing. He then indicated that the work at Belvidere is complete. We are still waiting for FEMA reimbursement.

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Ray shared that the majority of employees would favor bi-weekly pay periods based on response to the County Clerk's email survey. Gene moved to begin bi-weekly pay periods the first pay period in 2011 and Ron seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

At 10:45, John Wickland joined the meeting and updated the commissioners on the increasing numbers of senior citizens attending lunches and activities. Around 100 participants attended the dinner which raised \$1000.00. They have a \$50,000 matching grant and have asked Morton Buildings to scale back the design, but are still going to be short of the funds needed to get a building up. John turned in a pre-application with USDA, but has since found out that Greensburg disaster funds are no longer available. He has checked with the Masons about sharing their building. The Senior Citizen board indicated to John that they would be willing to finish and purchase half of the building, but the Masons have yet to respond to the offer. There is \$400,000.00 available through CDBG for senior citizens, but this is reserved for cities and counties and not available to nonprofit organizations. John inquired as to whether or not the County would be willing to claim ownership of the Senior Citizens Center so that it would be eligible for this grant. Matt Christenson, who is well aware of the requirements put forth by CDBG, pointed out that transferring all funds and property will be somewhat complicated. Our procurement policy may have to be changed to meet their requirements and we are still waiting for a survey completion that will be necessary. Applications are due at the end of this month which poses quite a time constraint on getting everything completed and publishing notices on time. The Commissioners discuss that becoming property of the County would make us responsible for costs such as insurance and maintenance. At this time, the Commissioners do not wish to become involved.

Matt Christenson remained at the meeting to update the Commissioners on the GO Bonds for the parking lot and lighting at the fairgrounds. He will see how quickly the paperwork with Gilmore and Bell and USDA can be handled. With publication requirements and waiting periods this needs to progress quickly so that everything can be done by fair time next summer.

Meeting adjourned at 11: 35 am.

Kiowa County Commission:

Ronald Trammor
Gene West
Ronald Richards

Attest:

Carmen Renfrow
Carmen Renfrow, County Clerk