

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting
Courthouse Lower Level Conference Room
August 15, 2011

Present: Ron Freeman, Don Richards, John Unruh, Carmen Renfrow, Ray Stegman, Dawn Hayes, Jeff Blackburn.

9:00: Chairman Ron Freeman opened the meeting.

Ron moved and John seconded to approve the agenda, motion carried.

Don moved and John seconded to approve the minutes of 7/6, 7/20 and 8/1, motion carried.

John moved to approve 7/20 minutes with the stipulation of possible corrections regarding tires at the landfill. When Eric Peters comes in we can clarify that information, Don seconded the motion, motion carried.

The Clerk presented the carry over budget from Cimarron Basin Juvenile Community Corrections for the Chairman to sign. Don moved and John seconded to sign the carry over budget, motion carried.

The Clerk presented the CIC annual contract to be signed.

9:10 Chad Pore, Gunnar Stauth arrived.

9:15 Patrick Clement arrived from the Signal.

Gunnar Stauth, Road & Bridge Supervisor, came with the following:

Gunnar explained about Federal program for funds for bridges or blacktop called the off system and on system.

He presented a payroll change for hiring Lowell Thronsberry. Don moved and John seconded to approve, motion carried.

He asked permission to go up to \$6,000 to purchase a shoulder rock machine. He is getting bids at this time. John moved to approve the request, Ron seconded, motion carried.

Gunnar quoted oil prices and types of oil for chip sealing. Doug Frances will consult with Gunnar when they start the process. The better polymer is an extra \$19,000. Doug suggested trying three different polymers to see which works best. The Commission agreed by consensus.

Chad Pore, EMS Director, came to ask the Commission for permission for two EMS personnel to attend the National Conference in Las Vegas. The cost would be \$1504.00. John moved to allow one to attend, Don seconded, motion carried.

Matt Christenson, LTR, came to inform the Commission the museum in the Commons building is asking for some kind of security for the fountain area when the museum is closed. Matt researched three different possibilities. John moved to have this done by the Historical Society. More discussion followed. John's motion died due to lack of a second. Don moved to use security cameras paid for from County funds, Ron seconded, motion carried.

Dawn Hayes addressed the Commission with the prepared re on landfill fees. This was tabled for another meeting.

She also prepared the Resolution for the R.O.Z. program. More entities have pledged funds to support this program. The money will be allocated through the County budget even though no county funds are being used.

The Road Agreement has been discussed with Dawn and the Shooting Star attorney and she says all are in agreement on the terms. The Commission approved her to complete the agreement.

John moved to approve the CIC contract, Don seconded, motion carried.
10:05 Break

10:10: The Commission discussed how to conduct the Public Hearing for the County Budget for 2012. The meeting will last thirty minutes and each person wishing to speak will have two minutes. Ray will keep time.

Eric Peters, Landfill Director, came with the following:

He has found a company to pick up recycles for less than the RC&D program. The new company is out of Wichita. Eric would like to opt out of RC&D.

Eric gave a copy of the KDHE report for inspection of both North and South Landfills.

The Commission continued with more discussion on the Public Hearing.

Eric corrected information on the 7/20 minutes. He did say on 7/20 that the tires were from Haviland. Today he corrected that to the tires were from Mullinville.

10:30: After contacting the District Court, the Clerk said the courtroom was available for the public hearing for the County budget. Ron announced to those in attendance that the public hearing will be held in the courtroom on the top floor. This meeting was adjourned at 10:30 and will resume after the public hearing.

Ron opened the public hearing meeting. He explained to the attendees there will be two minutes allowed to each person who wants to speak. Several people spoke to the Commission asking them to not raise the mil levy. Three letters were brought to the meeting from people who were not able to attend. Each Commissioner read a letter. At 11:15 Ron closed the public hearing; no changes or actions were taken at this meeting.

The regular meeting resumed at 11:20 back in the Commissioner's meeting room in the basement.

Bob Mosier asked the Commission to reinstate the \$800 annual fee for RC&D. He spoke of projects RC&D has done and have planned for the future. Eric Peters restated issues he has had with RC&D with the recycle program. They don't pay in a timely manner and have been dishonest in their communication with him about payment.

Mitzi Hesser, Health Dept. Director, reported on the public health audit. She is required to plan and execute a P.O.D. every five years for Emergency Management training.

Their office has been busy with back to school vaccinations for the past week.

She asked if the 60 day probationary period for raises was still in effect. It is an unofficial policy that employees get a raise after their 60 days of probation when they are first hired. It's up to the department head to implement that policy in their office at this time.

Ray Stegman, LTR, EM Director, came with the following: Scott Brown will sell the Sheriff's Crown Vic's. vehicles at a local auction.

The Fire Marshall and Insurance Inspector has evaluated the Courthouse and other County facilities for security processes. We're not up to date yet, but working on getting everything in place.

It will cost \$1300 to survey the land at the Belvidere School. John wants now to hold off on doing anything until he gets more feedback from Belvidere. John moved to table this until the end of September, Don seconded, motion carried.

With changing IT support, we will have a \$2100 equipment upgrade. This will increase the speed of the internet considerably. Ray asked approval for a CIC representative to come out and help with the upgrade. The Commission agreed, the funds will come from the Special Equipment Fund.

John said intersection signs in the sandy soil are falling over. Ray will check with Edwards County as to what they do to keep the signs upright.

J. Wynn Fleener came to ask that the bill of \$550.00 for an indigent burial be paid. John moved to pay that bill, Ron seconded, motion carried.

Dee Chandler came in to ask if the Commissioners had signed the ROZ resolution yet. She was told that we had to find a place in the budget to handle the funds passing through.

There was a discussion on the public hearing earlier. The Commissioners had a conference call with Theresa, our auditor, about another special meeting for the budget. It was agreed on to meet tomorrow at 9:00 am here with Theresa in Greensburg in the Commissioner's meeting room for an unprecedented third budget workshop to discuss the budget of 2012. Don moved to approve the third meeting, John seconded, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.


Kiowa County Commission:



Ron Freeman, Chairman



Don Richards, Commissioner



John Unruh, Commissioner

Attest:



Carmen Renfrow, County Clerk

Sign In Sheet

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting

Date: 8-15-2011

Please Print

Name:

Affiliation

Allen D. Binford (Binford)	Tax Payer
Barbara Smithman	Tax Payer
David Smithman	" "
P. Clement	Sign
Nancy Taylor (Taylor)	Tax Payer
TRAVIS BARWES	Historical Society
Ed Davis	Tax Payer
Tremela & Matt	Extension Office
Gene WEST	Tax Payer
Don Jay (STANTROYER)	" "
Chuck Toner (CHUCK TONER)	Tax Payer
Michael & Toni ² Michael	
JANET FRAUCK HEIT	Tax Payer
MARVIN JANTZ	TAX PAYER
STEVE LARSH	TAX PAYER
Neck Frasier	Tax Payer
Nina Liggett	"
Larry Burtman	" "
Jerry Z. Smith	" "
Mark R. Goodhead	"
Michelle Hungen	Historical Society
PAUL DEAN	TAX PAYER
Goyce Alison	Tax Payer
Marilyn Goodheart	tax payer
Nita Kelgrie	tax payer
DeAnne Corns	TAX PAYER
	MediaCenter / RCAD

I dont feel now is the
time to raise County Employees
Wages another dollar when they
were raised 1 dollar last year
There is twice as many employees
to do $\frac{1}{2}$ the work than before
the Tornado. and $\frac{1}{2}$ the
tax payers.

We cant afford 8.5 millies
raise our Social Security
has not raised for 3 years and
crops are disaster this year

I work at a job making \$9⁰⁰
a hr. lucky if get 25¢ hr raise a
year to pay my expenses

If I cant afford something I
dont get it. I have lived
all my life on a budget if you
dont have money to pay for it
you dont get it. you live off
what you make dont spend more
expect someone else to pay for it

Sarah Schmitt



John Unruh <john@studiobnwa.com>

Taxes and mil levy

3 messages

Marcia <campunruh@sbcglobal.net>

Sun, Aug 14, 2011 at 11:56 AM

To: "john.unruh@kiowacountyks.org" <john.unruh@kiowacountyks.org>

I don't understand why you guys don't have the meeting when the working people can attend especially when it's involving such important issues. What kind of a county do you want people who just rent and are mentally ill or good hard working citizens?

Public meetings at night would be good . What are you guys trying to hide?

Norman and Marcia Unruh

John Unruh <john@studiobnwa.com>

Sun, Aug 14, 2011 at 9:17 PM

To: Marcia <campunruh@sbcglobal.net>

Norman and Marcia,

Good idea! I will propose it for next year. If you have a chance please reply to this email and give me your thoughts on the 8.5 mill increase. I am going to try to get it reduced at the meeting tomorrow. I think such an increase is is unwise when we as a state and fed. govt. are facing the fiscal issues we are currently looking at. I would like to make county government as transparent as possible so if you have questions or comments please call me. Thanks, John W. Unruh [620-862-5876](tel:620-862-5876)

[Quoted text hidden]

Marcia Unruh <campunruh@sbcglobal.net>

Sun, Aug 14, 2011 at 10:13 PM

To: John Unruh <john@studiobnwa.com>

Norman and Marcia Unruh

We also think such an increase is unwise, we all are suffering to afford our property taxes now, and more and more people are having to sell their homes, because they can't afford to live here any more. Instead Greensburg surviving it will a ghost town soon, as well as Mullinville, and Haviland. Let's look at some of the county offices that have unnecessary workers in them, and start cutting back on them. If we raise our mil levy we will not get any businesses into our already struggling town.

There are other ways that we can survive but not with that severe of a mil increase. I know that on face book today someone stated that our taxes would go up 16.5 percent what a killer if that is true. Kiowa County might as well leave Kansas if that happens.

WE hope you don't mind us e-mailing you, we both work Norm leaves at 7 and I leave for Kinsley shortly there after. would love to have town, but it seems that it isn't going to happen, and if there are business that come it seems that all the people from out of town get the jobs, before we that lost our jobs at the time of the tornado.

I have one other complaint, we say they are Kiowa County employees, how many of those employees live in Kiowa County? They take their pay check and run to their county to spend it, ouch.

August 10, 2011

Kiowa County Commissioners
211 E Florida Ave
Greensburg KS 67054

Dear Kiowa County Commissioners:

We are writing due to our inability to be present at the public meeting at 10:30AM on August 15th.

It is our understanding that the Commission is considering an 8.5% spike in mill levy for Kiowa County. An increase of 16.5% in county taxes is, in our opinion, extreme and unnecessary!

Following the tornado of May 4, 2007, we had the opportunity to move back "home" to the El Dorado area. We thought long and hard, and came to the conclusion that Greensburg, Kiowa County, had indeed become home. We purchased an existing structure which could be repaired, as that appeared to be the fastest route to getting re-settled. Because our repair work began before we were made aware of the tax incentive, we have been paying full taxes from day one. Although the real market value of our home has declined, our taxes have continued to increase.

We DO NOT support the commission's support or approval of a tax increase **OF ANY KIND**, let alone 16.5%!

In an economy which has restricted or eliminated pay increases (including our own), where the elderly are paying more for Medicaid and receiving no increase in Social Security payments, where almost every government entity – Federal, State, County, and City – is struggling to maintain and even cut back, a proposed tax increase is unfathomable! You, as commissioners representing the people, must consider what the needs of the county are, versus the wants. I do reside within the city limits of Greensburg, and I do believe sustainability is very important – but I have questioned, right along with my neighbors and the citizens of Haviland and Mullinville, the need for such elaborate county structures as we have.

When we are cutting back at home in order to meet our bills and sustain a simple life, we expect our public representatives to do likewise.

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8-11-11

We ask that this letter be read as part of the public comment at the August 15, 10:30AM. meeting of the Kiowa County Commission.

Thank you for your willingness to serve, and for your willingness to consider the needs of the people of Kiowa County.

Respectfully,

RA Kelley
Kathy A. Kelley
Randall A Kelley
Kathy A Kelley
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Greensburg KS 67054
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(620)388-4549