

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting  
Courthouse Lower Level Conference Room  
December 19, 2011

Present: Ron Freeman, Don Richards, John Unruh, Carmen Renfrow, Dawn Hayes, Ray Stegman, Willard Olinger, Patrick Clement, Kiowa Co. Signal.

9:00: After a prayer by Willard Olinger, Ron opened the meeting. Mr. Olinger left the meeting. Ron requested an executive session at 10:30 to be added to the agenda.

Don moved and John seconded to approve the consent agenda with the addition, motion carried.

John moved and Don seconded to approve the tax corrections presented by the Clerk, motion carried.

Ron moved and Don seconded to re-appoint Paul Conner as a Southwest Juvenile Detention Center Board member, motion carried

Don moved and John seconded to approve Patricia McClausland's payroll change from Sheriff's Dept. to the Clerk's Dept. as a permanent part-time employee for maintenance of severed mineral records for the county, motion carried. She will be paid from the General Fund until the next budget of 2013.

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

One of the graders is back in the shop after repairs were just recently made.

Road Crossing Permit: Haviland Telephone, fiber optic cable at 51<sup>st</sup> Ave. east side and the City limits north. And Haviland Telephone to the new tower.

They have to install a cattle guard for Stapleton. Gunnar received bids as follows for cement forms: Western Forms \$7,038, Wall Ties & Forms \$6,387, the third request did not present a bid.

John moved and Ron carried to accept the lower bid, motion carried.

Don moved and John seconded to approve Resolution 2011-17 requiring permits for surveyors to dig for markers, motion carried.

Gunnar showed pictures of a tree that grows so close to a county road, Q Street, that it causes the road to curve to avoid the tree. Since it is located on county right of way, the Road and Bridge Dept. will remove the tree. Gunnar warned the Commission there will be protests from some county residents.

Eric Peters, Landfill/SW Supervisor, came with the following:

KDHE received complaints that the gate to the landfill was left unlocked. The reason being cameras were mounted, from the Sheriff's dept., surveying the gate due to thefts taking place at the landfill. KDHE found no problems and they were not ticketed.

Eric wants to purchase a 4-wheel "mule" type vehicle to pull a vacuum and a magnet for picking up trash along the roads and nails from the landfill. It would save having to replace so many pick-up tires from nails alone. He presented pricing from different dealerships. After discussion, in which the Commissioners suggested looking for a used vehicle, Don moved to table the decision until the next meeting, John seconded, motion carried.

Patrick Clement left the meeting.

Mitzi Hesser, Health Dept. Director, updated the Commission on their Medicare status. She discussed the reports we get from the county software system. They are difficult to read and don't show the real picture since some of her funds are grants and don't show up on these reports. Since the



Commissioners cut her budget a small amount, her grant funds will also be smaller. In the past her department has reimbursed the county over \$22,000 in employee benefits. She will confer with our auditor regarding how to handle the grant funds in the future.

At 10:30 Ron moved to go into executive session for ten minutes for attorney client privilege for contract discussion, John seconded, motion carried. At 10:40 the regular meeting resumed with no action taken.

John Wickland, Executive Director of KCAA, Jackie Sherer, and Norma Trent, board members of KCAA came to update the Commission on the new building and to ask for approval for three new board members. They are, Joanne Hayes, Randy Rinker, and Don Trent. Don moved to approve the appointments, John seconded, motion carried. John will give an updated list of board members to the Clerk.

The building should be completed by March with a grand opening celebration planned for April. John reported they were receiving additional kitchen equipment and will be able to prepare meals in house. They have had 120 attend for holiday meals.

Open Forum:

John brought information on salaries of elected officials in surrounding counties to compare with Kiowa County. Kiowa is considerably lower than the other counties. After discussion of the requested wage increase from county department heads earlier this year, Don moved to approve 50 cents an hour increase for hourly employees for 2012, John seconded, motion carried.

John moved to raise County elected official's salaries by 10% with the exception of the County Attorney, Don seconded, motion carried.


After discussion of those department heads that are not elected officials, Ron moved and John seconded to raise the salary of the Noxious Weed department head, Bruce Foster, by \$1500.00 annually, motion carried.

John moved and Don seconded to raise Gunnar Stauth's wages by 65 cents an hour, motion carried.

John moved and Ron seconded to raise Ray's wages by 65 cents an hour, motion carried. The Commission agreed to give Eric Peters a 50 cent an hour raise.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40.

Kiowa County Commission:

  
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Ron Freeman, Chairman

  
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Don Richards, Commissioner

  
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John Unruh, Commissioner

Attest:

  
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Carmen Renfrow, County Clerk