

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting
Courthouse Lower Level Conference Room

January 19, 2010

Present: Gene West, Ron Freeman, Don Richards, Carmen Renfrow, Jan West for the Kiowa County Signal, Ray Stegman.

Ron opened the meeting at 9:00 am. It was decided that from now on the meeting will start with the chairman asking if there are any additions or deletions to the meeting's agenda. The Commissioners will then move for any changes or approve the agenda as is.

Gene moved to add discussion of the Red Cross request for a donation to the General Business section of the agenda, Don seconded, motion carried.

Gene moved to approve the minutes of October and November of 2009 as corrected, Don seconded, motion carried.

The Commission received a letter from Debby Allison, County Librarian, asking them to appoint Janice Rush to the Library Board. Kathy Hannan has resigned as of November 2009. Gene moved and Don seconded to appoint Janice Rush to the Library Board, motion carried.

The clerk presented two payroll change orders, Kristie Odle for a three month, 25 cent raise, and Holly Dogget, who has left the Sheriff's dept. Ron moved, Don seconded to approve Kristie's payroll change. Don moved and Gene seconded Holly's payroll change. Both motions carried.

The clerk presented two resolutions that have to be voted on yearly. The first is Resolution 2010-3, determining the county holidays, elected official's salaries, the official newspaper, the official banks, and the chairman and vice-chairman of the commissions for 2010.

The second, 2010-4, the resolution stating that the county will operate on a cash basis for financial statements and reports. Gene moved, Don seconded to approve #2010-3, motion carried. Don moved, Gene seconded to approve #2010-4, motion carried.

Gene moved, Don seconded to approve the Accounts payable subject to approval of the County Attorney, motion carried.

Gene moved, Don seconded to approve the \$300.00 donation to SWKAAA, the regional office, motion carried.

A discussion of the Red Cross request for a donation ended with a motion from Gene and a second from Don to give them the \$3,000 they asked for at the last meeting; the motion carried.

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

He hired an equipment operator, David Perrow. Gene moved and Don seconded to approve the payroll change for David, motion carried.

He also hired a mechanic and will have the paper work at the next meeting.

Gunnar wanted to let the Commissioners know that the landfill will be closed on all county holidays.

The Bettus lot, next to Road & Bridge, has been cleaned up, with a little left to do. For sale price purposes, if it should be sold in the future, the cost of the clean up was figured at \$7,832.27.

The current recycle bailer is not working properly, needs lots of work and is often out of commission. Gunnar wants to purchase another one on the online auction, Purple Wave. He is also looking for a fork for a loader. The Commissioners agreed to leave the cost limit of up Gunnar.

Road & Bridge has 4 mowers, 3 of which have been down all this year. Gunnar listed several miscellaneous pieces of equipment that have not been used in years; these could be sold along with the three disabled mowers and use the proceeds towards the purchase of a better mower. The Commissioners agreed by consensus.

Ron, Gunnar, and Dawn, County Assistant Attorney, attended a meeting last week in Kingman of counties dealing with wind farms. A short discussion of that meeting was the final item Gunnar had.

Matt Christenson came in with the following:

They discussed Road & Bridge budget and transfers from there to the building fund to build the storage facilities. Out auditors suggested \$60K-\$70K be transferred from the R&B budget. Gene moved, Don seconded the transfer of \$65K to the building fund, motion carried.

After discussion that the auditor suggested this amount, Gene moved to transfer \$500,000 from the general fund to the building fund, Don seconded, motion carried.

Next, Matt has researched a fair price for the public's use of the donated copier in the clerk's office. By consensus the Commissioners agreed to set the charge at \$7.00 per page.

Gunnar returned briefly to ask about a sewer system in Belvidere. There are no bathroom facilities there for the county workers. It was discussed to look into several options from a septic tank installation to using portable toilets.

10:30 Ron called a break.

10:25: Carol Page, Director of Lakewood Mental Facility in Haviland, came to inform the Commission about their facility. They are a State facility, the only one west of I35 in Kansas; they house up to 50 people, they have a vocation program, they employ 31 people making them one of the top 3 employers in the County. The State may cut their budget by 10%. Carol is asking the Commissioners to sign a letter of support for their facility in hopes the Governor will not impose that cut. By consensus the Commissioners agreed to sign a letter that Carol will compose.

John Unruh attended next along with Carol to discuss waiving dump fees for a house on the Lakewood property that needs torn down. The City of Haviland will purchase the house for \$1.00, they will have it torn down since they have the personnel and equipment for the job. Don moved, Gene seconded to waive the dump fees for the demo of the house, motion carried.

Rag Stegman came with the following:

The electrical work needing to be done at Road & Bridge costs approximately \$1800. Ray asked that it be taken from the special equip. fund. Commissioners agreed by consensus.

With electrical outages being frequent and causing problems with equipment, Ray informed the Commission that he is talking with MVP and PEC to work on a solution for protection all County buildings.

The heating and cooling problems are now being addressed and the problem has been located. The work should be completed soon.

There have been some computers in county offices that have been disabled by a "virus" or "worm". Ray has spoken with a company, Sophos that will install an antivirus for all county computers at a cost of \$3,204. Commissioners agreed by consensus.

After research, Ray said the County owns the Senior Citizen's Van. This led to discussion of the Senior Citizen organization in general.


Next, Ray talked about the Fire Dept. He is looking at another county's agreement, as a plan for our own agreement that includes all the cities and is simple and concise. Don suggested he talk with the State Forestry, they can sometimes come up with ideas.

Dave Barber of USDA came to deliver two letters of condition for the Commons and Phase II of Road & Bridge. The Commons will use a \$300,000 G.O. Bond and a \$1,660,000 grant. The Phase II of Road & Bridge will use a \$100,000 Bond.

These documents include Resolutions number 2010-5 and 2010-6. Gene moved and Don seconded to approve #2010-5 for the Commons, motion carried. Don moved and Gene seconded to approve #2010-6 for Phase II of Road & Bridge, motion carried. Both projects will go out to bid tomorrow.

Gene moved for adjournment at 11:55 am, Don seconded, motion carried.

Kiowa County Commission:



Ron Freeman, Chairman



Don Richards, Commissioner



Gene West, Commissioner

Attest: 

Carmen Renfrow, County Clerk