

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting  
Courthouse Lower Level Conference Room

January 3, 2011

Present: Ron Freeman, Chairman, Don Richards, Commissioner, Gene West, Commissioner, Carmen Renfrow, County Clerk, Dawn Hayes, County Counselor, Ray Stegman, LTR Director, Jeff Blackburn, Ministerial Alliance Representative.

Others in attendance: John Unruh.

9:00 Chairman Ron Freeman opened the meeting. Debbie Allison asked to speak with the Commissioners at the beginning of the meeting; they agreed. She was added to the agenda.

Approve the agenda: Don moved, Gene seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Allison shared that she wanted to hire an assistant Librarian. The person she is considering needs medical benefits and asked again if the County could put that person on their benefits plan. Dawn Hayes explained that legally the County cannot insure non-employees. Carmen told Debbie that our insurance consultant is looking for plans for non-profit organizations with the hope of having benefits available for the many staff members in the County who work for non-profits. Carmen will contact Debbie when that meeting is scheduled.

Approve the minutes of 12/29/2010: Don moved and Gene seconded to approve with the correction of changing Council to Counselor, motion carried.

Gene moved and Don seconded to approve the payroll change for Robert Schmidt, motion carried.

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

Don wanted to discuss the newly approved 4-way stop; he had one complaint about it. The other Commissioners have had several people praise their decision. Dawn said the Commissioners made a clearly thought out decision based on information from Law Enforcement and Road and Bridge Supervisor for the safety of Kiowa County.

EMC, insurance carrier, totaled the wrecked pickup at \$2390.00. That money will go towards a new pickup. Bids are being sent out for that pickup.

Gunnar reported the north lot at R & B is cleared and leveled and the storage pods that have been rented are no longer needed.

He brought pictures of the limestone sign being created for R & B and Noxious Weed departments to be displayed at those facilities.

Kendal Lothman, Sheriff, sent word that he would not be attending the meeting.

Ray Stegman, LTR & Emergency Management Director, came with the following:

He reported that he is working with Kendal to get rid of the impounded cars from before the tornado.

Ray presented a payroll change for Lorena Lothman, who he hired as his assistant. Gene moved to approve the change, Don seconded, motion carried.

A discussion followed about the landscaping, and road signs.

10:00: Dawn Hayes, County Counselor, asked for an executive session for 15 minutes for non-elected personnel. Gene moved to approve the executive session and asked Ray, Dawn, Carmen to stay, Don seconded, motion carried. At 10:15 they went back to regular session with no action taken. At that time Ron moved, Gene seconded to go back into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel. At 10:25 regular session was resumed with no action taken.

Dawn explained that Candace Lattin, County Attorney, requested more time from her to help with criminal cases. Due to Dawn's full time employment in Ford County and her part-time employment with Kiowa County as the Commissioner's Counselor, she was unable to accommodate Candace.

The Commissioners agreed to have Dawn take the empty office on the lower level near the Commissioners conference room and change her title to County Counselor instead of Assistant County Attorney.

The Commissioners discussed having Gene West remain the liaison, along with Matt Christenson, for the Kiowa County Commons Project until its completion.

Gene recused himself from the meeting and stepped out of the room. Ron moved and Don seconded to have Gene remain the liaison for the Commons project from the 10<sup>th</sup> until the 18<sup>th</sup> of January; at that time they will re-address it with the new Commissioner, John Unruh, motion carried.

10:45: Candace Lattin arrived at the meeting to discuss Dawn Hayes leaving the County Attorney's office. After discussion it was agreed to take \$25,000 from the personnel budget of the County Attorney and move it to the Commissioner's Fund. Dawn's position will be funded from now on from the Commissioner's Fund.

Gene moved to approve the above decision, Don seconded, motion carried. Ray Stegman offered that he may have funds in his budget to assist with the County Counselor's position.

Dawn added that with the raise she was given, her duties would be less; she was not going to charge mileage for her commute from Ford County to here.

10:55: Matt Christenson came to represent the Media Center. They had their annual meeting in December and the officers for 2011 to be approved are as follows:

President, Jan West

Vice President, Matt Christenson

Treasurer: Dee Corns

Secretary: Tony Factor and Roger Harris will share the duties of this office

They need to add one more board member at sometime in the future to make the required seven members.

Don moved to approve the officer list, Gene seconded, motion carried

Matt announced they were going to have an open house on Jan. 15 and the Community Center starting at 6:30. He also shared that the Media Trailer will be going to the Farm and Ranch Show in Garden City at the request of Mid America Ag Network. Matt discussed future plans and goals for the Media Center.

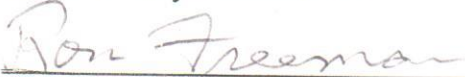
Ray Stegman came back to the meeting to request funds to help pay for the 911/New York Says Thank You trip to Kansas City to display the Flag. Gene moved and Ron seconded to pay the entire fuel costs, motion carried.

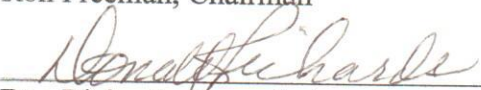
11:20: Kendal Lothman, Sheriff, came to the meeting. He reminded the Commissioners that the amount of money in his budget for the dollar an hour raises is not enough for his staff due to the over-time that was not calculated in during the budgeting process.

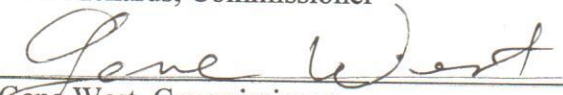
Kendal told the Commissioners he will talk with Mark Anderson of the Kiowa County Signal about the reasons for not continuing the Law Enforcement contract with the City of Greensburg. There is information that did not get to the public and he wants to set the record straight.

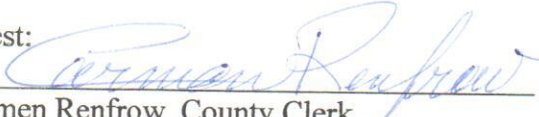
The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Kiowa County Commission:

  
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Ron Freeman, Chairman

  
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Don Richards, Commissioner

  
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Gene West, Commissioner

Attest:   
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Carmen Renfrow, County Clerk