

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting
Courthouse Lower Level Conference Room
January 3, 2012

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

9:00: After a prayer by Pastor Mayhew, Ron opened the meeting.

The first order of business was to vote on officers for 2012. John moved and Ron seconded that Don Richards be Chairman, motion carried.

Ron moved and Don seconded that John Unruh be Vice Chairman, motion carried.

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

9:05: Gunnar Stauth, Road & Bridge Supervisor, came in to see if the Commissioners had any questions for him. They discussed getting the old cottonwood tree taken down as soon as possible. Gunnar has his crews busy with other projects at present; he'll get to the tree when they can.

(9:15 Terry Mayhew left the meeting)

The Clerk presented three payroll change sheets from the Sheriff's dept. John moved to approve, Ron seconded, motion carried.

John moved to go into executive session for non-elected personnel for ten minutes from 9:32 to 9:42, Ron seconded, motion carried. Carmen, Ray, and Dawn were asked to join the session. After ten minutes they came out of executive session with no action taken. Ron moved and John seconded to go back into executive session to conclude their discussion for another ten minutes with all the same conditions as the first session. At 9:52 they resumed the regular session with no action taken.

(10:05 Jim Crawley joined the meeting)

10:10: Jim Crawley came to ask for the museum's funds to be paid in one payment for the year or twice a year, which ever would be agreed by the Commission. The Commissioners asked the Clerk to bring to the next meeting a report on how the other entities are paid each year. Jim will come back to the next meeting and the Commission will make their decision at that time.

Ron opened a discussion on the option of hiring a county administrator. Dawn had done research on the statutory duties of a county administrator as well as what their pay would be and presented her report to them. Her research shows that position is most affective in much larger counties and their pay is customarily much higher than what is paid in Kiowa County. Ray Stegman was asked earlier if he would be interested in such a position and he declined.

They discussed the option of having the County Attorney take back the County Counsel duties since the reason for hiring a separate Counsel no longer exists; that being the aftermath and rebuilding of the county after the 2007 tornado.

PIC sent information answering questions the Commission had about the short-term disability benefit from last meeting. They had a conference call with Rhonda Fernandez for explanation of the information.

John moved and Ron seconded to go with the 66 2/3% option and use the gross up plan, motion carried. This means they will receive 66 2/3% of their pay if they have to use the disability benefit; that premium will be put into their pay, taxed, and then taken out each pay day. If they choose

to not pay the tax on the premium and they use the benefit, they will have to pay taxes on the entire amount paid to them up to \$500.00 weekly.

At the next meeting, they will discuss employee sick days. Kristie will prepare a report of those days for all county employees.

11:40: Grant Neuhold came to give updates for the Media Center.

Election of officers was held at their annual meeting and there were no changes from the previous year. Matt Christenson presented the Clerk with a list of those officers for 2012.

They will be attending the Farm and Ranch Show again this year.

They will be videoing the local basketball games and Barclay College's games.

They will be starting adult classes for the care and use of their cameras and "How to use your computer" classes as well.

11:50: Ray Stegman, LTR, Emergency Management, came to update the Commission with the following:

Gunnar asked for a meeting with the City, a Commissioner and Ray to talk about their proposed airport site which involves a particular bridge.

When the weather creates icy conditions around the Courthouse, Ray is putting up barrier tape in front of the front steps to keep people off. The salt is deteriorating the cement on the front steps and until he can find another solution, the steps will be closed if they're icy.

The legs for the new Commissioner desk have arrived. The new desk may be ready by the next meeting.

The Commission asked the Clerk to research the offer of leasing the mineral rights at the landfill and report what the details in their offer means.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 noon.

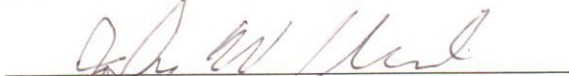
Kiowa County Commission:



Ron Freeman, Chairman



Don Richards, Commissioner



John Unruh, Commissioner

Attest: 

Carmen Renfrow, County Clerk