

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting
Courthouse Lower Level Conference Room

January 31, 2011

Present: Ron Freeman, Don Richards, John Unruh, Carmen Renfrow, Dawn Hayes, Ray Stegman, D.J. McMurry, Farrell Allison, Marilyn Brown, Willard Olinger.

9:00: After a prayer, Chairman Ron Freeman opened the meeting:
Approve the agenda: Don moved, John seconded approval with the additions of Pam Muntz @ 10:15 and discussion of Clean-up day during Gunnar's session, motion carried.
Approve the minutes of 1/18/11: Don moved, John seconded for approval, motion carried.

Approve A/P & Payroll: Don moved, John seconded to approve subject to County Counsel's approval, motion carried.

Payroll Changes: Jeff Schmidt, a new hire, Zane Huffman and Chris Tedder, promotion all from the Sheriff's dept. Don moved, John seconded for approval, motion carried.

Tax Corrections: John moved, Don seconded to approve, motion carried.

Don moved to re-appoint Paul Conner as a member of the SW Regional Juvenile Detention Center representing Kiowa County, John seconded, motion carried.

Don moved and John seconded to approve \$600.00 for SW Area Agency on Aging fund request, motion carried.

D.J. McMurry came with Farrell Allison. Farrell is requesting to have the Neighborhood Revitalization policy changed for his particular situation. Property he purchased in 2007 after the tornado had originally two houses on it. According to the policy, the Revitalization is based on the January 1 valuation of that year. Therefore, the valuation included two houses. Farrell wants the Commissioners to change it for him to use just the valuation of one house, since he built only one house on the property. After much discussion John moved to approve his request. The motion died due to lack of a second. County Counsel suggested they go by whatever the Appraiser says is correct. John moved to table the issue until D.J. can research the county records to determine how many a change in policy will affect, Don seconded, motion carried. D. J. also reminded the Commission that if they change one policy, there will be others in to ask for changes in other policies.

9:35: Gunnar Stauth, Road & Bridge Supervisor, came with the following:

He asked for a decision of whether or not to put a door in an adjoining wall in the County building in Belvidere used by the Road & Bridge Dept. and the County Fire Dept. By consensus the Commissioners agreed to allow the door to be installed. It was agreed that the door from the bathroom to the R&B side be kept locked to prevent anyone other than R&B personnel having access to their facility.

The City is asking for two loaders and two trucks for their Clean-Up day in March. The Commissioners agreed to waive the landfill fees for them, but not supply the equipment and trucks.

moved to prepare a contract to change from maintaining the west side to maintaining the east side from Main Street to the City limits, Ron seconded, motion carried. Dawn Hayes, County Counsel will prepare an updated agreement.

Ray joined Gunnar to inform the Commission of more room needed on the Road & Bridge property for storage pods and the Sheriff's impound yard. They will research the cost of more fencing to enclose the area needed.

Ray and Gunnar suggested that there needs to be some kind of recognition for employees who go above and beyond what their job requires. An example is Eric Peters who repaired a piece of equipment that was thought to be ruined and need replaced, thereby, saving the County over \$30,000. He did this on his own accord without being told to do so. They will research ideas for the Commission to decide on.

Dawn Hayes, County Counsel, informed the Commission there has been no communication so far from the City of Greensburg regarding the flag poles at the Kiowa County Commons. Their dead line was today. There has also been no word from them on the Mutual Aid agreement. Ray commented that he has already had much better communication with Dennis McKinney, the new interim City Manager, so he thinks these issues will be resolved soon.

Ray said he has had no communication from Mary Sweet, Hospital Administrator, about the drive way project. John suggested that Ray attend a Hospital Board meeting and discuss it with them.

Ray asked for a volunteer from the Commission to be on the LEPC, Local Emergency Preparedness Committee. Don Richards volunteered.

10:15: Break

10:25: Pam Muntz, Extension Office, came to discuss the office space in the Commons. She says there is not enough space, only 800 square feet, in the new facility for all of their office equipment, furniture, and file cabinets. Ron asked Matt Christenson to join the meeting. He presented architects drawing indicating there is actually 945 sq. ft. John moved, Ron seconded, to table any decisions until they can check out the space themselves.

Matt Christenson informed the Commission that the grading package for the fairgrounds is on hold until USDA has access to funds.

Laura Stoltenberg, Executive Director of KCHA, came to request funding for assistance for the Kiowa County Housing Authority. After discussion, Ron suggested that she come back at budget planning time in May and request again to become a taxing entity of the County.

Chad Pore, EMS/Ambulance Director came in to update the Commission on the collaboration with Comanche County. After meeting with them, Chad realized there would be budget problems on their part. He assisted them in getting a director hired and will be available for assistance for their new director, but the original agreement is off the table at this time.

EMS was awarded an AFG grant of \$123,000 for a new ambulance. Chad asked to proceed with procuring bids for the purchase; the Commission agreed by consensus.

Chad and Rosa will be attending a National EMS Memorial Bike Ride in Colorado June 23-25, 2011; he asked to use \$450.00 from his budget to cover the registration fees. The Commission agreed by consensus.

Last year the Commission agreed to put \$28,500 in the equipment fund marked for the Ambulance Fund to use for a new ambulance. Now that they have the grant for the new ambulance, Chad wants to use the reserved funds for two newer first response vehicles. After discussion Don moved and Ron seconded to approve the purchases. The motion carried two to one, with Ron and Don voting in favor and John voting not in favor.

Christy Pyatt, representing the government sector in the newly formed Greensburg Public Square organization, came to request \$437.00 to facilitate surveys, interviews, and community conversation. After discussion Don moved, John seconded to approve providing the funds, motion carried. Don requested that the GPS include the rest of the County in their planning. John asked to be given notice of meetings and outcome of their discussions.

Don moved, John seconded to adjourn, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40

Kiowa County Commission:

Ron Freeman
Ron Freeman, Chairman

Donald Richards
Don Richards, Commissioner

John Uhrh
John Uhrh, Commissioner

Attest:

Carmen Renfrow
Carmen Renfrow, County Clerk