

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting
Courthouse Lower Level Conference Room
May 16, 2011

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

9:00: Chairman Ron Freeman opened the meeting.

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

Don moved and John seconded to approve the minutes of 4/29 and 5/2 with two spelling corrections, motion carried.

Don moved and Ron seconded to approve the Accounts Payable and Payroll subject to the approval of the County Counsel, motion carried.

Don moved and Ron seconded to approve two new employees for the Sheriff's department, motion carried.

Ron moved and Don seconded to reappoint Pat Barnes of Mullinville to the Library Board, motion carried.

John moved and Don seconded to approve signing the road maintenance agreement with Haviland, motion carried.

Ray Stegman updated the Commission on the concrete work at the fairgrounds. They want more concrete to complete pouring around the entire Community Building; there are funds in the 950 LTR accounts. John moved to approve spending \$5500.00 from the 950 LTR account for the extra concrete, Don seconded, motion carried.

Ray said Dale Hayse offered to remove the RV hook-ups on the County property on Grove Street at no cost to the County; this lead to more discussion of the RV Park on Grove Street. Don moved and John seconded to table the discussion until the June 20 meeting, motion carried. John wants to talk again with Tom Corns and Randy Kelley, hopefully at the May 31st meeting, to get the issue settled as quick as possible.

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

More dirt needs moved at the Fairgrounds, the volunteer wasn't able to finish.

The City of Haviland is asking for fees waved for their Clean-up day. Gunnar agrees to wave the fees with the exception of tires. John moved to approve wavier of fees with the exception of tires, Don seconded, motion carried.

He brought the lease agreement for the new grader to be signed by the Chairman, Ron Freeman.

Gunnar also brought the letter for NRCF office regarding fences on County right of way for Commissioner signatures.

They discussed different high risk issues on County Roads. It was agreed that trees need to be removed from right of ways and cement pillars on culverts should be removed.

Gunnar reported that over \$300,000 was spent on repairs for only four graders since 2004.

He showed pictures of dirt work done for drainage.

Kendal Lothman, Sheriff, came with the following:

He hired a part-time dispatcher. He still needs one correction officer.

Ray Stegman, LTR/Administration Director, came with the following:

Ray will hire Damien Odle to mow for the County this summer. Don moved to approve the hiring of Damien, John seconded, motion carried.

John Unruh asked questions about the road agreement with Wind Farms and power line companies we have in place and made some suggestions for additions. Dawn explained that the process is for those companies to contact Gunnar at Road & Bridge first, and then he brings the information to the Commission and the Counsel to complete.

Bob Wetmore from Great Plains Development Company came to re-introduce the company to the Commission and reported on how many businesses in Kiowa County they have assisted in getting started. He also asked for funding to help support the organization. The Commissioners will discuss this during their budget preparation.

Donna Greenleaf from the Kiowa County Conservation District came to present their budget request for 2012 to the Commissioners. A sign in page is attached to these minutes indicating all who attended from the Conservation District.

Debbie Allison, Kiowa County Librarian, let the Commission know she hired an assistant librarian, Cassie Blackburn. She also presented her budget request for 2012. Those accompanying her are on the sign in sheet attached to these minutes.

Mitzi Hesser, Health Department Director, updated the Commissioners on new rates charged to the public for their services.

Her staff is finishing training.

Mitzi reported that the IT people we have currently have not been able to keep up with the needs in her office. There have been several issues that they have not been able to address. Ray reported that he has addressed this with Bolen's in Pratt and they are supposed to be resolving the problems.

Dennis McKinney brought the new City Administrator of Greensburg, Sheila Magee, to be introduced to the Commissioners.

He requested the usual yearly funding for the Greensburg Swimming Pool.


They discussed the importance of having a housing authority for assisting residents with housing projects and funding for the new Rural Opportunity Zone bill passed by the State.

Sheldon Carpenter, Iroquois Center Director, came to present their budget request for 2012.

John started a discussion about the Kiowa County United property tax controversy. He wanted the Commissioners to get involved with decisions on that issue; Dawn Hayes, County Counsel, counseled that it was not the authority of the Commission to make those decisions. She explained the process that the KCU board will go through to protest the Appraisers decision and the State will make the final decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm

Kiowa County Commission:



Ron Freeman, Chairman

Don Richards
Don Richards, Commissioner

John Unruh
John Unruh, Commissioner

Attest:
Carmen Renfrow
Carmen Renfrow, County Clerk

