

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting
Courthouse Lower Level Conference Room
November 21, 2011

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

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

For additions to the agenda Dawn asked for a five minute executive session during the Road and Bridge session for contract negotiations.

Ron asked for an executive session for ten minutes for attorney/client privilege.

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

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

Stratta requests a road crossing ¼ mile north of 29th Street and G Ave. on 29th. John moved to approve the request, Don seconded motion carried.

Gunnar asked if he could approve the road crossing requests as they come in. There will be several more coming in due to the oil companies and other progress; waiting for up to two weeks is prohibitive for companies to be able to work efficiently. County Counselor, Dawn Hayes, will research to determine if there are any issues with this.

McCoy Petroleum requested a road crossing for a gas line at N Ave and 17th Street. Ron moved to approve, John seconded, motion carried.

Gunnar presented the estimated cost to put a concrete floor in the Mullinville shop.

He presented bids from Wilborn Sales and J & J Drainage to purchase 35 culverts. Don moved to approve Wilborn Sales, John seconded, motion carried.

Next Gunnar presented bids for tires from Haviland Coop, Greensburg Tire and Cooper Tire in Pratt. Don moved to use Greensburg Tire, John seconded, motion carried.

Blatner Energy gave Gunnar the Videos of the Kiowa County roads they will use during the construction of the wind farm south of Mullinville.

Gunnar addressed the Commission regarding an incident from last week; it was as follows: John called him to inform him of line repairs on the Pratt/Kiowa County lines. Gunnar contacted all parties involved, found out the reasons and time line for completion and reported back to John. Later John asked Gunnar for phone numbers to contact the pipeline supervisor to investigate. Gunnar had to address this because when John wanted to intervene, he was stepping outside of his authority as Commissioner.

Carmen, County Clerk, then addressed another incident when John called the Treasurer asking when the tax statements would be available. Brenda explained the process in lengthy and depends on other counties giving Carmen information. John suggested that tax statements should be completed earlier next year. Again, this is stepping outside of his authority as Commissioner. She gave John copies of pages from the Commissioners Desk Reference and highlighted references of what the Commissioners' duties are and what their limitations are.

John commented that he just wanted to get to the bottom of the road being torn up and that he was polite when speaking to the Treasurer.

Ron commented that Commissioners should not try to micromanage department heads.

Ron moved to go into executive session for five minutes for attorney/client privilege, Don seconded, motion carried. The Clerk and Gunnar were asked to stay. After five minutes, the regular meeting resumed with no action taken.

Dawn presented the changes suggested by Infinity Wind Power to the road agreement. Don moved and John seconded to sign the road agreement with Infinity Wind Power for the Shooting Star Project, motion carried.

At 9:45 the public hearing was opened for any comments, suggestions, or objections to the Five Year Plan for Solid Waste. No one attended the hearing with any further comments. At 10:00 am Ron adjourned the public hearing and resumed the regular session of the Commissioners meeting.

Mitzi Hesser, Health Dept. Director, came with the following:

Mitzi reported that one staff member was seriously injured in a fall at home. She will be out of the office for an undetermined amount of time; but is going to do some work from home.

She presented statistics of the work they've accomplished, patient numbers, foot care clinics, etc. over the last month.

Mitzi stated they need to provide a diaper changing station in the courthouse. She worked with Ray and decided to put it in the east bathroom on the lower level. It will cost over \$300.00. She requested funds to help pay for it. Don moved to use \$200.00 from the Commissioner's fund to help with funding, John seconded, motion carried.

Matt Christenson, LTR, came with the following:

The Kiowa County Commons needs to be included in our pest control contract with Orkin. It will cost \$170.00 annually and \$72.00 monthly and will take affect Jan. 1, 2012. John moved to accept the contract and to have Matt sign it for the Commissioners, Ron seconded, motion carried.

Further at the Commons, there are two areas that need attention due to temperature extremes; those are the upper level atrium and the storage room next to the soda fountain. The engineers and contractors disagree on the solutions to the storage room, but agree that two ceiling fans need to be installed in the atrium at a cost of \$4,000. The storage room either needs ventilation or vents with a cooling system costing from \$1,000, to \$5,000 respectively. Matt suggested Commissioners approve up to the highest amount and when the engineers and contractors agree on a solution they can move forward. Don moved to approve \$5,150 for the storage room project, John seconded, motion carried. Don moved to approve the ceiling fans installation, Ron seconded, motion carried.

Rhonda Fernandez, Benefits Consultant, brought updates of our medical benefit program. Due to a good year with the self funding program, Rhonda suggested we keep the same program with no changes in premiums, no changes in out of pocket for employee.

She introduced the Flexible Spending plan for employee's deductible costs at a cost of \$5284 if all 70 employees participated. Also she introduced a short-term disability policy that would assist employees until they could collect KPERS disability costing \$8,000. Ron moved to adopt the suggested medical benefit package, the Flexible Spending plan, and the short-term disability plan, Don seconded, motion carried.

Debby Allison and three library board members, Marilyn J. Goodheart, Janice Rush, Dolores Williams, came to ask about the budget for the library.

Debby asked why they received \$10,000 less than what they asked for. She was unaware of the budget being published in the paper and the scheduled budget hearing and indicated she didn't know anything about budgets. She said she could not run three library buildings on what was allotted for 2012, \$65,370. She then said they had \$95,000 in a savings account; funds held back from being paid by the county all the years there was no library in Greensburg. The Commission said she should use the savings account to supplement her budget for 2012.

Bruce Foster, Noxious Weed Director, brought a payroll change sheet for Derry Liggett. He is moving from Noxious Weed to the Road & Bridge Dept. as agreed on earlier this year. Do moved and Ron seconded to approve the change, motion carried.

Matt Christenson returned with information about the general fund budget. Some amounts were inadvertently not included in budget reports causing the balances to be less than they actually are. Also, the concrete work done at the fairgrounds costing \$56,000 should have come out of the building fund and not the general fund; by consensus the Commission agreed to that correction.

Also, there is \$70,000 in the Administration fund. This can be used for Long Term Recovery employees' Lorena Lothman and Matt Christenson's salaries and benefits to reimburse the county.

Ray Stegman reported that several used county vehicles were sold at Brown's auction and brought surprisingly good money.

After reviewing the vouchers, Dawn asked the details of when it was decided that Dan Woods mow Soldier Creek Cemetery in Belvidere as well as the school and county building property. Ray will research this and come back with information at a later date.

Ron moved to go into executive session for sale of Real Estate for five minutes, Don seconded, motion carried. Ray, Carmen, and Dawn were asked to stay. After five minutes the regular meeting was resumed with no action taken.

John moved for another ten minute executive session for contract negotiations, Ron seconded, motion carried. Ray and Carmen were asked to stay. After ten minutes the regular meeting resumed with no action taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm

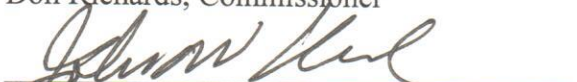
Kiowa County Commission:



Ron Freeman, Chairman



Don Richards, Commissioner



John Unruh, Commissioner

Attest:



Carmen Renfrow, County Clerk

Sign In Sheet
Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting

Date: 11/21/2011

Please Print

Name:

Affiliation

Marilyn J. Goodheart

Library Board

Janice Rush

Library Board

Dolores Williams

Library Board