

# Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting

May 31, 2023

Bert Lowery, John Bertram, David White, Kristi Cooper, Victoria Yohn, Matt Christenson, Diane Thompson, Tamara Unruh, Jay Schmidt, Alan Hadley, Kendal Lothman, Tammy Wolfley and Jeff Blackburn attended the meeting.

Consent agenda included: meeting agenda, payroll report, accounts payable reports and commissioner minutes of 5/15/23.

After the prayer was given and the pledge of allegiance was recited, Bert Lowery opened the meeting at 9:00. Consent agenda was tabled until further discussion with the Sheriff regarding a reimbursement voucher.

Victoria Yohn with the County Soil Conservation District and board members that came to give information for their 2024 budget request. She informed them that they are requesting an increase in their budget for next year in the amount of \$25,000. Also, they informed them that they haven't asked for an increase since 2012.

Bert moved to recess to executive session for 10 minutes for the purpose of employee relations pursuant to the exception for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with Jay, Alan and Kristi at 9:13 and John seconded motion passed unanimously. Regular session began at 9:23 with no action taken. Jay presented payroll changes for C Tuttle(separation) and T Barnes(job classification). John moved to approve the payroll changes presented and Bert seconded, motion passed unanimously. He then gave a few updates regarding road maintenance, mowing, culvert work and replacing road signs received this week and waiting on quotes for replacing 911 signs throughout the county. Next, they discussed road closing and road conditions.

Kendal Lothman came to discuss a voucher for reimbursement to an employee per their request. Bert presented the voucher in question and he informed them why he approved the expense and that the expense falls under the purchase procurement policy that doesn't require approval from the commissioners. After some discussion, Bert moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and John seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Matt Christenson came to present information on Kiowa County-02 MIH application with Hayse Management as the building contractor. Bert moved to adopt Resolution 2023-5 authorizing and directing the county to file an application for the Kanas Housing Resources Corporation Moderate Income Housing Grant Program and John seconded motion passed unanimously. Next, Dave moved to approve the letter of intent to provide matching funds for moderate income housing grant program for county commitment in the amount of \$250,000 of matching funds and John seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Tammy Wolfley came to address the commission regarding Iroquois Center of Human Development (IChD). She came to give a back story on how they came to Greensburg and how IChD has benefited their family and why she choose to be on the board. Last she wanted to express how important they are to the community and asks them to look at fulfilling their budget for 2024 so they can continue to help others as they have done for her and her family.

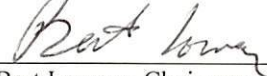
Diane Thompson with Haviland Telco came to discuss an infrastructure grant for Haviland Broadband. She explained how they are applying for grants to help spread the coverage of broadband internet and informed them 2/3 of county has fiber and looking to provide more through the county but hopefully with grants to help cover the costs of installing the service in the rural area. Today she requests a letter of support from the County Commissioners showing support of the Broadband program and asks them to commit funding for \$50,000 for the program that will be ran through the economic development. After some they were in consensus to sign a

letter of support and provide budgetary support in the amount of \$50,000 during their 2024 budget cycle if budgetary restraints allow. Diane will draw up a letter and forward to the Clerk for the next meeting.

Tamara Unruh came to request closing R St east of Hwy 183 due to the road only go to their homestead. They will get Chay to work on getting the procedures of closing the road.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36

Kiowa County Commission:

  
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Bert Lowery, Chairman

  
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John Bertram, Commissioner

  
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David White, Commissioner

Attest:  
  
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Kristi Cooper, County Clerk