

# Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting

December 18, 2023

The Kiowa County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 18 2023, at 9:00 am in the Commissioners room located in the basement of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Chairman Bert Lowery, Commissioner David White and County Clerk Kristi Cooper.

Consent agenda included: Agenda, Payroll reports, Accounts Payable reports and Commissioner minutes of 11/6/23 & 11/13/23.

After the pledge of allegiance was recited, Bert Lowery opened the meeting at 9:00 am. Bert moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and David seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Matt Christenson presented the amended 2023 budget with changes due to payoff of debt services on the hospital bond. Bert adjourned the meeting and opened the budget hearing for comments. Bert moved to adjourn the regular meeting and called the amendment budget to order at 9:03 for 5 minutes for public comment and John seconded, motion carried 3-0. Bert closed the budget hearing at 9:08 and called the regular meeting to order. John makes the motion to approve the 2023 budget amendment as provided and Bert seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Alan Hadley came to present probational period payroll changes for W Burnham and T Barnes for approval. After reviewing the payroll changes, Bert moved to approve them as presented and John seconded, motion carried 3-0. Next, he requested an executive session for employee relations for 10 minutes. John moved to recess into executive session for 10 minutes for the purpose of employee relations for personnel matters of non-elected personnel until 9:28 and Bert seconded, motion carried 3-0. Regular session began at 9:28 with no action taken.

Matt came to present quotes from Pioneer Home Services in the amount of \$7549.94, Eck Services for \$8125 and InteGreen Services for \$9995 for review. He informed them that they need to replace the generator at the radio tower out north of Greensburg and that they would like to transfer \$18,000 to the Special Equipment Fund to help with the new generator cost and other updates for the future on the tower. John moved to approve the transfer of funds of \$18,000 from Emergency Management into their Special Equipment fund and Bert seconded, motion carried 3-0. Next, John moved to approve the quote from Pioneer Home Services and Bert seconded, motion carried 3-0. Information was provided on the moderate-income housing project they are working on with Hayse Management. After some discussion John moved to approve the moderate-income housing program application and to authorize Matt as the signer for the county and David seconded, motion carried 2-0(Bert sustained). Additionally, he discussed an antivirus software update and presented 3 quotes from SHI for different levels of security for all computers at the county and encouraged them approve the upgrades adds useful features such as a robust device firewall, configurable summary reporting, 3<sup>rd</sup> party threat hunting and fine-grained control of USB storage devices and to purchase the mid-level software with CrowdStrike for \$15,125 for 100 licenses. After some discussion John moved to approve the SHI quote for \$15,125 and Bert seconded, motion carried 3-0. Last he presented a letter for a yearend budget transfer in the amount of \$10,000 from courthouse general into to a special equipment fund for future IT upgrades and purchases. David moved to approve the year end budget transfer and Bert seconded, the motion carried 3-0.

Kendal Lothman presented a merit payroll change for T Neil for approval. Bert moved to approve the payroll change as presented and David seconded, motion carried 3-0. Next, he informed them that KCAMP reached out to him and Kristi regarding the liability coverage limit the county has in the amount of \$6 million and the challenges in the reinsurance market they are only able to offer them limits as high as \$5 million. Also, KCAMP offers its members a \$3 million limit for claims that is included in the premium but they could also

offer \$4 million and \$5 million limits of liability for an increase of premium. After some discussion John moved to elect the 3 million limit of liability coverage through KCAMP instead of the 6 million liability coverage and Bert seconded, motion carried 3-0.

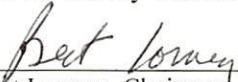
Break called till 10:19.

Kristi Cooper presented a hearing and vision screening contract for the Finn's Friends daycare LLC in Kerri's absence. Bert moved to approve the contract as presented and John seconded, motion carried 3-0. Next, she requested a year end transfer from the Election fund in the amount of \$20,000 to be moved to the Election Special Equipment fund for future election equipment and updates. John moved to approve the year end transfer and David seconded, motion carried 3-0. Last she opened the discussion regarding cost-of-living (COLA) increases for county employees that was budgeted for in the 2024 budgets for 2%. After some discussion, David moved to approve a 2% COLA raise for all county employees and John seconded, motion carried 3-0. Additionally, she requested to discuss merit raises for all the supervisors and informed them that they were also budgeted for 3% in their budgets as well. Bert moved to approve a 3% merit for all county supervisors and John seconded the motion carried 3-0. Kristi will get all the payroll changes ready and present them at their next meeting for approval.

Matt Christenson came back to revisit the pay plan discussion again after he presented them the information at the last meeting and it was by consensus the merit scale would be a flat rate instead of percentages. The supervisors will continue to work on job classifications along with job descriptions and report back once completed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08

Kiowa County Commission:

  
Bert Lowery, Chairman

  
John Bertram, Commissioner

  
David White, Commissioner

Attest:

  
Kristi Cooper, County Clerk