

# Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting

November 30, 2023

The Kiowa County Commissioners met in regular session Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 9:00 am in the Commissioners room located in the basement of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Chairman Bert Lowery, Vice Chairman John Bertram, Commissioner David White and County Clerk Kristi Cooper.

The consent agenda included: Agenda, Payroll report, Accounts Payable reports, and Commissioner minutes of 11/20/23.

After the pledge of allegiance was recited, Bert Lowery opened the meeting at 9:00 David moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and John seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Eric Buck came to discuss a purchase of a new truck for the County Ambulance department from Osage in the amount of \$275,884.44 and American Response Vehicles for \$309,155.95. He also explained that ordering an ambulance is close to 2 years out and requests them to approve the quote from Osage and allow him to get it ordered. John moved to allow Eric to move forward by ordering a type III ambulance with power load system in the amount of \$275,844 and David seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Kendall Lothman presented a shift differential payroll change for S Richmond for approval. After reviewing the payroll change, John moved to approve and David seconded, motion carried 3-0. Next, they discussed the renewal of the tower lease with David and Kathy White at \$500 a month for a renewal of 10 years. Kendal discussed that in the future they should look into creating a fund to help pay for communications as a whole to purchase a new one once these need to be replaced or moved. Bert moved to approve to renew the tower lease as presented and John seconded, motion carried 2-0.

Matt Christenson came to inform them that last evening the hospital board met to approve paying off their Revenue bond in the amount \$1,455,054.53. He explained the procedures on what the County needs to do since the bond is held by the County. After some discussion, John moved to approve moving forward with the payoff of the hospital revenue bond and authorizing Matt to take the steps outlined in the discussion and Bert seconded, motion passed 3-0. Next, he wanted to discuss the current pay plan with suggested changes from the department supervisors. This was tabled till the meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Break called till 10:12

Alan Hadley came to revisit the discussion on grader leases with Matt. He explained he has worked with Matt and our auditors on paying off the 4 leases and trading off the oldest grader M20 with 10 thousand hours for a new grader. Alan and Matt informed them they would be paying 3 of the leases out of Special Road and Bridge Fund and the 4<sup>th</sup> lease out of the Special Equipment and Machinery Fund. After some discussion, John moved to approve paying off the 4 leases as they discussed and David seconded, motion carried 3-0. Last he requested a 10-minute executive session on personnel matters. Bert moved to recess to executive session for 10 minutes for the purpose of employee relations to protect privacy matters for employees pursuant to the exception for personnel matters of non-elected personnel to include Alan, Kristi and Kendal at 10:37 and John seconded, motion carried 3-0. Regular session began at 10:47 with no action taken.

Kristi Cooper presented payroll reports, accounts payable reports and minutes November 20<sup>th</sup> for signatures.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50

Kiowa County Commission:

*Bert Lowery*

Bert Lowery, Chairman

*John Bertram*

John Bertram, Commissioner

*David White*

David White, Commissioner

Attest:

*Kristi Cooper*

Kristi Cooper, County Clerk