

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting

October 31, 2024

The Kiowa County Commissioners met in regular session Thursday, October 31, 2024, at 9:00 am in the Commissioners room located in the basement of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Chairman John Bertram, Vice Chairman David White, Commissioner Bert Lowery, County Clerk Kristi Cooper, County Attorney Chay Howard, and Deputy Clerk Shelly Tuttle.

The consent agenda included: Agenda, Payroll report, Accounts Payable reports, and Commissioner minutes of October 21, 2024.

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

Kristi Cooper presented a payroll change for Shallyn Richmond (separation) and Laura Gwin (annual merit) Bert moved to approve the payroll changes as presented, David seconded, motion carried 3-0. Kristi also presented 3 bids for a maintenance truck from Mel Hamilton Ford, Lewis Motors, and Rusty Eck Ford. Bert moved to purchase a Ford F150 from Lewis Motors for \$42,424.95, taking \$20,000 from the Maintenance budget, \$5,000 from the Election budget and the remainder of \$17,424.95 from the special equipment fund. David seconded and the motion carried 3-0. Kristi also updated the County Commissioners on the early voting turnout to date.

Matt Christenson and Reese Blaylock with Blue Sky Farms came to discuss continuing the MIH grant program. Reese explained to the County Commissioners what their future plans for building in Greensburg are. After much discussion it was by consensus to start working on the MIH grant application with Matt.

Diane Thompson with Haviland Broadband came to give updates on the Linc Grant that they received. She also gave information on future fiber optic projects. Diane asked for support in filing for the Bead Grant. John moved to sign the letter of support for Haviland Broadband, David seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Brian with EMS came to give the County Commissioners an update which included personnel revenue and future budget increases for operations.

Bert called for a 5-minute break at 10:01.

Regular session began again at 10:06.

Alan presented an agreement with Kirkham Michael for the engineering for Bridge #43 on F for \$75,000 for lump sum payment and fees for extra work as needed. John made the motion to approve the agreement with Kirkham Michael, Bert seconded, motion carried 3-0. Alan also presented payroll changes for S Underwood (annual merit), J Sluss (6-month merit), E Horn (new hire), W Williams (annual merit), and C Erickson (6-month position reclassification). Bert made the motion to approve the payroll changes as presented, David seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Alan Hadley and Jason West came to continue the landfill discussion and the purchase of a new scraper. It was by consensus to agree to let Alan work on getting a purchase agreement for a new scraper. They also brought up the hours of operation for the landfill with no decision made. Alan presented Resolution 2024-12, a resolution to Approve Functional Classification System, David made the motion to approve resolution 2024-12 for the approval of Functional Classification System, Bert seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Chay is hoping to have the KNRC resolution on Monday. Chay also gave an update on the water bank donation. It was by consensus to continue working on developing an MOU with Central Kansas water bank and Kansas Corn Commission.

John gave an update on the septic tank situation in Belvidere. A resident is working on getting a grant to get help set up a permanent septic tank.

John moved to go into a 10-minute executive session for discussing Road and Bridge department personnel under the exemption pursuant to the exception for personnel matters of non-elected personnel. Bert seconded; motion passed 3-0.

Back in regular session at 11:20 with no action taken.

John moved to go into a 10-minute executive session for discussing Road and Bridge department personnel under the exemption pursuant to the exception for personnel matters of non-elected personnel with Alan Hadley. David seconded the motion, it carried 3-0.

Back in regular session at 11:31 with no action taken.

It was discussed that the procurement policy needs to go to a department meeting for the department heads to look at to have the policy reevaluated.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33.

Kiowa County Commission:

John Bertram, Chairman

Attest:

David White, Commissioner

Shelly Tuttle, Deputy County Clerk

Bert Lowery, Commissioner