

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 12, 2011

The Regular Meeting of the Kiowa County Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Richard Scott on October 12, 2011. Commissioner Scott opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Those attending were:

Richard Scott, Commissioner
William E. Koehler, Commissioner
Donald Oswald, Commissioner
Debra C. Lening, County Clerk
Peggy Dunlap, Administrator

The vouchers were reviewed. Four vouchers were questioned. Vouchers were approved and signed.

Rick and Carol Spady met with the Commissioners regarding a day care issue and their daughter's reckless driving charges due to a child nearly running out in front of her because they were playing in the park instead of in a fenced play area. The day care ladies turned their daughter in for reckless driving. Mr. and Mrs. Spady maintain that this would never have been an issue had the children been in a fenced area to play. They said this incident could happen to anyone driving down that street when the children are in the park. They felt this should be brought to the attention of the Commissioners.

Jeanne Sorensen entered the meeting as a visitor.

Bill Dutro with Otero Junior College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in La Junta met with the Commissioners to report on activity in Kiowa County. He stated they have four active files with one new business. The capital formation is at \$2.5 million. The activity is greater this year but the capital formation is down. He foresees 2012 will exceed the \$2.5 million in capital formation. He also stated that SBDC is looking for more funds, if possible, from the counties. They discussed trying to find grant funds for a generator for Prairie Pines Assisted Living. Mr. Dutro said he would see what he could do to help them.

Minutes from the September 27, 2011 Regular Meeting and the September 30, 2011 Special Meeting were presented. Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to approve both sets of minutes as presented. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

The Prairie Pines Assisted Living (PPAL) swimming pool was discussed. Correspondence was received from Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services Inc. Insurance Company stating that Lloyds of London will not cover non-residents in the pool. Money will be refunded to anyone who has paid in advance for use of the pool. The Commissioners are still waiting on a bid from Brase Insurance.

The Commissioners discussed the TV tower. Rob Smith's maintenance contract was reviewed. There was further discussion regarding the licensing, which needs to be addressed before anything further can be done. Rob Smith will need to be terminated, giving him 30 days notice. Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to send a letter to Rob Smith ending his contract November 30, 2011 and contract with Southeast Networks & Support LLC for licensing and getting started on the contract work for digitizing the TV tower equipment. The Commissioners will request a contract from Southeast Networks & Support LLC to be presented at the first meeting in November. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

The Towner Railroad line was discussed. A letter was received from V&S Railroad indicating they are not immediately planning on taking the rails out. The Commissioners will continue to try to influence CDOT in making sure the rail stays in place and try to get entities to use the rail.

Feedback regarding the Fair has been very positive.

Redistricting was discussed. If the County is not redistricting, the Commissioners need to have a resolution in place describing the boundaries. Commissioner Scott will work on the resolution. It will be presented at the next Regular Meeting.

Work on the Murdock Building project is slated for October 17 through November 11 for continued asbestos abatement.

There was discussion regarding the CDOT bridge funds. The County has two bridges that they would like to resurface, but they need to find out if these bridges qualify for these funds.

Cleaning at the Bransgrove building was discussed. They will discuss this matter further with Mike Crain later today. They are looking at the possibility of hiring a part time janitor rather than having contract labor.

The Commissioners had a conference call with a National Association of Counties (NACO) representative at 11:00 a.m. regarding membership initiative for non members to become a member for one year.

There was discussion regarding State Industrial Products currently being used at the Eads County Shop. Due to the Kiowa County Purchasing Policy, the Commissioners don't feel that this needs to be extended to the other county shops.

A quarterly report was reviewed for maintenance at PPAL and the courthouse. The maintenance at PPAL is 70% instead of the intended 50%. This will also be discussed with Mike Crain.

The Library has been staying open 1 hour later on Monday evenings through the winter months. This becomes a security issue with having the doors unlocked after hours. Koehler made the motion, seconded by Scott, that the courthouse is closed to the public and emptied out at 4:30 p.m. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

DSS/Day Care issues were discussed. Scott made the motion, seconded by Oswald, pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 24, Article 6, Section 402 at subsection VIII (4)(f)(I) to go into executive session for personnel matters at 11:35 a.m. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

The Commissioners came out of executive session and resumed the Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Dennis Pearson, Director of the Department of Social Services (DSS), met with the Commissioners. DSS vouchers were reviewed. Two were questioned. Vouchers were approved and checks were signed. The Commissioners questioned Pearson regarding the deficit in the DSS account. Pearson stated that the money that was anticipated from the State did not come through. The State fiscal year and the County year end are not the same, so it's a guessing game on what will actually come from the State. The funds were not available at the State level and case loads were up, so there is a deficit that the County will have to make up. Pearson said this was the first time in the 19 years he's been with DSS that this scenario has happened. This becomes another unfunded mandate.

The November Regular Meetings will be November 14th and 22nd. The next Regular Meeting will be October 27th.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

The Clerk's report was reviewed and filed.

The Commissioners report was reviewed.

The hospital financials were reviewed.

Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation (KCEDF) members Mike Lening, Cardon Berry, John Courkamp, and Jerry Weber met with the Commissioners to request consideration for the \$25,000 for KCEDF for next year. The County cut the contribution from \$25,000 to \$15,000 this year. Lening stated that KCEDF was actually cut \$15,000, since KCEDF has allocated \$5,000 to the Murdock Building project, leaving the foundation with \$10,000 to operate on for the year. He stated that KCEDF is the only arm the County has at this point to try and reach out and bring in new businesses to the County. This cut could make KCEDF ineffective if the County and other entities aren't able to fund it more fully. Commissioner Scott stated that, at this point, they didn't see the budget looking any better for 2012 than it did for 2011. They will discuss the budget tomorrow, but it isn't looking good at this time. If the oil production comes through, the budget will look much better for 2013, but that's all speculation at this point. KCEDF would like to have something here when it's all said and done, but they understand cuts have to be made. Commissioner Scott said KCEDF needs to try to influence Congressman Cory Gardner to get authorization for National Parks funds to be used for the Murdock Building. The money is there, it just hasn't been authorized for spending. This would help tremendously. However, it won't help the County budget at this time.

The generator issue for PPAL was discussed. A grant was applied for through the Cooper Clark Foundation in the amount of \$40,000 that needs a \$20,000 match. They discussed the matter with PPAL board member Mike Lening. He said they had looked at an old generator from Southeast Colorado Power (SECP) that would have to be converted. At this point, they don't have a price in mind of what it would cost for a generator large enough to run PPAL. Lening will talk with Jack Wolfe at SECP to see what he can find out. Meanwhile, the Cooper Clark Foundation grant needs the match within 90 days to qualify.

Oswald made the motion, seconded by Scott, to sign the annual Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Child and Adult Care Food Program Certificate and Statement of Authority and Truth of Application. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

Time off request forms were approved and signed.

Maintenance Director Mike Crain met with the Commissioners regarding maintenance issues.

There was an unemployment hearing with the attorney present on October 7, 2011. The results of the hearing are pending.

With no further business, Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to adjourn at 3:20 p.m. All Commissioners voted affirmative.