

OFFICIAL MINUTES FOR March 15, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the Kiowa County Commissioners was called to order at 9:15 am by Chairman Richard Scott on March 15, 2012. Richard Scott opened the meeting with prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Those attending were:

Richard Scott, Commissioner
William E. Koehler, Commissioner
Peggy Dunlap, Administrator-Deputy Clerk

Jeanne Sorensen entered the meeting as a visitor. Donald Oswald was running late due to a fire in his district.

Bill Dutro, from Otero Junior College Small Business Development Center gave a report with a 3 year running history of impact to this area. In 2011, there were 28 businesses started in the 6 county region with 44 jobs created, 22 jobs retained, and \$2.51MM used in Capital Formation. Each county had activity and Kiowa County has had 1 Business plan created with SBDC. Business seems to be picking up in the Southeast area. Mr. Dutro did say that even one business coming in helps every county out in some way or another. Discussion was made about how to attract trade businesses into this region such as electricians, plumbers, etc. That is the going question he said and we all need to keep working on it. Annual report should be out in the next couple of weeks and he will see to it that we get a copy.

Minutes from the February 28, 2012 regular Meeting were presented. Koehler made a motion, seconded by Scott, to approve the minutes as presented. Both Commissioners voted affirmative, Oswald was absent.

Discussion was brought up about the letters that were given to each of the Daycare employees that are going to classes. The College classes are a total of \$1001.65 for the 2 credits. This will be talked about later on with Dennis when he comes over to give his reports.

Commissioner Scott said that he had sent in a response, as well as Koehler, to the State regarding their possible effort to redirect the funds from this region to the Colorado Springs area. Scott's response was that the Commissioners for Kiowa County would be adamantly opposed to any redirection of funds scheduled for highway 96 to the Colorado Springs area or any other area. Highway 96 is in serious need of improvement-primarily for the driving surface. Dan Tate, SECED Director, said that he was not in favor of the funds being moved either. Scott wants that money used for driving surface rather than a bike path. More talk will need to be made on this issue at the next SECED meeting.

A letter was received from Ronald Hyman, State Registrar and Director of Vital Statistics, about his decision of moving Vital Statistics to the Town Clerk's office, Dawna Peck. He will not authorize or initiate a move of the records due to the hiring of staff at the Public Health Office that can be trained to be the Local Registrar. He reiterates that there are no plans to move the records out of Kiowa County. The Commissioners have asked Administrator Dunlap to send an email or letter to Dawna Peck letting her know of this decision and that it had nothing to do with her personally. The records will stay at Kiowa County Public Health Agency.

Discussion was also made regarding the Office Manager being made into a full time position. Jackie Brown will be here on the 29th of March and the Commissioners will talk to her about it then.

John Marrin, from Lamar Community College, came to the meeting and gave us a copy of the seminar that is coming up on "Simple Steps for Starting Your Business". Administrator Dunlap has put flyers up around town after the last meeting so the news is out there. He also wanted to share the news about an Energy Audit (GEO office) LCC went through and most buildings they own were built in the 1960's. They have a dormitory that they couldn't use in the summer because it was just too hot. That has now been fixed. Also, some work was done on electrical, ventilation and lighting so that the costs would be more effective. They also want to know if there is something they could do to help with the Historic Preservation project, they would love that opportunity.

There is still some talk about a loan from Wells Fargo for the fire truck that the Stums have for sale. The contact we have is John Self. Dennis Hunt, CTSI, said to call him directly. The Commissioners have asked Dunlap to call Wells Fargo about a 2 year loan so that we can stay within our budget for this year. Koehler made a motion, seconded by Scott, to call Wells Fargo and get this going. All Commissioners present voted affirmative.

The date for the Commissioners to be on KVAZ is Friday, March 30, 2012. The items for discussion will be the Towner Line and Oil, Daycare, and Gas Development in Kiowa County.

There is no news on the meat packing plant at this time. We are waiting for information to be given.

Our next Planning & Zoning meeting will be April 3rd, at 9:00 am. The Commissioners have asked Administrator Dunlap to get the notice out to the members. One of the things needed to be looked at are the guidelines for the Conditional Use Permits.

Alternate Detour Routes will be talked about at the meeting in Lamar, March 20, 2012. CDOT may designate Maine Street as an alternate route for Highway 287 if it is closed. The Commissioners plan to attend that meeting and report back on it. There are not many roads that go through in the County so this definitely needs to be addressed.

A proposal needs to be signed by Richard Scott for Colorado Hazard Control to finish up the asbestos work on the Murdock building. The proposal is for \$14,240.00. Koehler made the motion to sign the proposal, seconded by Scott to sign. All commissioners present voted affirmative.

The next meeting dates for April are the 12th and the 27th.

Donald Oswald entered the meeting at 10:25 am. He gave a brief report on the fire.

Carla Gifford, Transit Coordinator, came to the meeting and brought Lola Igou, Loretta Seibel, Debra Immer, and Connie Shotton in support of the CSBG Rider grant. They want to get some answers and find out the status on the Rider grant. Carla wants to keep that service. The grant was submitted in January but we won't find out for awhile if we will get it. We did not find out until May of last year if we received it for 2011. Carla Gifford wanted to be sure that we have applied for the grant which Krissy Ray said yes, the paperwork has been submitted and there is no guarantee we will get the grant. All grants have been cut by the State and we don't know from year to year if we will get it. Gifford wants to know what we do in the meantime as she has people who really need the service. Scott said that it is in the budget that there is rider's money of \$5,000.00. When Gifford came in to the office to ask about the rider money in her budget, Administrator Dunlap said no, it can't be used until we receive confirmation of the grant. The way it was put on the budget, it looks as though there is money that can be used according to Commissioner Scott. The Commissioners can agree to budget a set amount for riders each year that is not contingent on a grant. Gifford believes that there is a bigger need this year than there was last year. Administrator Dunlap asked for the criteria that are used to have riders on the bus. Gifford said that general comfort alone, compassion, and extra help for those that don't have family that can go with them are part of the criteria. Gifford was under the impression that if she didn't use all the money, she would lose it. She thought if the money was in there, and that is what it is for, that is what she used it for. Sometimes she had more than one rider on the bus, as she needed to use this money up. Krissy Ray suggested that there be criteria set up and if criteria are met, a rider will be used. Gifford was operating with the assumption that she could use all the money up, whether it was a real need or not. Commissioner Scott said that this is one of the problems that need to be addressed at budget time for next year. Each department will need to set across the table from the Commissioners and set their own budgets up. A document needs to be written up by Carla Gifford with the criteria for the riders and given to Peggy or Krissy. Carla agreed to do that and get it in to the office. Debra Immer wanted everyone to know that Carla is an honest person and she was doing what she thought she was supposed to do. Carla has not abused it. Connie Shotton also said that she agreed that she wouldn't be going if she wasn't needed. The Commissioners understand the need, but criteria for riders being used still need to be met.

Paula and Dennis Maroney came in to discuss Legal Shield that is available to employees. This is a program that offers Identity Theft benefits, legal advice on many issues, preparation of wills, and online forms. They will be speaking to the employees this afternoon and hoping to get this information out to interested individuals.

Jon Renteria came in to speak to the Commissioners about the rooms over at Bransgrove. He is operating a Martial Arts program and there is about 45 people enrolled. He has been having classes in the Middle School gym but is running into issues with track and baseball. The office space is open and he was wondering if the County would work something out with him so that he could use that space. He doesn't charge much for the class so he wouldn't be able to pay much rent or utilities. Renteria said that he would like to offer this program year round as long as he has students to teach. The Commissioners will be talking a little more about this at the end of the day. We will get back in touch with him once a decision has been made. The Commissioners did agree that this is a great program for the youth of our County.

Meeting was recessed at 12:05 pm for lunch.

Meeting was back in session at 1:05 pm.

Dennis Pearson, DSS Director, reported that Charlotte had her surgery and things were a little more difficult than expected. The Commissioners wish her well and a speedy recovery. For February, Medicaid report says they paid out \$50,773.00 on behalf of residents for services in the County. This is a lot less than normal and the report looks different than usual. We now have another child in custody which means 2 now in Canon City. This costs the County more money as well somewhere around \$5,600.00 a month. The County is responsible for 20% of this bill. Dennis got a letter from the Denver Post with an open records request. He will talk to his attorney, respond to them and get the Commissioners a copy of his report. All Counties have received this request.

Administrator Dunlap asked Pearson his comments of the Educational contract that each of the employees of Little Sprouts was asked to sign for the schooling they received. He said that he asked them to sign a different paper other than the one that Carole had them sign as it was not clearly defined about the cost of these 2 classes. We are making them take the courses for employment at the daycare, but the County is paying for it. If they leave the County, they are taking the credits with them. The only way any of the money will have to be paid back, is if the employee quits within the year of expense. Through much discussion, Oswald made a motion, seconded by Koehler, that the policy book be changed to "If expenses for educational fees are over \$600.00, if an employee terminates employment, the employee's responsibility to pay the money back will be prorated (by twelfths) over the year following expense." All Commissioners voted affirmative.

A copy of the Certificate of Compliance for the State of Colorado was given to Dennis Pearson as we have received the information from Don Steerman. We did not check the box that asks if the director is or is not exempt, but Oswald recommended that we send it in as is. We are still waiting for a copy of our Transition Plan from the State of Colorado in order to fill the form out correctly.

Copies of statements from Daycare customers that were turned into collections will be sent to Dennis Pearson so that he can stay on top of it. There were 9 customers sent to collections.

Steve Marshall, with Cobitco, came to the meeting to give a demonstration and report on Chip Sealing. His suggestion would be to budget a certain amount of chip seal to be done on a yearly basis so that we don't get behind on it. It is hard to catch up on this as it is very expensive. He also suggested that you patch cracks as water is the biggest contributor to roads cracking and having to be repaired. Commissioner Scott asked how Counties can afford to do this if there is no money. Marshall said that counties are doing a little bit at a time. The Commissioners will be looking into this in the near future.

Don Lewis, Deep Space Exploration Society, came in to talk about his property south of Haswell. They are a 501 (c) 3 non profit science and education group dedicated to exploring and learning about space through the use of radio astronomy. He encouraged the Commissioners to come down and look at what they have done. They also were interested in having signs posted on County roads to promote their business so that people know they are there. Possibly organizations cleaning up roads could post signs on the County roads and have Deep Space Exploration on the sign somewhere. This would be for Rd 19 and some portion of 20. They would need the signs purchased and put in place by the County. The Commissioners said they would look into it, but it was hard to find the organizations to do the work. His other question had to do with V&S Railroad and what was going on with the Towner Line. The Commissioners let him know what they have been working on.

The Commissioners discussed with the Road & Bridge foreman the employee issues with CDL and the employee's refusal to try to get it again. Without a CDL, the employee will have to be let go. The employee will not be working with the County in August as he has decided to go back to school. It was decided that the Commissioners would offer the position at Landfill to this employee to fill in until the operator can come back after surgery. There is an issue of time being taken off on a weekly basis and it would be discussed with employee that there is to be no time off unless going through the process of 2 week request for vacation. Employee needs to be at this job on a daily basis when the Landfill is open. No exceptions to the daily attendance. This job will be available until the full time landfill operator comes back. Administrator Dunlap will speak directly with employee and have him sign paperwork.

Discussion was made about the insurance at Prairie Pines Assisted Living. A plan needs to be set from Prairie Pines regarding the usage so that it can be given to Melinda Kelly. Commissioner Scott wants a separate letter from the insurance company stating that we will be covered so that a year from now, there is no issue with coverage. The Commissioners were under the impression all along that they were covered and they weren't. We want to know that it is done properly.

Questions were brought up about the Assumption paperwork for Prairie Pines. Scott asked Administrator Dunlap to contact our attorney, Wendy Shinn, to see if we could possibly make an appointment on March 30th right after the meeting with KVA. Not much can be accomplished with this until legal council is sought.

Commissioner Scott gave a report on the Towner Line. We will need to look for a new buyer. The CEO of WATCO is not interested in buying the line, but he would lease from another buyer. We may have to get help from Anastasia at Railroad Industries and there will be a charge. Commissioner Koehler thinks we need to get a meeting set up with Attorney General because without the line being available, there is no need to spend more money.

The Commissioners would like to invite the Hospital board and Tom Henton to our next meeting on March 29, 2012. We would like to talk directly to them regarding the letter that was received about the MOU, Health Fair, and Prairie Pines. Administrator Dunlap will either make the phone call or email the hospital and see if this would work for them.

The internet at the Public Health Agency was questioned. It looks like the price could be lowered by checking into Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association. At least there would be money that could come back to the county. Administrator Dunlap will check into this and report back next meeting.

The Treasurers report was reviewed.

The Clerks report was reviewed.

Commissioner reports were reviewed and discussed.

A letter of support for Crow-Luther was given to Commissioners to sign. Oswald made a motion, seconded by Scott, to sign the letter of support. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

Debra Lening presented the Liquor license to be signed for the Eads Golf Course. There have been no incidences that she is aware of to keep this from going through. Oswald made a motion, seconded by Scott, to sign the license. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

Debra Lening also talked to the Commissioners about a training that her office personnel needs to go to in April that would close the office on Thursday afternoon and all day Friday. The dates are April 12 & April 13th. Koehler made a motion, seconded by Oswald, to have the offices closed for the afternoon of April 12 and all day April 13th. All Commissioners voted affirmative. Debra will get the notices up as soon as possible.

Oswald presented a draft proposal for the MOU for Wildland and Forest Service. After a little discussion, this is a draft proposal only and will need to be discussed further with our County fireman and Sheriff's department. We will discuss at a further time.

With no further business, William Koehler made the motion, seconded by Oswald, to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm.

Peggy Dunlap, Administrator