

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Kiowa County Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Richard Scott on February 28, 2013. 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

Jeanne Sorensen entered the meeting at 9:15 a.m. as a visitor.

Minutes from the January 29, 2013 Regular Meeting, February 22, 2013 Special Meeting, and February 25, 2013 Special Meeting were presented. Oswald made the motion, seconded by Scott, to approve the minutes as presented. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

The agenda was reviewed. Additions were made under old business, to wit: #11 – CDOT Mowing; #12 – Planning & Zoning Commission; #13 – CSBG; #14 – Library; #15 – Senior Citizens Issue. Koehler made the motion, seconded by Oswald, to approve the agenda with the additions. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

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

Robert Ryan with Sierra Engineering on behalf of Chama Oil & Minerals, LLC met with the Commissioners regarding a new well site in NW1/4 of Section 16, T-19-S, R-48-W called the Fischer State 16-19-48 #1H. The land is owned by the State of Colorado and is leased by Chuck & Sherry Bowen. The company plans on putting in an 18" culvert on the approach. The site will be set back off of the road so that there is good visibility for anyone using the County Road 40. The Commissioners gave their approval contingent on State approval.

There was discussion regarding proposed legislation to the 2nd Amendment. The Commissioners received a resolution for review from Prowers County in support of the 2nd Amendment. The Commissioners don't know who they are speaking for if they sign a resolution. They feel the citizens should contact their legislators individually as this would have more impact than a resolution from the BOCC. Scott made the motion, seconded by Oswald, to not adopt the resolution regarding the 2nd Amendment as presented by Prowers County, but in lieu of that, recommend that every concerned citizen contact their legislators individually. Oswald also stated that the Commissioners do not agree with parts of the wording of the Prowers County Resolution. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

Bridge weight information was again discussed pertaining to special permits. This information will be placed on the back of the special permits. The Planning and Zoning Commission would like to have all fees waived if the permit is for a company coming into the county rather than just moving through the county. After further discussion, the Commissioners felt that the motion to change the fee to \$500 in the previous Regular Meeting should be upheld.

No information has been received from DOLA regarding the Murdock Building project. The deadline is April 1st.

One letter of interest has been received for the Fair Board. The deadline for receiving letters is March 1st. Terms of use for the pavilion/arena was received for review from the Fair Board.

Fire District information was discussed. The Commissioners met with the West End Senior Citizens to discuss the possibility. They need to meet with each incorporated town to see if they want to be a part of this proposed fire district. They will then need to schedule public meeting throughout the county for input from the citizens. They will need to develop a prospective budget and a plan to move forward.

There was discussion regarding the insurance payment for the maintainer and radio that were destroyed in the recent prairie fire. Oswald also stated that he had more radios ordered, one of which would replace this radio.

There was discussion regarding Road & Bridge equipment. The Commissioners will design a bid specification form to compare equipment equally. The Commissioners will meet March 5th, 2013 starting at 9:00 a.m. to work on a bid specification form. Bids will be received in time for the March 26th Regular Meeting.

Rick Wollert owns the land where the Gentz Gravel Pit is located. Wollert would like to take over the permit for the pit. The Commissioners will have to find out what the procedure is from the State and then will get back with Wollert.

The Targeted Brownsfield Assessment Application was approved by CDPHE but funds won't be available until April 1st to start the process of assessing the status of the Maine Street (Rialto) Hotel building for hazardous materials.

The Commissioners discussed the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) meeting they attended. The bottom line is the State does not have the funds to maintain all the roads in the State. The "RAMP" program was discussed, where they start a project and attempt to finish the project as the funds become

available. CDOT discussed the possibility of entities sharing in the expense as a “partner,” which would be impossible for small counties.

Alexa Roberts, Sharon Johnson and Jeff Campbell with the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission met with the Commissioner. They have just completed under contract with the Front Range Associates, nominations for properties in Kiowa County. Properties nominated to the State Register of Historic Places are the Sheridan Lake School (KA Hall), the Jackson Barn, and the Haswell Missouri-Pacific Railroad Depot. Properties nominated to the National Register of Historic Places are the Haswell Hotel, the Eads Gymnasium, the Eads Community Church (Methodist Church), and the Crow-Hightower House. These are 7 out of 400 historic properties that were surveyed in the three incorporated towns. These properties would be protected by this status. One of the Commission’s goals is to memorialize the Towner Bus Tragedy site. They want to make sure the event and story is preserved and memorialized. However, since there are no structures involved, it does not fall under the State Historic Preservation Society guidelines as such which is making it difficult to convey the importance of that event. Therefore, they want to raise public awareness by publishing their meeting minutes every month in the local paper. Koehler made the motion, seconded by Oswald, to allow the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission to publish minutes, notices, etc in whatever media is appropriate. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

The New Executive Director of SCEDD (Southern Colorado Economic Development District) Douglas Dowler met with the Commissioners to introduce himself and to update them on SCEDD activities. Dowler stated 3 sectors have been identified for southern Colorado: 1. Agriculture; 2. Healthcare; 3. Light Manufacturing. He asked what the needs of Kiowa County are and how SCEDD can help. He presented the EPIC flier and the SBA flier. He discussed the 504 program for start up of a new business. He also discussed the 7A program which is a 75% guarantee for the lender on new business bank loans.

CDOT mowing was discussed. Commissioner Scott wants to send a letter to CDOT requesting a change in mowing processes on Hwy 96, Hwy 385 and Hwy 287 in Kiowa county. The request is for earlier and more frequent mowing to mitigate vehicle and deer collisions. The priority must be public safety.

The Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) was discussed. The administration of this \$5,000 grant is more trouble than it is worth. It takes the same amount of work as if it were a \$500,000 grant. The Commissioners would like to sit down with the three DOLA representatives before committing one way or the other.

The Library was discussed regarding the TV tower issue. The 1987 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) was reviewed which financed the TV tower. Commissioner Koehler feels the TV tower should be removed from the Library and moved to Road & Bridge. This would give the Library more leeway to use their money for library upgrades. Commissioner Koehler will discuss this matter further with the Library Board at their next meeting.

A Senior Citizens issue was discussed. Jeanne Sorensen wrote a letter regarding her proposed idea of helping the Senior Citizens and stated she would not attempt to interfere with their business again.

The Commissioners recessed at noon for lunch. The Regular Meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.

Sarah Carlisle and Rick Thompson with Tri State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. and Kathy Worthington and Betty Mirzayi with Xcel Energy met with the Commissioners to discuss the Burlington to Lamar project and the Lamar Front Range project. Everything is moving extremely slowly and both companies just want to keep the county in the loop as to what is going on in the southern region of the state.

Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to accept the insurance payout for the maintainer destroyed in the fire in the amount of \$53,000. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

DSS Director Dennis Pearson met with the Commissioners to explain the Colorado Health Benefits Exchange (COHBE), which is part of the Obama Care Plan. Grant funds need to be applied for to hire someone to administer this plan. This person would help people find health insurance, which is required by law. This person would be paid by grant funds through COHBE (or Connect for Health, as it will soon be called). Pearson stated that either the County can apply for grant funds or have an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with another entity to administer the plan. Pearson is not aware what other counties are doing about this. Pearson said DSS can do it or the county can do it or someone unrelated to the county. This would be a part time person if it’s done here in Kiowa County. Person will go to a meeting March 4th that covers the process and will meet back with the Commissioners during their work session the following week. Koehler made the motion, seconded by Oswald, to have Dennis Pearson proceed with this COHBE grant process. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

The Sheriff’s report for February was signed and filed.

The Veterans report was reviewed.

One time off request form was reviewed. Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to approve the time off request. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

The Regular Meetings in March will be March 14th and March 26th. The Regular Meetings in April will be April 9th and April 25th.

The next Regular Meeting will be held March 14, 2013.

With no further business, Koehler made the motion, seconded by Oswald, to adjourn at 2:55 p.m. All Commissioners voted affirmative.