

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES FOR APRIL 15, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Kiowa County Commissioners was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Commissioner Donald Oswald as Acting Chairman in Chairman Richard Scott's absence on April 15, 2014. Oswald opened the meeting with prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Those attending were:

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

Cindy McLoud was present as a visitor.

Fair Board members Tearle Lessenden and Nancy Walker met with the Commissioners regarding the 2014 Fair. Lessenden stated that the CPRA Finals are on the same day that the Kiowa County Fair was scheduled and they would not sanction our rodeo for the same time. Therefore, the Fair Board felt it was necessary to change the date of the County Fair to the week before for September 3rd through the 7th. Lessenden reported that the Ranch Rodeo will be on Thursday, the Rodeo will be on Friday and Saturday, and the County Days will be on Sunday. The Fair Board is planning a dance but no details are finalized at this time. The Board is looking into a carnival if it is affordable. There will be changes to the livestock show. They will plan the beef show on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. The Swine show will be Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m. so that it is cooler for the hogs. Sheep, goats, chickens and rabbits will follow. There was also discussion regarding the "wish list" of items that will need fixed, repaired or replaced. Bathrooms, the roof on the grand stands, etc. were mentioned. Lessenden said the Fair Board would start working on the list.

Jeanne Sorensen entered the meeting at 9:20 a.m. as a visitor.

Minutes from the March 27, 2014 Regular Meeting was presented. Koehler made a motion, seconded by Oswald, to approve the Minutes as presented. Both Commissioners voted affirmative.

The vouchers were reviewed. No vouchers were questioned. Koehler made the motion, seconded by Oswald, to approved and sign the vouchers. Both Commissioners voted affirmative.

The agenda was reviewed. One addition was made, to wit: New Business - #2 – Personnel Policy. Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to approve the agenda with the addition. Both Commissioners voted affirmative.

Sheriff Casey Sheridan met with the Commissioners regarding the tornado sirens. The only siren working properly at this time is the Eads siren. Oswald will check with Bob Benz with Digitcom Electronics Inc. from La Junta regarding this matter. Sheriff Sheridan also discussed the Emergency Management Coordinator position. He reported that three applicants were interviewed. He said the four member panel had selected Remington Brandt for recommendation and asked the Commissioners if they would make a motion to hire this person. Koehler stated he didn't like the process since the entire Board of Commissioners were not involved and would not vote for it. The Sheriff stated that he was of the understanding that this person would be under him and he was to do the hiring. Koehler stated that their office was not informed but the Administrator stated that the Sheriff had been in contact with her during the entire process and one of the Commissioners was on the panel. She stated that since the Sheriff would be supervising this position, she thought he was the person that should do the hiring. Koehler stated the Sheriff could hire his deputies because they come out of his budget but the Emergency Coordinator comes out of County General. Sheriff Sheridan said he wasn't trying to do anything secretive. He thought he was doing the right thing by having a Commissioner on board and involving the fire department and EMS people to find the right person for the job. Oswald asked where to go from here and it was determined that the process will have to be postponed and the position will be re-advertised.

The gaming issue was discussed. Representative Larry Crowder will introduce the resolution to the legislature and will let the Commissioners know the date it will be debated on the floor. Commissioner Scott wants to get people lined up to be ready to go to the State when this is debated. Oswald will have a SEBREA Letter of Support to take with them. Oswald also stated that Allison Cortner with SCEDD has offered to help in anyway she can to help support this. Commissioner Scott will prepare an additional letter to send.

The Newsletter draft was reviewed.

The Barnett Pit was discussed. The Administrator called Bill Barnett and left a message, but she has not heard back from him. If the Commissioners don't hear from him soon, they will send a letter to him.

The Towner Kiosk was discussed.

The fire department account, which was under the County's tax ID number was moved from the bank to the County March 31st so the fire department has their own account showing money in, money out accounted for with vouchers. There isn't that much in the account. It's mainly revenue from the Chili Supper. They will set up a budget for 2015 under County General for this purpose. This year, since it's not budgeted, there will have to be a supplemental done. Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to move the fire department account to County General and be "vouchered" out. Both Commissioners voted affirmative. The fire district was discussed. Petitions will soon be circulated.

Ed Jones met with the Commissioners regarding blowing dirt issues involving the NW1/4 of Sec. 34-20-46. Letters will be sent to all landowners involved, NRCS, FSA, etc. to start the process.

The TV tower was discussed. The Commissioners need to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association (ESRTA). The Commissioners called Tony at ESRTA. He stated that ESRTA needs to be billed half of the billing statement from Southeast Networks. There are radio issues and the repeaters are not talking to each other, in addition to digital TV issues. There is interference with the TV when the radios are used. The MOU will show 50/50 on the billing and both ESRTA and the County will have to approve any work being done on the tower. Koehler made the motion, seconded by Oswald, to sign an MOU with ESRTA regarding repairs on the TV tower (for the TV portion only); they will be liable for 50% of the billing; and both parties will have to approve any repairs being done until the end of this year. Both Commissioners voted affirmative. Again, Oswald will attempt to get in touch with Bob Benz at Digitcom today to let him know what the issues are with the radios, repeaters, and sirens.

The Veterans Memorial was discussed. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 17th at 3:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Koehler made the motion, seconded by Oswald, to have a streetlight installed back by the picnic tables at the Horseshoe Park to help deter vandalism. The initial fee for installation of \$360 will come out of Conservation Trust and the ongoing monthly fee of \$16.61 will come out of County General under the Horseshoe Park. Both Commissioners voted affirmative.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

The Clerk's report was reviewed and filed.

The Commissioners report was reviewed.

There was one time-off request for approval. Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to approve the time-off request. Both Commissioners voted affirmative.

The three Road & Bridge foremen, Jack Howard, Allen Wade Watts, and Rick Spady, met with the Commissioners to discuss R&B issues. Spady has a bid for a truck/tractor but they need to know what the budget is for purchasing the same. It was determined that the budget would be approximately \$65,000 per truck/tractor. Spady will go look at the truck/tractor that he has the bid on. Watts also inquired about the budget line item for culverts, as some in each district need repaired. The foremen also presented bids on pickups. Three pickups are needed – one for each district. Koehler made the motion, seconded by Oswald, to purchase 3 new pickups for the foremen for no more than \$27,000 each. Both Commissioners voted affirmative. There was also discussion regarding low-boy trailers. Spady will get new bids on the trailers.

DSS Director Dennis Pearson met with the Commissioners with the monthly DSS reports. Pearson reported that there will be changes with Medicaid processing. Online processing with Maximus may end and the processing would be done at the county level. There are 350 people in the County now on Medicaid. Approximately 90 people have been added since October. The Child Welfare Hotline will also affect the County. There will have to be a dedicated line with a qualified person answering the calls and calls will have to be recorded for the safety of the kids. This will probably be in place by January, 2015 (April, 2015 at the latest). Adult Protection Services changes are coming in July, 2014.

The Personnel Policy updates were discussed. This will be further discussed at a later date.

The next Regular Meeting will be April 29th.

With no further business, Koehler made the motion, seconded by Oswald, to adjourn at 1:50 p.m. Both Commissioners voted affirmative.