

MINUTES OF THE KINGMAN COUNTY/CITY
SPECIAL MEETING
ON August 25th, 2021

The Board of Kingman County Commissioners met in the North Room of the Kingman Expo Center, Kingman, Kansas on August 25th, 2021. Those present:

Jerry Henning, Chairman
Fred Foley, Commissioner
Jack Thimesch, Commissioner
Carol Noblit, County Clerk
Greg Graffman, Kingman City Manager
Kourtenay Householter, Nashville City
Terry McKennon, Nashville City
Barbara Klausmeyer, Nashville City
Beth Blasi, Zenda City
Susan Thieme, Zenda City
Wayne Culp, Zenda City
Eldon Headrick, Norwich City
Lanny Hower, Norwich City

Visitors: Scott Sparks, Murdock Rural Water District #1; Lucas Schroeder, Norwich Rec. Commission; Becky Luntsford, County Treasurer; Linda Langley, Internal Auditor; Leslie Schrag, Economic Development Director; Heather Kinsler, 911/Dispatch Director; Bill Bemis, VFW 1164 and Greg Ellis.

Chairman Henning called the Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance.

MOTION: Commissioner Foley approved the agenda. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Richard Schott, Emergency Manager introduced himself.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed what the purpose of the special meeting was for and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Scott Sparks with Murdock Rural Water District #1 gave information on the age of the water district, that it has 105 members and over 80 miles of line. Mr. Sparks discussed that the water system was established in 1978 and the pump house is in need of repairs and new paint on the stand pipe.

Greg Graffman, Kingman City Manager discussed that the City hasn't thought about it much as the ARPA guidelines continue to change. The extension of North Main to where the bypass will be is a possibility, the water system and supplementing revenue loss due to COVID could also be possibilities.

Lanny Hower, Norwich City Council discussed that they need to have work done to their water tower, replace as many fire hydrants as possible, put in an automated reader for the water meters and that Lucas with the Recreation department needs an office due to being displaced from the School building.

Beth Blasi discussed the mitigation plans and that storm sirens are needed, backup generators for water & sewer systems, premium pay for essential workers and maybe pay one month of water bills for residents in the city.

Ms. Blasi let the Commission know that they didn't receive much money to be able to do larger projects.

Ms. Blasi discussed that in order to get grants you usually have to have matching funds and small cities have a hard time doing that.

Kourtenay Householter, Nashville City discussed that the city has three sewer lagoons and after the flooding they had it was noticed that there is some erosion on lines. Repairs will be needed for those lines.

Ms. Householter let the Commission know that they are looking at software for the lift station that would alert them if there is any problems.

Ms. Householter discussed that there are grants but finding time to look for them and apply is hard when most small cities are run by volunteers.

Mr. Schott told the Cities that there are grants available to be had.

Commissioner Thimesch talked about receiving grants along with ARPA funds to make monies go further.

Mr. Hower asked about who they could contact for information.

Chairman Henning let Mr. Hower know that they are planning on hiring someone to help with the ARPA funding and possibly help with writing grants but Mr. Schott would be who you could contact until they hire someone.

Mr. Schott gave his contact information to the city representatives that were present.

Commissioner Thimesch explained that broadband wants to come to Kingman County to help the rural areas.

Commissioner Foley let everyone know that all the items discussed at this meeting have been good.

Commissioner Thimesch said that he was glad to have the cities present their ideas and helps them get an idea of the needs.

Mr. Schott let the cities know that they need to go back and put figures together for the projects they are planning.

Mr. Sparks asked what the time frame is to get the monies spent.

Mr. Schott let Mr. Sparks know that the monies need to be allocated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

Chairman Henning let the cities know that the whole County is a community and we need to work together to help each other.

Bill Bemis with the VFW Post 1164 asked if their building would qualify for funding assistance as they are needing to have ADA upgrades and a new roof.

Mr. Schott let Mr. Bemis know that they could possibly fall into the sub-recipient group. Commissioners thanked everyone for attending the meeting and bringing their ideas.

MOTION: Commissioner Foley moved to adjourn the special meeting at 7:42 p.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.