

MINUTES OF THE KINGMAN
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
ON May 1st, 2023

Chairman Henning called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. May 1st, 2023, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse.

Jerry Henning, Chairman

Patrick Elpers, Commissioner

Jack Thimesch, Commissioner

Carol Noblit, County Clerk

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance.

Brandon Ritcha gave the invocation.

Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Larry Landwehr; Leon Sowers; Thomas Kostner; Lucas Dick; Keith Baringer; Sondra Ward; Larry Ward and Lial Dodge

Online Visitors: Heather Kinsler; Shanna Henry; Caller 01; Fred Foley; Caller 02

Staff: Stan Goetz, HR/Planning/Zoning/Wastewater Director and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

Chairman Henning asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Commissioner Thimesch would like to add an Executive session for Atty-Client Privilege.

Chairman Henning would like a non-elected employee Executive Session with Stan Goetz, HR.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda with the addition of two executive sessions. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Henning asked if there was any public comment.

Keith Baringer submitted a packet for the Commissioners to review and will come back next week to discuss it.

Larry Landwehr said "Good Morning."

8:35 a.m. Leon Sowers was in to discuss the possibility of a windfarm in the Eastern part of the County and that he is against a windfarm being put in on the eastern part of the County.

Chairman Henning discussed that he doesn't like to look at the towers either, but it is a business coming into the County.

Mr. Sowers let the Commissioners know that the people are against a windfarm in his area and remember that they work for the people.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed that if you don't want towers in your area you need to talk to your neighbors and agree to not sign agreements with the windfarm.

Mr. Sowers, Mr. Kostner, Ms. Ward, Mr. Ward, Mr. Dick left the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

9:05 a.m. Melissa Thimesch, Extension Agent was in to submit the 2024 budget for the Extension office.

Ms. Thimesch submitted a budget of request of \$165,746.00 which is a 4.75% increase over the 2023 budget request of \$156,498.00.

Commissioners discussed that they would like to ask K-State if they would appropriate 70/30 on the increase.

Ms. Thimesch let the Commissioners know that she will talk with the K-State Director.

Ms. Thimesch and Mr. Baringer left the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

9:26 a.m. Stan Goetz, HR/Planning/Zoning/Wastewater Director submitted the minutes of the Planning/Zoning meeting held last Monday.

Planning/Zoning approved Zoning application for Z23.002 by Grady Laverentz which has a 14 day protest period before final approval on May 15th, 2023 with a Resolution.

Mr. Goetz discussed that the next planning/zoning meeting will be discussing the Bio-Methane plant.

Mr. Goetz let the Commissioners know that he heard from Ed Miller and the road issue has been resolved.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the extension of the shared leave of absence for an employee. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Mr. Goetz discussed adding employees to the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) with Compliance One.

Commissioners let Mr. Goetz know that if he felt it was needed to go ahead with adding the employees to the Employee Assistance Program with Compliance One.

Mr. Goetz submitted the following building permits:

1. Travis Eck for a house in Section 13, Township 27, Range 7.
2. St. Leo Catholic Church for a parish hall in Section 16, Township 29, Range 10.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 9:49 a.m. with Stan Goetz, HR and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss an employee's performance pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of non-elected personnel matters of nonelected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:00 a.m. no decision was made.

Chairman Henning opened the RHID Hearing at 10:00 a.m.

No Comment against the RHID was made.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to reaffirm the RHID has been approved. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Henning closed the RHID Hearing at 10:03 a.m.

Chairman Henning opened quotes for the Ceiling tiles from the following:

DRZ Construction (Don Ziegler) \$15,565.44
Josh Arensdorf \$13,960.50
Bob Walters \$5,266.00

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to table bids until later. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

10:16 a.m. Macay Ewy, Emergency Manager; Sheriff Wood and Undersheriff Hillman were in to discuss the fiber for tower and quotes received from AT & T and KSFibernet.

Commissioners asked questions about the quotes and the cost difference.

Mr. Ewy said either company would work it is just the cost difference.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go with KSFibernet for 36-month contract. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Mr. Ewy, Undersheriff Hillman left the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into Executive Session with Sheriff Wood; Carol Noblit, County Clerk; Stan Goetz, HR and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 10:40 a.m. to discuss potential litigation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:55 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:55 a.m. with no decision made.

Sheriff Wood left the Meeting at 10:57 a.m.

10:57 a.m. Charles Arensdorf, Public works Director was in with the following permits:

- 1) Cox Communications to lay fiber optic line along the north side of Sections 3 & 4, Township 28, Range 10 (Rural)
- 2) SC Telcom to lay fiber optic cable along the south side of Section 19 & 20, Township 20 Range 10 (Dresden)
- 3) Haviland Telephone to lay fiber optic line on the west side of Section 12, Township 30, Range 6 (Canton).

Mr. Arensdorf discussed the NextEra Concrete Action Plan.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to accept and approve the NextEra Concrete Action Plan. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that the seal coat will be started on the Expo Center, Health Department and Spruce St. tomorrow.

Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that the Landfill Summer hours start today. The hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the April 24th, 2023, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the April 24th, 2023, Special Meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the April 27th, 2023, Special Meeting minutes. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the purchase of 10 chairs from Office Plus in the amount of \$1056.00. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Henning went through correspondence received.

Chairman Henning discussed the contract with the City for EMS, Emergency Services and Dispatcher services that was covered at the City/County Joint meeting.

Chairman Henning discussed that the budget information received from the city only showed a \$1.00 in capital outlay.

Commissioners decided to do some more looking at the EMS, Emergency Services and Dispatcher services contract.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the bid from Bob Walters in the amount of \$5,266.00 for installation of ceilings in the Appraiser's and the Emergency Management offices. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:54 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.