

MINUTES OF THE KINGMAN
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
ON September 11, 2023

Chairman Henning called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. September 11, 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; Jon Wollen, City Commissioner; Merlin McFarland, City Commissioner; Julie Lyon; David Luke, KCAMP; Yana Ross, KCAMP; Danny McDorman; Chrissy Bartel, Norwich EMS Director; Leslie Schrag, Economic Development; Sandra Ring, USDA

Online Visitors: Ashley Keimig; Caller 01; Shanna Henry; Ty Turner; Shawna Olson; Caller 02; Mary Schwartz; Kay Heikes; User 01; User 02

Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Sheriff Wood; Susan Hubbell, Register of Deeds; Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director and Steve Bachenberg, County Engineer.

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

Commissioner Thimesch would like to have an atty-client executive session.

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

Chairman Henning asked if there was any public comment.

Larry Landwehr discussed that the impression from the other night and the intention of making it work but need to put the rubber to the road.

Merlin McFarland discussed the Thursday night forum and about communication.

Jon Wollen discussed his thoughts on communication and agreed that something should be able to be worked out.

Commissioner Thimesch let Mr. McFarland and Mr. Wollen that the meeting needed to be had.

Commissioner Henning discussed why the County Commission minutes are published in the newspaper and the City Commission minutes are not.

McFarland discussed that they could have them published.

Chairman Henning discussed that his Commission district includes city taxpayers and he represents them all.

Commissioner Thimesch said that the County would never make the threat to end EMS services.

Mr. Landwehr discussed that Mr. Bieghler, EMS Director use to come in monthly to give a report before the Commissioners and when asked questions he couldn't answer some of them. Then he stopped coming before the Commissioners.

Chairman Henning said that he had discussed this with Commissioner Hacker and they decided to just get a report quarterly received by email.

Chairman Henning said they had to move on and let Mr. McFarland and Mr. Wollen that they appreciated them attending the meeting.

9:06 a.m. Sheriff Brent Wood was in to receive signatures for a lease agreement to pick up the last vehicle.

Chairman Henning signed the lease agreement.

Sheriff Wood discussed that they will be having vehicles and the storage boxes to be put on Amber Waves auction site.

Sheriff Wood discussed the money received from the sale of the old sheriff vehicles will go to cover the new vehicles that were purchased. Commissioners agreed.

Sheriff Wood discussed the tower and a few things need to be finished.

Chairman Henning said they would like to know when the tower is finished.

9:30 a.m. David Luke and Yana Ross with KCAMP were in to discuss the County property/liability insurance and the increases for the new year.

Mr. Luke went over the County Loss Ratio for 2019-2023 with the County Commissioners.

Ms. Ross discussed the services that KCAMP provides.

Mr. Luke and Ms. Ross left the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

9:43 a.m. Leslie Schrag, Economic Development Director was in to discuss the County possibly doing an incentive program like Kingman City has in place.

Commissioners discussed that they have been using pilot money to build roads which helps businesses.

Ms. Schrag discussed the EPIC grant that is up to \$45,000.00 grant and there is a 25% match requirement.

Ms. Schrag let the Commissioners know that the USDA Facility grant would need a match from the County.

Sandra Ring with the USDA Rural Development was in to talk about funding sources available to communities. Ms. Ring discussed the Community Facility Grant and the steps that would need to be taken.

Ms. Ring went through the process that has to be done.

Commissioner Thimesch asked if the cost of an architect, environment report and other expenses could be paid with the grant or would it be out of the County's pocket.

Ms. Ring discussed there are options for the Rural Development grant for the Expo Center.

Commissioners discussed that the steps needed would probably cost more than the grant would be.

Ms. Ring and Ms. Schrag left the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Susan Hubbell, Register of Deeds was in with financials for her department and discussed the money that she brings in for the County.

Ms. Hubbell left the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

10:37 a.m. Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director was in to give an update on his department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Ron Leroux, Noxious Weed Director and Brandon Ritcha for non-elected personnel matters at 10:38 a.m. to discuss an individual 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 10:43 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 10:43 a.m.

Mr. Leroux left the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

10:45 a.m. Chrissy Bartel, Norwich EMS Director was in to discuss the concern with EMS for Norwich.

Commissioners told her that there is no concern for the Norwich EMS appropriation from the County and they hear she is doing a great job.

Ms. Bartel let the Commissioners know that she will let the Norwich City Council know that the appropriation for Norwich EMS is okay.

Ms. Bartel left the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

10:58 a.m. Steve Bachenberg, County Engineer was in to discuss the FLAP project with the County Commissioners.

Mr. Bachenberg let the Commissioners know that he has the application filled out for the next grant submittal. The submittal will be for R607.

Mr. Bachenberg discussed the report from Kirkham Michael needs assessment and that the county bridges are in good shape.

Chairman Henning discussed that he talked with Mr. Durr from Eagle Township board about mowing.

Mr. Bachenberg let the Commissioners know that he will let Mr. Arensdorf know about the mowing.

County Clerk submitted the minutes of August 28, 2023 Commission meeting for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the August 28, 2023, minutes of the Commission meeting. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to discuss an accounting policy that refunds be reimbursed back into the fund that the purchase was made.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the accounting policy. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Ms. Stegman submitted a list of unclaimed money to take off the Health Department books.

Ms. Stegman reviewed the financial statements for August with the County Commissioners.

Ms. Stegman left the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

11:57 a.m. Danny McDorman discussed that he posted on Facebook but he is not for the County or the City because both are to blame.

The Commissioners discussed the meeting and social media posts.

Commissioners asked Mr. Enyart what he thought.

Mr. Enyart discussed that the letter that was sent to the County was put out when the Commissioner letter was sent out it would have been no questions.

Mr. Enyart said that the City keeping the police department is a good thing but putting the EMS as a county run department that the cost is spread throughout all the County taxpayers evenly would be a good idea.

Commissioners discussed the last proposal received from the City of Kingman.

Commissioner Elpers discussed the Economic Development and not funding due to the posts that were made on Facebook.

Chairman Henning discussed taking over just EMS to help the taxpayers and lease the building for \$1.00 a year, Police stay under the City of Kingman, Economic Development goes to the City, then the dispatch would be charged per call.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed Economic Development cost being held in a fund to use as business incentives to bring businesses into the County.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to not approve the EMS and LEC contract proposals received from the City of Kingman. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners instructed the County Counselor to proceed with the exit of the Economic Development Director contract between Kingman County and the City of Kingman.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 1:15 p.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.