

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES FOR JULY 26, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the Kiowa County Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Richard Scott on July 26, 2012. Oswald 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

Minutes from the July 12, 2012 Regular Meeting was presented. Oswald made a motion, seconded by Koehler, to approve the minutes as presented. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

The Kiowa County Building Corp and Prairie Pines Assisted Living Assumption paperwork was briefly discussed. They will further discuss this matter at the PPAL Board meeting on August 2nd.

The Stum fire truck is no longer for sale as it is being used for farming purposes. The Stum family offered to use it for fires if mileage was paid. The Commissioners decided this would not be a good practice to start, so they will decline the offer.

Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to approve and sign the Request for Extension of Time to File Audit for the County Audit as more information is needed from DOLA regarding the Senior Citizen Grant for the Murdock Building project. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

A letter was received from the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) regarding Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Tier II Audit Results for the Kiowa County Department of Social Services (DSS) Department for six months. The review purpose is to ensure established rules and requirements are followed, clients receive services for which they are eligible, and child care providers are paid appropriately for services provided. CDHS reported after receiving Kiowa County's Tier II reporting for January 2012 thru June 2012, that the CCCAP Program Integrity, Compliance and Evaluation Team would like to congratulate Kiowa County for reporting 100% error free Tier II review. The Commissioners would like to congratulate DSS for a job well done.

The Sheridan Lake Water District is being worked on. The County will wait until they hear from the attorney handling this matter before scheduling a public hearing.

2013 Budgets are beginning to be discussed.

The agenda was presented. Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to approve the agenda with additions to old and new business. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

There will be a sizeable bill coming in for overtime for Emergency Management. This matter was tabled until later in the day.

A Suicide Prevention class will be provided by the Public Health Department possibly sometime in September and will be open to the public.

Oswald reported that there are some complaints in Haswell regarding the digital TV. Some people reported that the stations go off and then have to be reloaded, sometimes more than once in an evening. Some other people can't get all of the channels. The Commissioners will have this looked into.

The Peter's Gravel Pit was discussed. The man leasing the ground wants some structures torn down. The Commissioners feel this is a private matter and should be between this gentleman and the land owner. This is not a County issue. Oswald stated that there was also an old farm truck sitting in this pit that needs to be removed.

Auditor Amanda Brown met with the Commissioners to cease her services as County Auditor effective immediately after the December 31, 2011 Audit is completed. She stated that with two young children and their many activities, she's been forced to assess her current audit workload reluctantly and after substantial deliberation, she has decided to reduce the number of audits she is performing each year. She stated that she would continue to be available to the County for consulting as well as to assist the transition to a new auditor. She stated that the County should take steps to retain a new auditor as soon as possible as they would need to start audit work prior to December 31, 2012. To facilitate the transition process, once the County has secured a new auditor, Brown stated the County would need to send her a letter authorizing her to release all disclosures to them as without such a letter, she is ethically prohibited from communicating with others regarding the County's affairs. Brown stated she would like to take this opportunity to thank the Commissioners for the trust they had placed in her over the years. She said she hoped that she could continue to work for the County on an as needed basis for all of the accounting related consulting needs. She stated that she had really struggled with this decision but felt at this point in her life this is what she needs to do. Her intent is not to abandon the County. She stated that she would actually be able to do more for the County if she wasn't their auditor and would have more time to assist them where needed. She said she could continue to help with the budget if they so desired but stated she would understand if they didn't want her to. The Commissioners were very disappointed to receive this news and asked Brown for assistance in finding a new auditor. She said she could help them so that the new auditor is clear on what is expected when they

submit their proposal. She suggested they check with surrounding counties to see who they are using or check with the State Auditors' office for suggestions. The Commissioners told her they appreciated all she has done for the County and have appreciated having someone of her caliber looking out for the County. Brown said she only wants what is best for the County and will help where ever she is needed, including helping with the budget. The Commissioners will discuss this matter later in the day.

The vouchers were reviewed. One voucher was questioned, Vouchers were approved and signed.

The Veterans report was reviewed.

The Sheriff's report for May was signed and filed.

The TV tower documents have been sent by FedEx 2 day air and Dunlap has a tracking number. She was assured it would arrive by Friday afternoon.

There were reports given regarding SAGE, SEBREA, and SECED. Workforce has not met so there was no report.

Jeanne Sorensen entered the meeting at 10:00 a.m. as a visitor.

A letter was received from David Wissel regarding removal of a structure. He is looking for assistance from the Town of Eads and the County. The Commissioners feel he needs to check with private businesses for removal.

CCI requested that the Commissioners appoint someone for the legislative committee. The Commissioners were of the opinion that Oswald had already been appointed. They will check with CCI.

There was discussion regarding benefits and personal leave or annual leave. Emails were received from other counties regarding policies in these areas. The Commissioners will review Kiowa County's policies and how they compare with other counties. No action was taken.

Area Extension Agent Bruce Fickenscher met with the Commissioners to present the Colorado State University Extension Quarterly Report for April thru June, 2012. He reported that they are fully staffed for the first time in a long time in the seven counties that make up the Southeast area.

Rod Johnson met with the Commissioners regarding the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO) grant for the barn project. These funds would have to come through the County. It would be a \$60,000 grant; \$45,000 would be received with a match of \$15,000, which Johnson said was covered through a Gate's Grant. The grant application has to be in by the end of August and would require a resolution by the Commissioners. KCEDF will write the grant and will work with Krissy Ray regarding tracking the grant. Johnson presented a colored brochure showing what the plans are for each wall in the barn that they hope to eventually have in place through each phase. Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to move forward with this grant process and support the application for the mini grant and approve the resolution for the Kiowa Creek Natural Area Interpretive Project, to wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-2

Re: Supporting the Grant Application for a Mini Grant from the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and the completion of Kiowa Creek Natural Area Interpretive Project.

WHEREAS, Kiowa County supports the Great Outdoors Colorado grant application for the Kiowa Creek Natural Area Interpretive Project. And if the grant is awarded, Kiowa County will support the completion of the project.

WHEREAS, Kiowa County has requested \$45,000 from Great Outdoors Colorado to enhance the Kiowa Creek Natural Area Interpretive Project for environmental education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC) OF KIOWA COUNTY THAT:

1. Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) of Kiowa County strongly supports the application and has appropriated matching funds in cooperation with Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation for a grant with Great Outdoors Colorado.
2. If the grant is awarded, the BOCC of Kiowa County will strongly support the completion of the project.
3. BOCC of Kiowa County authorizes the expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of any Grant awarded.
4. The project site is owned by Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation and will be owned by Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation for the next 25 years.

5. BOCC of Kiowa County in cooperation with the Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation will continue to maintain Kiowa Creek Natural Area in a high quality condition and will appropriate funds for maintenance in its annual budget.
 6. If the grant is awarded, the BOCC of Kiowa County hereby authorizes **Richard Scott, Chairman of BOCC**, to sign the grant agreement with Great Outdoors Colorado.
 7. This resolution to be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.
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PASSED AND APPROVED ON: 07-26-2012

APPROVED BY:

Richard Scott

Chairman of BOCC

All Commissioners voted affirmative.

Bill Dutro with Southeast Development met with the Commissioners to update them on activities January thru June, 2012. Dutro stated that the first six months had been very good. In the area serviced (6 counties), there were 18 new businesses started in the first 6 months at \$3.6 million so far. There are 82 clients over all. One business was started in Kiowa County and they are working on three others for possible businesses. They are waiting on the business plans from these three. He stated they have money available to help struggling businesses.

Dutro also stated that SBA funding is going to be cut back approximately \$4,000. He may need some funding from each of the counties, if possible. He will be asking for a possible \$500 from each county. All counties will continue to be serviced whether or not they are able to assist with funding.

The Regular Meeting was recessed for lunch, to resume at 1:30 p.m.

Upon resuming the Regular Meeting at 1:30 p.m., the Commissioners met with Jan Richards from KCEDF regarding the utilities at her office. She received a bill for 1/2 of the utilities. KCEDF had been paying 1/3 of the utilities and she was wondering why the change. The Commissioners stated they had agreed to 1/3 and that's what it should continue to be. They instructed the bookkeeper to issue a corrected billing. Richards also discussed the thermostat that is in the hallway that controls her office and the day care upstairs in the Bransgrove Building. She wanted to know if the Commissioners would consider moving it from the hallway to her office. She felt that this would be more cost effective if this was done. She had an estimate to leave with the Commissioners for the cost of moving the thermostat. After further discussion, the Commissioners didn't feel that it would be advantageous to move the thermostat as they did not feel it would make enough difference in the utilities and would possibly have to be moved back to the hallway if that day care area is ever used again.

Fire Chief Jay Haase, Kiowa County Sheriff Forrest Frazee, Cheyenne Wells Fire Chief Travis Watson and Cheyenne Wells #1 Fire Protection District Secretary/Treasurer David Pedersen all met with the Commissioners to discuss the pros and cons of forming a fire district in Kiowa County. Pedersen stated that one advantage would be that a set amount would be reserved for each district instead of receiving some money from General Fund annually that could greatly vary and that was very little most years. Watson stated that Cheyenne County is split in half and Cheyenne Wells and surrounding area has a district and Kit Carson and surrounding area has a district. A good ISO PPC (Public Protection Classification) can help reduce homeowner's insurance rates. Cheyenne County's Fire Protection District mil levy pays for equipment, insurance, fuel, tires, repairs, etc. They still have volunteer firemen, so it's not paying wages. Another positive aspect of having a fire district is being able to apply for grants for equipment and training. Sheriff Frazee stated that with the County working off of the same tax ID number, they can only go after so many grants for the entire County. But if there were Fire Protection Districts, these districts would have their own ID number and could go after grants without it affecting other areas in the County seeking grants. Another advantage of the District is money can be put into a pension fund for the volunteer fire fighters and the State matches what is put in. This can be a great incentive to the volunteers. Cheyenne County has a five member board for each district and the individual fire department appoints their own fire chief. The Sheriff is the fire marshal for the unincorporated areas of the County, which should not be confused with the duties of the fire chief. The County would have to petition for the special districts and then get a court order for the district. Watson recommended that the Commissioners talk with DOLA and have their attorney and auditor get involved with this special district process. It's too late this year to start the process, but they could start working on the process for next year.

Commissioner Scott asked what the down side of a fire protection district would be. Watson said he could see a down side. The problems start when part of the county doesn't want to be in a fire protection district, but the rest of the county does. Some areas could actually be left out of the district, which could actually limit their coverage. There was discussion regarding valuation in the different commissioner district and how much it can vary from one area to another, so whether they would look at one district or three districts would have to really be studied. The idea is to improve the ability of the County to handle a fire disaster and that's the whole

goal of looking at forming a fire protection district. If it was set up as one County wide district, everyone would be paying the same, basically, instead of one area having to pay considerably more than another. This is something that would also need to be studied and questions answered before proceeding. Whether it is one district or three or more, the district would be in control of their own budget and the decisions being made, not the Commissioners. This would be taken out of the Commissioners' control all together, just like the Cemetery Districts and the Recreation Districts. Also, the financial burden would not fall fully on the County residents. Out-of-county land owners and oil and gas activity would help pay for these districts.

The Commissioners thanked these gentlemen for coming and discussing this matter with them. They would like to get started on this but needed more information before proceeding.

Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to go into executive session at 3:00 p.m. pursuant to CRS 24-6-402 (4) (f) (I) for personnel matters. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

The Commissioners came out of executive session and the Regular Meeting resumed at 4:30 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting is August 14, 2012.

With no further business, a motion was made by Scott, seconded by Koehler, to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 p.m. All Commissioners voted affirmative.