

The Special Meeting of the Kiowa County Commissioners was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Richard Scott on January 31, 2014.

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

Landfill operator Dwight Lessenden met with the Commissioners regarding landfill issues. Lessenden was asked by the Commissioners if he would like to go into Executive Session for personnel matters and he declined the offer.

Commissioner Scott stated that, due to Lessenden's doctor reports, they don't feel he will be able to handle the job at the landfill any longer. Therefore, they are looking at a separation of employment with Kiowa County. Scott stated they would accept his resignation or dismiss him, whichever he chooses. They feel that they are putting Lessenden at risk, as well as Kiowa County, by allowing him to continue working at the landfill. Lessenden stated that if he was being dismissed, he needs 30 days to be able to buy into Plan B on Social Security and establish health insurance. Dunlap explained that his insurance was paid up through February. Lessenden stated that if they didn't think he could do the job any longer, he did not want to put the County in jeopardy and he would step down. Dunlap stated that this would give him time to find health insurance coverage but the County could extend the timeframe with a continuation of coverage, if needed, so that he would not be without insurance.

The Commissioners asked that his landfill keys, fuel key, cell phone, uniforms and vehicle be turned in. Lessenden stated that he would get that taken care of and stated that he had several personal items at the landfill shed that he would remove over the weekend.

Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to issue a separation of employment for the landfill operator effective January 31, 2014. All Commissioners voted affirmative. The Commissioners expressed their thanks and gratitude for the dedicated service Lessenden has given the County during his many years of employment. Scott stated again that he felt this was in the best interest of Lessenden and the County, that the job was too hazardous for Lessenden to continue. Oswald told Lessenden about the landfill inspection that had been done at Haswell and that there were nine deficiencies and most of them would not be easy to overcome. Although the inspection has not been done at the Eads landfill yet, many of the deficiencies will probably be the same. Lessenden will bring in the books that he has kept over the years for the landfill.

With no further business, Oswald made the motion, seconded by Koehler, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 4:18 p.m. All Commissioners voted affirmative.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Debra C. Lening
Kiowa County Clerk

Richard Scott
Chairman