

MINUTES OF THE KINGMAN
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ON August 22nd, 2022

Chairman Foley called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on August 22nd, 2022, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse.

Fred Foley, Chairman

Jerry Henning, Commissioner

Jack Thimesch, Commissioner

Carol Noblit, County Clerk

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance.

Commissioner Henning gave invocation.

Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Larry Landwehr; Jon Francis, Gavel Roads; Melissa Thimesch, Extension Agent; Robert Burton; Evelyn Burton; Josh Beckman and Robert Casad, Casad & Associates.

Online Visitors: Caller 01

Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Linda Langley, Internal Auditor; Stan Goetz, HR/Planning/Zoning/Wastewater Director; Richard Schott, Emergency Manager; Steve Bachenberg, County Engineer and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

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

No additions were requested.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda with no additions. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Foley asked if there was any public comment.

Jon Francis, Gavel Roads was in to introduce his business to the County Commissioners.

Mr. Francis left the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

8:35 a.m. Melissa Thimesch, Kingman Extension Agent was in to introduce herself to the County Commissioners.

Commissioners discussed with Ms. Thimesch that if she has questions just come to the Commission meeting because they would like to have communication with the Extension office.

Ms. Thimesch left the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the minutes of the August 15th, 2022, Commission meeting for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to approve the August 15th, 2022, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Foley opened the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing for Kingman County at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Foley asked if there were any comments.

Robert & Evelyn Burton discussed their concerns with the rise in taxes and the burden on the taxpayers.

Commissioners let Mr. Burton know that the mill levy is lower this year over last year but the valuations on properties have gone up.

Mr. Burton thanked the Commissioners for listening to their concerns.

The votes cast for exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate were as follows:

Chairman Foley voted Yes
Commissioner Henning voted Yes
Commissioner Thimesch voted Yes

The vote was unanimous to exceed the RNR.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Kingman County exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate of 61.510 with 65.499. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Resolution 2022-R11, **A RESOLUTION OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS TO LEVY A PROPERTY TAX RATE EXCEEDING THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE.** Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to close the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing at 9:15 a.m. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Foley opened the Kingman County 2023 Budget Hearing at 9:17 a.m.

LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer presented the Kingman County 2023 Budget for approval.

There was no public comment on the County Budget.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the Kingman County 2023 Budget. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

County Commissioners signed appropriation documents for budget requests received.

MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to adjourn the Kingman County 2023 Budget Hearing at 9:32 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners let Ms. Stegman know that they had received a check from the Kingman County Extension Office in the amount of \$70,000.00 for return of appropriated funds and that it will be deposited back into the General Fund.

Ms. Stegman and Ms. Langley left the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

9:32 a.m. Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse was in with a department update for the Commission.

Ms. Schwartz submitted two agreements to the Commissioners & County Counselor to review for the Plains Radiology & USD 332 School Health.

Commissioners agreed to the agreements.

Ms. Schwartz talked about having a CPR class for her department.

Ms. Schwartz left the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

Commissioners discussed a renewal contract for IT services from Integris previously named Iconic IT.

The current charges were \$5,245.00 per month and the new contract is for \$5,000.00 per month.

MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to approve the bid for IT services from Integris in the amount of \$5,000.00 per month. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Foley recessed the board meeting at 9:56 a.m. to attend the retirement of Linda Langley, Internal Auditor.

Chairman Foley called the board meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Henning moved to go into executive session with Richard Schott, Emergency Manager, Stan Goetz, HR and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 10:38 a.m. to discuss an individual employees evaluation 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 to be discussed, and will return to open session in the board meeting room at 10:54 a.m. Chairman Foley seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the majority vote of the County Commissioners.

County Commissioners returned to session at 10:54 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Henning moved to go into executive session with Richard Schott, Emergency Manager, Stan Goetz, HR and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 10:54 a.m. to discuss an individual employees evaluation 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 to be discussed, and will return to open session in the board meeting room at 10:59 a.m. Chairman Foley seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the majority vote of the County Commissioners.

County Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:59 a.m. with no decision made.

11:00 a.m. Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director and Steve Bachenberg, County Engineer were in for the bridge letting review.

Josh Beckman, Kirkham Michael was in with the bids for Kingman County X.0-21.2 Bridge Rehab #8265114 from the following:

Reece Construction \$645,971.38

Bridges Inc. \$668,597.00

L & M Contractors Inc. \$674,151.80

Engineers Estimate for the project was \$660,608.00

MOTION: Commissioner Henning moved to approve the bid from Reece Construction in the amount of \$645,971.38 for the Kingman County X.0-21.2 Bridge Rehab #8265114. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion with the cost of construction going up. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Mr. Beckman discussed Bridge X.6-22.0 and to apply for funding by Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program with a cost estimate of a little over \$500,000.00 for the build with the County share possibly being 25% match.

Steve Bachenberg discussed the federal funding application that he is working on for the St. Leo Road, for 50% match which would be approximately \$926,000.00 on a \$1,600,000.00 approximate project. Also, there would need a letter of support to go along with the application.

Mr. Arensdorf, Mr. Bachenberg and Mr. Beckman left the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

11:53 a.m. Robert Casad, Casad & Associates was in with an update for the Commissioners on the Biomethane test plant being built with possible Danish funding.

Mr. Casad also let the Commissioners know that he is having informational meetings at the Public Library every Monday evening through September at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Casad left the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve Charles Rhoads declination for Bennett Twp Clerk and Glen Fieser shall be placed on the ballot in November. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Henning moved to go into executive session with Richard Schott, Emergency Manager, Stan Goetz, HR and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 12:30 p.m. to discuss an individual employees evaluation 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 to be discussed, and will return to open session in the board meeting room at 12:45 p.m. Chairman Foley seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the majority vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 12:45 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Henning moved to go into executive session with Richard Schott, Emergency Manager, Stan Goetz, HR and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 12:45 p.m. to discuss an individual employees evaluation 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 to be discussed, and will return to open session in the board meeting room at 12:55 p.m. Chairman Foley seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the majority vote of the County Commissioners.

County Commissioners return to regular session with no decision made.

Commissioner Thimesch gave an update on the bypass meeting that he attended last week with the Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 1:02 p.m. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.