

MINUTES OF THE KINGMAN
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/CITY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
ON April 27, 2023

Chairman Henning called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. April 27, 2023, in the North Room of the Kingman Expo Center, Kingman, Kansas.

Jerry Henning, Chairman

Patrick Elpers, Commissioner

Jack Thimesch, Commissioner

Carol Noblit, County Clerk

Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Mendy Frampton, Expo Center Director

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance.

Visitors: Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Larry Landwehr; Melissa Thimesch; Mike Floyd; Clint Turner; Lucas Dick; Tanner Ray; Shelby Ray; Nick Blank; Madison Ritcha; Scott Sparks; Jason Belt; Keith Baringer and Rob Frampton.

Chairman Henning discussed that the County; City; Chamber of Commerce and Carnival have applied for SPIRIT Grant in hopes that they can be granted it by the State.

Mendy Frampton, Expo Center Director handed out the proposed budget for the Kingman County Fairgrounds Renovation Budget that was submitted with the grant and reviewed it with the board and attendees.

Chairman Henning wanted to let the users of the facility know that this has been applied for.

Chairman Henning would like to know what works for the organizations that use the facility and if the grant doesn't go through what would like to see done.

Commissioners asked if the attendees had questions to write them down and they would be answered.

Commissioner Thimesch said that there is a lot of money available out there it just has to be applied for.

Commissioner Thimesch informed all in attendance we have received support letters from people out of Kansas City for the Expo Center.

The figures on the renovation budget are not hard figures but estimates.

Lucas Dick discussed with the Commissioners and board that a center return would be much better and give an audience a better view of the events.

Mr. Dick and Mr. Ray discussed that if the chutes had a left and right return it would be good for events and may draw more events.

Also, discussed if we have more events and bigger crowds the parking will become an issue.

Commissioners discussed that there were horses tied to trailers with hay and manure left that would need to be cleaned up because people are just leaving the mess.

Chairman Henning said if your horse is digging a hole fill it in because that would help and if it isn't done then maybe deposits shouldn't be returned.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed the need for one barn instead of separate stall buildings.

Commissioner Elpers agreed.

Mr. Dick asked what would it take to make it one entity ownership.

Commissioners discussed that was tried and failed.

Commissioners let the board know that the City is willing to help with things just have to ask.

Mr. Dick let the Commissioners know that the livestock flooring is least on his list of priorities.

Mr. Floyd said the West Addition and the roping area are his priorities for the Expo Center.

The Commissioners discussed the West addition possibility.

Mr. Floyd said "We need to embrace change."

Clint Turner discussed the 4-H stalls; lighting; and electrical for the animal barn.

Chairman Henning asked them to give the Commissioners a plan and bids for the work that they would like to have done.

Jason Belt discussed that the 4-H board came to the Commissioners last year asking for the electrical work to be done.

Chairman Henning let Mr. Belt know that they he has a fan that is still in the box yet to be installed to see if it will help with the air flow in the animal barn.

Nick Blank said that he has seen that big fans can help with air flow and smell in barns.

Scott Sparks discussed that people are wanting to live in small communities and the center having things to attract visitors.

Ms. Frampton let everyone know that she does have professional boxing coming to the Expo Center on May 20th, 2022. There will be six bouts.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed that it is important to work together.

Mr. Floyd likes the idea of putting up one barn and putting under one roof. Also, help with the drainage would be good.

Chairman Henning discussed the breaker box on the 4-H Barn and asked Keith Baringer if he thought it would hold more connections.

Mr. Baringer believed it could hold more.

Mr. Turner discussed that they have been working on what is needed for the 4-H Building but not sure where to begin.

Melissa Thimesch, Extension Agent will work with the livestock and 4-H Boards.

Mr. Dick said that the drainage is an issue and when people use the Kitchen they need to return the utensils or maybe mark the utensils.

Commissioners discussed that is when the renters should not get their deposits back if things are missing.

Tanner Ray again discussed how good it would be to have left hand and right hand chutes.

Also, there was discussion on Kingman County being reasonably priced and if the Commissioners start raising the prices to much it will snuff out the smaller events.

Commissioners and board members also discussed the fire lane and the requirements for one.

Madison Ritcha said drainage is an issue and having a barn would be good.

Mr. Sparks asked why the Commissioners don't let the 4-H have meetings for free.

Commissioners discussed their reasoning behind charging for the use of the Expo Center.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:56 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the majority of the County Commissioners.