

MINUTES OF THE KINGMAN  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
ON May 22, 2023

Chairman Henning called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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; Adrian Harrel, Nextera; Leslie Schrag, Economic Development Director; Andrea Pols, Arrowhead West and Robert Casad.

Online Visitors: Heather Kinsler, Caller 01, user 1

Staff: Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Susan Hubbell, Register of Deeds and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Elpers 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 the article in the Kingman Leader Courier about the EMS contract.

8:35 a.m. Jamie Smith, County Treasurer was in with a department update.

Commissioners let Ms. Smith know that they just want to see departments so if they have something they need to ask.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Jamie Smith, County Treasurer and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 8:41 a.m. to discuss an individual employee's 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(s) to be discussed, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 8:46 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 8:46 a.m. with no decision made.

8:47 a.m. Adrian Harrel, Nextera Energy was in to discuss the SW 70 St repairs and presented a check for repairs to the County Commissioners in the amount of \$1,170,797.65.

Mr. Harrel discussed the maintenance on the towers and the logistics.

Commissioners asked questions about the blades and the procedure.

Mr. Harrel let them know that there are a lot of moving parts and if they can get going they will work with landowners and let them know what the plan will be.

Chairman Henning thanked Mr. Harrel for the check and it is unfortunate that it was needed but he appreciates Nextera being in the County.

Chairman Henning discussed that the check is based on an engineer estimate but if the quote received is less than the amount the difference will be reimbursed to Nextera. If the amount is more than the quote then they will have to re-negotiate the amount.

Mr. Harrel left the meeting at 8:57 a.m.

8:58 a.m. Leslie Schrag, Economic Development Director was in with the April-May report and let the Commissioners know that the County did not receive the SPIRIT grant.

Commissioner Thimesch thought that Ms. Schrag should have channel 12 come out and let them know that out of 30 million grant available that 10 million was given to Lt. Governor Tolland for a park with Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks.

Commissioners discussed the awarding of the grant monies.

Ms. Schrag let them know that she mapped out the grants awarded and only \$200,000.00 of the 30 million was awarded West of Hutchinson.

Chairman Henning discussed Childcare and that the taxpayers will be paying for it.

Commissioner Elpers understands that there is a need for childcare.

Ms. Schrag discussed doing a Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan throughout the county. The cost would be \$13,300.00. Ms. Schrag divided the amount on population below:

Cunningham \$798.00

Kingman \$5,453.00

Norwich \$798.00

Unincorporated Areas & Cities Under 70 Population \$6251.00

Commissioners would like for Ms. Schrag to ask the cities if they want the Housing needs assessment.

Commissioners discussed the land bank information.

Ms. Schrag left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

9:55 a.m. LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer was in to let the Commissioners know that she will be attending a Budget training on Wednesday in Wichita.

Ms. Stegman went over the Capital Project 2021 Bridges funds with the Commissioners.

Ms. Stegman left the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

10:10 a.m. Susan Hubbell, Register of Deeds was in with a department update.

Commissioners let Ms. Hubbell know they just want an open communication.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Susan Hubbell, Register of Deeds and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 10:12 a.m. to discuss an individual employee's 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(s) to be discussed, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:22 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 10:22 a.m.

Ms. Hubbell left the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

10:25 a.m. Andrea Pols, Arrowhead West Inc. was in with a quarterly update.

Commissioners let Ms. Pols know that they appreciate everything that they do.

Ms. Pols left the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Commissioners signed and approved the following abatements:

ABATEMENTS		ABATEMENTS	
2023000042	-143.40	2023000043	-69.11
2023000044	-63.84	2023000045	-44.08
2023000046	-65.12	2023000047	-60.08
2023000048	-57.04	2023000049	-56.80
2023000050	-51.26	2023000051	-270.22
2023000052	-129.44	2023000053	-69.28
2023000054	-71.70	2023000055	-79.62
2023000056	-272.98	2023000057	-53384.34
2023000058	-5338.68	2023000059	-3654.02
2023000060	-30491.86	2023000061	-25172.20
2023000062	-38572.36	2023000063	-1631.06

Commissioners discussed a proposed agreement for dispatching and communication services and use of the law enforcement center.

Chairman Henning discussed that the reason they wanted time to look at the contract is because when they received the 2024 budget for Kingman EMS the budget only showed a \$1.00 for Capital Outlay. If Kingman EMS is buying a new ambulance why would capital outlay be \$1.00. Also, Chairman Henning discussed that having the EMS Services and Dispatching Services in the same agreement was not discussed.

The Capital Outlay should increase to pay the lease payments.

Mr. Ritcha let the Commissioners know why the capital outlay stated a \$1.00 in the current budget.

Chairman Henning would like to have better communication with the city.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed that communication needs to be done.

Commissioner Elpers discussed a voucher received for transport.

Commissioners let him know that it was a transport of a prisoner.

Mr. Ritcha discussed that he would talk with the City about the EMS agreement and the questions that the Commissioners had.

Commissioner Thimesch stated that he doesn't feel like they are too far off on the EMS agreement.

11:24 a.m. Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with a permit for the following:

1. West Wichita Gas Gathering road crossing of a natural gas line in Section 27 & 34, Township 30, Range 08W (Chikaskia).

Mr. Arensdorf submitted quotes to repair the damaged guardrail on Bridge No. W.3-8.0 located on SE 10<sup>th</sup> Street from the following:

L & M Contractors Inc. \$14,380.00

Reece Construction \$19,653.91

Bridges Inc. \$9,000.00

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the quote from Bridges Inc. in the amount of \$9,000.00. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Mr. Arensdorf gave an update on FAS #12 to the County Commissioners.

Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that the tower construction has started.

Commissioners let Mr. Arensdorf know that they have received a check from Nextera to repair SW 70 St.

Macay Ewy, Emergency Manager was in to discuss Ark Valley installing electricity to the tower.

Robert Casad, Casad and Associates was in to discuss the biomethane plant and the placement of it in the county.

Mr. Arensdorf gave him an idea of the possible cost of upgrading the road to the proposed facility placement.

Commissioners discussed the placement of the biomethane plant.

Mr. Casad, Mr. Goetz and Mr. Arensdorf left the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

Chairman Henning read correspondence received from Core Ministries and Council on Aging.

Carol Noblit, County Clerk submitted the May 15, 2023, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Henning discussed that he was elected this position and he does the best that he can and he holds the same standards at work as he does at home.

Chairman Henning discussed that he represents the taxpayer and if people don't like what he is doing than don't vote for him.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 12:59 p.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.