

MINUTES OF THE KINGMAN
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
ON August 28, 2023

Chairman Henning called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. August 28, 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; Roger Powell; Dianne Powell; Jim Sullivan; Leslie Schrag, Economic Development Director; Bill Madzey; Linda Madzey; Melissa Thimesch, Extension Agent; Jon Wollen, City Commissioner and four other county taxpayers.

Online Visitors: Tammy; Heather Kinsler; Caller 01-Caller 06; Chrissy Bartel; L. Kelly; Adrian Harrel; Shanna Henry; Sarah Carroll, Invenergy; Luke Hagedorn, Invenergy; Tyler Mowbray.

Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Stan Goetz, HR/Planning/Zoning/Wastewater Director and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

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

Chairman Henning would like to add EMS discussion.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Thimesch 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 "good morning."

8:33 a.m. Jon Wollen, City Commissioner was in to discuss the Economic Development Director position and the importance of it and what it is accomplishing.

Mr. Wollen discussed the dispatch and EMS with the Commissioners and that communication is important to have between the two entities.

Chairman Henning discussed his concerns about dispatch and the charges.

Commissioner Thimesch said he had some ideas that he will go over with the Board and asked Mr. Wollen if he could come back at 9:15 a.m.

8:45 a.m. Stan Goetz, HR/Planning/Zoning/Wastewater Director was in with the Outpost business owners (Roger and Dianne Powell).

Mr. & Mrs. Powell were in to discuss the covenant for that area and they presented a petition to the Commissioners.

The petition had over 400 signatures of people saying they are for the Outpost.

Mrs. Powell discussed local musicians perform at the Outpost and they set the hours from 8-10 p.m.

Mr. Goetz and the Commissioners discussed making sure that the music isn't too loud.

Mr. Powell let them know that he checks the decibels to make sure they are not too loud.

Mr. Powell & Mrs. Powell left the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Henning recessed the County Commission meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Henning called the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing at 9:00 a.m.

Jim Sullivan discussed his taxes down south of Norwich and that he thought he was suppose to get a tax cut for building in Kingman County.

Commissioners discussed that the NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program) has to be done before the home is built.

Commissioners discussed the raise in valuations on property and the process.

Chairman Henning presented the Revenue Neutral Rate resolution to the Board.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve Resolution 2023-R14, **A RESOLUTION OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS TO LEVY A PROPERTY TAX RATE EXCEEDING THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE.** Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Commissioner Thimesch	YES
Commissioner Elpers	YES
Chairman Henning	YES

Total Votes: three for Yes and zero for No.

Revenue Neutral Rate hearing was closed at 9:43 a.m. by Chairman Henning.

9:43 a.m. Chairman Henning opened the County Budget Hearing.

LaDawn Stegman presented the 2024 Budget Final copy for approval.

Chairman Henning discussed the EMS contract.

Commissioner Thimesch presented taking over the police, EMS and Economic Development Director and use Wind farm monies to pay for it.

Commissioners discussed the presented proposal

City Commissioner Jon Wollen let the Commissioners know that was a bold idea.

Mr. Wollen left the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the 2024 County Budget. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Chairman Henning moved to close the Budget Hearing at 10:21 a.m.

Chairman Henning reconvened the County Commission meeting at 10:21 a.m.

10:21 a.m. Sarah Carroll, Invenergy; Luke Hagedorn, Invenergy were online to discuss Flat Ridge IV & V agreements to be signed.

Commissioners discussed the agreements and asked if there was going to be a contribution.

Ms. Carroll let the Commissioners know that they have made donations to the community and have no plans of a contribution with these documents.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the Road Access & Repair Agreement for Flat Ridge 4 & 5. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the Commercial Wind Farm Decommissioning and Pilot Contribution agreement for Flat Ridge 4 & 5. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve Resolution 2023-R15, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ASSIGNMENT/TRANSFER OF THE FLAT RIDGE 4 AND FLAT RIDGE 5 WIND PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF OKLAHOMA, AN OKLAHOMA CORPORATION. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

The County Clerk submitted the August 21, 2023, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the August 21, 2023, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Carol Noblit, County Clerk and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 11:35 a.m. to discuss an individual employee's request for leave pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual to be discussed, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 11:41 a.m.

Commissioners returned to open session at 11:41 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the leave of an employee. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:55 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.