

MINUTES OF THE KINGMAN
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
ON October 2, 2023

Chairman Henning called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. October 2, 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; Mr. Enyart; Leslie Schrag, Economic Development Director; Julie Lyon

Online Visitors: Caller 01, Tracy Winsor

Staff: LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer; Jamie Smith, County Treasurer; Amber Hartley, County Appraiser; Macay Ewy, Emergency Management; Sheriff Wood and Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director.

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

Chairman would like to have an atty-client executive session with the County Counselor.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda with an atty-client executive session. 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 that he attended the City of Kingman meeting last Thursday and the tone was better.

Chairman Henning thanked Bob Morris for his opinion in the paper.

Chairman Henning asked Mr. Morris what his thought was on the moving of the award winning EMS Director to the City Clerk position.

Mr. Morris discussed that it is an appointed position and not an elected position.

Commissioner Thimesch thanked Mr. Morris for his opinion that he puts in the paper.

The Commissioners discussed that they have never said they would change the way EMS is run or let any employee go if they were to take over the EMS.

8:43 a.m. Amber Hartley, County Appraiser was in to discuss the GIS system and that it needs some updating.

Ms. Hartley presented a quote from SAM Surveying and Mapping, LLC for KS Topology Clean-up/Ag reports at a price of \$6,875.00.

Commissioners would like the County Counselor to review the contract before approving.

Ms. Hartley left the meeting at 8:51 a.m.

8:51 a.m. Leslie Schrag, Economic Development Director was in with an update for the County Commissioners on things that she has been working on and what has been done.

Ms. Schrag asked the Commissioners if they will still continue the improvement program in 2024.

Chairman Henning said he would like to continue but the application would have to be approved by the County for the County share.

Commissioner Elpers asked the status of a processing plant in Norwich.

Ms. Schrag said there are some grants available for meat processing plants.

Ms. Schrag left the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

9:24 a.m. Carol Noblit, County Clerk and Tonja Stamm, Courthouse Maintenance were in to discuss some things being done around the courthouse.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Elpers moved to go into executive session with Carol Noblit, County Clerk, Tonja Stamm, Maintenance and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 9:25 a.m. to discuss an individual employee 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 they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners returned to the regular meeting at 9:40 a.m. with no decision made.

Ms. Stamm left the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

County Clerk submitted the September 25, 2023, Commission meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve the September 25, 2023, Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

9:47 a.m. Macay Ewy, Emergency Manager and Sheriff Wood were in to let the Commissioners know that the tower installation is finished.

Mr. Ewy discussed the reception that the tower has improved for around the county services.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Sheriff Wood and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 10:05 a.m. to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners returned to session at 10:15 a.m. with no decision made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Sheriff Wood and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 10:15 a.m. to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:20 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners returned to session at 10:20 a.m. with no decision made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Macay Ewy, Emergency Manager at 10:25 a.m. to discuss an individual employee 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 they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:40 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 10:40 a.m. with no decision made.

10:41 a.m. Jamie Smith, County Treasurer was in to discuss banking and possibly changing banks because fees are high and interest is low.

Commissioners said to make sure to include all banks inside the County when looking.

Ms. Smith left the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Elpers moved to approve Resolution 2023-R16, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS WITHDRAWING FROM THE KANSAS COUNTY ASSOCIATION MULTILINE POOL. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

10:50 a.m. Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with an update on 607, 361 and SW 70 St, Hot Mix Projects.

Mr. Arensdorf gave an update on Bridge Replacement of FF.7-6.0 on old 54 Hwy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session with Sheriff Wood and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 11:25 a.m. to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 11:40 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.

Commissioners return to open session at 11:40 a.m. with no decision made.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:43 a.m. Commissioner Elpers seconded the motion. The motion was approved upon the unanimous vote of the County Commissioners.