

MINUTES
KIOWA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2016

PRESENT: Mike Lening, Sean Lening, Jerry Weber, Kelly Courkamp, Donald Oswald, Dennis Pearson and Jan Richards. Craig Kerfoot was present as a potential Board member. Kiowa County Commissioner Cindy McLoud was present as a guest.

The meeting was called to order with the above parties present. Minutes of the November 23, 2015 meeting were presented. Weber moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Sean Lening and passed unanimously.

Note: There was no meeting held during December.

The Treasurer's Report was then reviewed. Jan noted forms had been sent to USDA for reimbursement for the feasibility study done for the Stum's project. There was also discussion regarding the amount owed to KCEDF by the National Park Service. Sean Lening moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Kelly Courkamp and passed unanimously.

Jan presented a written Coordinator's Report. Jan discussed effort to obtain a grant for Unity Village had been delayed since Unity Village is out of compliance with USDA regulations.

Discussion was then held regarding the tractor purchased for maintenance of KCNA. A starter has been ordered and must be installed before the tractor is usable. A tarp was purchased to cover the tractor from weather and Jan noted the tractor could be moved to the city shop area for storage if so desired.

The Chamber breakfast for the Snow Goose Festival was mentioned. Many Chamber members will not be available on the date of the breakfast (2/21/2016) and Jan asked for volunteers to assist if anyone is available that date.

The status of the rail line was discussed. V&S changed their status from wanting abandon the line to discontinuing the service. By doing this, V&S can store rail cars on the line but can't tear up the track. A local entity desires to buy the line and the Surface Transportation Board became a mediator in the purchase discussions.

There was a brief discussion regarding the old Rialto Hotel (Eads Home) on Maine St. The county owns the building and plans to tear it down as the cost of removing asbestos and refurbishing the building is prohibitive.

Discussion was held regarding appointing Craig Kerfoot to the Board as the Cobblestone Inn representative. Oswald moved to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Sean Lening and passed unanimously.

The KCEDF budget, which was presented to the Board in November, was again reviewed. The Board had no concerns other than the length of time it takes to get reimbursed by the National Park Service. Jan stated she would try to work out an agreement with NPS regarding timeliness of payments to KCEDF. It was also necessary to discuss Jan's salary for this year. Jan and Cindy McLoud left the Board meeting at 7:35 PM. After discussion, Weber moved to increase Jan's salary to \$30,000 per year, leaving other

benefits, such as vacation and sick leave, as they are. The motion was seconded by Sean Lening and passed unanimously. Jan and Cindy returned to the meeting at 7:45 PM. Oswald then moved to approve the 2016 budget. The motion was seconded by Sean Lening and passed unanimously.

Discussion concerning the MOU between Kiowa County and KCEDF for use of the KCEDF office space was tabled until the next meeting since the county has not yet discussed the matter.

Jan then discussed the 'child care committee' that is part of the Cheyenne, Kiowa Lincoln County Early Childhood Council (CKLECC) and the request by CKLECC that she be part of the committee. The Board approved Jan's involvement.

There was a short discussion regarding the new newspaper coming to Kiowa County, the 'Kiowa County Independent'. It has been reported that the 'Kiowa County Press' will become an online only "newspaper". The Board noted caution needed to be used when interacting with an online news source. It was also noted that there has been tentative talk about a new building being constructed where the former Michael's Service was located, but nothing definite.

Jan also noted she had attended a meeting where a company expressed an interest in establishing small sewing centers (4-10 people) in rural areas as part of a garment manufacturing process. Jan plans to attend a Haswell Town Council meeting to inquire if Haswell might be interested in having one of these small sewing centers in the Haswell Community Building.

A discussion was held regarding the request from the Kiowa County Commissioners to have all three commissioners sit on the KCEDF Board. Some potential means to make that happen were discussed, but the Board decided more thought would need to be given to the matter. Ideas will be brought forward in coming meetings to determine how the change might happen.

Discussion was then held regarding the potential for 'Agri-tourism' to benefit Kiowa County. Crowley County has established a min-vacation package for those interested in learning about agriculture. The Board will look into the possibility of making something similar occur for Kiowa County.

There was no report for either the Agriculture Committee or the Resource Committee. Jan did note that there has been considerable interest in the housing lots of Kiowa Creek Estates. Jan has sent out five packets of information in recent weeks.

There being no additional business to come before the Board, the next meeting was scheduled for February 16, 2016 at 6:30 PM. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.