

The County Commissioners met in regular session on December 14, 2009 in the County Commissioners Room. Present were Arthur Kuhlmann, Paul McCartney, and Joe Kingsbury, Commissioners. Also present was Clerk, Sharon Wolters.

Minutes of the December 7, 2009 meeting were read, corrected and approved.

The chairman signed the Treasurer's daily balance envelopes.

Commissioners approved voucher #20921-21030 from the following:

General	22736.31
Road	33849.39
Noxious Weed	3560.39
Co. Health	5119.36
Appraiser	473.74
Solid Waste	6350.43
EMS	5176.24
Local E-911 Fund	6379.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$83,644.86</b>

Bob Wagner visited with the Commissioners about the County paying for a wind energy study for Smith County. Wagner discussed money generated by the wind farms located in Smith County. McCartney discussed benefits to the county from wind farms. Wagner reviewed the information he has received about the in-lieu-of taxes. Barta discussed a wind study completed in 2007. Barta indicated that this information was available because of a wind study done from 2005-2007. Barta explained that Smith Center Economic Development has already contributed funding for some of the study. Barta explained that dollars will benefit all of Smith County. Wagner stated that he does not have a written estimate, but the study will cost less than \$1500.00. Wagner stated that they need the information from the study to approach energy companies and encourage Smith County development. Wagner indicated that he has asked for references from the company doing wind studies. McCartney asked about information on the transmission line being proposed for Phillips County. Wagner stated that his land may not be suitable for wind towers; however, he feels that the county as a whole will benefit. Wagner asked the commissioners to commit to \$1500.00 today. Commissioners wished to do some additional research and visit with other county officials before committing funds. Barta also inquired the sales tax money. Commissioners reported that no sales tax money will be used for employee benefits and they have noted that in the minutes (reference August 31, 2009). Barta also discussed employee health insurance for county employees.

Al Gaines, Landfill Supervisor, discussed the following:

1. Gaines reported that they are using the alternate cover and are still waiting on the rain shield from Posi-Shell. Gaines reported that their trial use was successful and held up under 15-20 mph winds. The KDHE has approved using the shield on a trial basis.
2. Gaines also discussed posted holidays for 2010. Commissioners agreed to review the policy when they discuss the holiday schedule for the entire county later in the meeting. Gaines asked the commissioners to consider closing one half hour earlier to allow for proper compaction of the landfill disposal pit. Commissioners agreed to a 4:30 gate closing time, with employees working till 5:00p.m. in order to complete daily work.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

3. Gaines discussed Household Hazardous Waste training. Commissioners approved all landfill employees to take the initial training course offered.
4. Gaines discussed pay for Feldmann. Gaines stated that Feldmann is responsible for some training and reporting for the landfill. Gaines feels that Feldmann is acting as an assistant. He would like to have Feldmann appointed as Assistant Supervisor and get an increase of \$.50 per hour. Commissioners discussed increasing pay.
5. Gaines discussed the white Chevy pick-up that belongs to the road department. Commissioners agreed to research the pick-up and make appropriate book keeping adjustments so that the landfill can keep the pick-up if the road department no longer needs the pick-up.

A motion was made by A. Kuhlmann and seconded by J. Kingsbury to make Brett Feldmann foreman of the landfill and second in command to Al Gaines and increase his salary by \$.25 per hour beginning next payroll. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerol DeBoer joined the meeting and wished the commissioners Happy Holidays. DeBoer reported that he will do additional work at the landfill but will not be able to check compaction of the liner until frost is out of the ground. Commissioners discussed the possibility of bridges not passing inspection and having to be shut down. DeBoer said that several bridges are in poor enough condition that the possibility exists. DeBoer indicated that the State inspector will, most likely, be doing fracture analysis during their inspections. Commissioners also discussed inspecting the bridge located in Harvey Township between section 24 & 25. DeBoer reported that the State will inspect the location when they do the county wide inspection.

Kuhlmann discussed the bridge located in Harvey Township between section 29 & 32. Commissioners discussed the location and what remedy should be taken to protect motor safety. Commissioners agreed to visit with Shellito.

Patrick Eastes, EMS Director, discussed the EMS department. Eastes reported that he will not be here for the commissioners meeting next week.

Commissioners visited with Lincoln County Clerk's office and Graham County Economic Development Director per telephone. Commissioners were unable to substantiate any figures presented by Wagner or Barta earlier in today's meeting. Commissioners agreed to meet with Kirk Schweitzer, Graham County Economic Development Director, to discuss development of wind energy in Smith County on January 18, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. Schweitzer indicated that due to the sensitive nature of negotiations and to protect confidential trade data, he would ask to meet in executive session only. Commissioners agreed to protect the confidential information and trade secrets of the Graham County Economic Development by meeting in executive session.

Commissioners reconvened at 1:15 p.m. to meet with the Regional Census Coordinator, Lech Wisniewski. Wisniewski reviewed statistics for returned census questionnaires from the 2000 census. Wisniewski reported that involvement in seeking participation will benefit the local government and must be guided by the local officials. Commissioners agreed to meet on January 11, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. Wisniewski reiterated the need for participation and that is the numbers on which all Federal funding is based.

Initial \_\_\_\_

Steve Errebo, Lincoln County Commissioner, returned the call from the commissioners made this morning. Lincoln County commissioners were all on speaker phone. Lincoln Commissioners determined the use of in-lieu-of taxes but there was negotiation on both sides which guided the process. The commissioners reported that each tower produces approximately \$80000.00 per year. Lincoln County receives \$500,000.00 for ten years. Kingsbury asked questions about the organization of the economic development office in Lincoln County. Commissioners decided that they are willing to support wind energy development in Smith County; however, there is not adequate statistical information at this time to commit county funds to promotion of a specific project.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Board of County Commissioners

---

Joe Kingsbury, Chairman

---

Arthur Kuhlmann, Member

---

Sharon Wolters, Clerk

---

Paul McCartney, Member

These minutes are unofficial until signed by the commissioners and attested by the County Clerk.