

Kiowa County Commissioners Meeting

April 20, 2026

The Kiowa County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 20, 2026, at 9:00 am in the Commissioners room located in the basement of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Chairman Jill Eller, Commissioner David White, Commissioner John Bertam, County Counselor Chay Howard and County Clerk Kristi Cooper.

Consent agenda included: Agenda, Payroll reports, Accounts Payable reports and Commissioner minutes of 04/6/25.

After the pledge of allegiance was recited, Jill Eller opened the meeting at 9:01 am. David moved to approve the consent agenda with additions and John seconded, motion carried 3-0.

Kerri Ulrich requested a Board of Health meeting. Jill adjourned the regular meeting and called the BOH to order at 9:08. She gave updates which included client services for March 98 clients, 177 services plus 73 WIC clients (increase of 9 over last month, Health Fair updates that included 475 participants, 28 volunteers, 32 vendors and 1 power outage, billing symposium class for Alyssa April 28th and 29th, Immunization Conference May 19th and 20th, KALHD meeting, rise in RSV and bronchial infections locally, bird migration we are seeing a rise avian (Bird) flu cases, tick season has started early (gave out tick removal kits at Health Fair), Measles cases 1714 as of 4/9/26, Health Department 2027 budget, giving cards and immunization records for graduating seniors and handing sunscreen for little Olympics. BOH meeting adjourned at 9:14 and regular meeting called back to order.

Alan Hadley came to give Public Works departments updates included revised amended offer for the purchase real property with Ray Whitmer, John moved to approve the offer of \$1000 and Jill seconded, the motion passed 3-0, presented 3 merit payroll changes for J Sluss, C Erickson and J West for approval, roads width, field entrances, ditches, magnets on graders, quote on a 2019 caterpillar 309 CR mini excavator for \$99,900 from Freedom Machinery and 2021 Caterpillar 309 CR mini excavator from McCoy Construction & Forestry and grader lease schedule. Jill moved to approve the payroll changes presented and David seconded, the motion passed 3-0.

Kendal Lothman presented the following payroll changes S McQueen (merit), S Gordon (merit), B Floro (temporary hours reclassification) and D Wilder (temporary hours reclassification) for approval. John moved to approve the payroll changes as presented and David seconded, motion passed 3-0. David asked if we could consider closing the jail. Kendal explained that at this time, he doesn't feel that it is anything that we need to consider.

Matt Christenson presented the revised Pay Plan to include caps being placed back on the pay ranges per the Commissioners request. After much discussion it was tabled so they can discuss more before approving.

Kristi Cooper presented a payroll change for T Libby (merit) for approval. After reviewing the payroll change presented John moved to approve and Jill seconded, the motion passed 3-0. Last she presented payroll reports, accounts payable reports and meeting minutes of March 2, 2026, for signatures.

During Commissioner Discussion the continued the discussion on the revised pay plan with Matt and Kerri being present. Also discussed the underground gas storage, mini excavator and washing culverts out.

Meeting adjourned at 12:21

Kiowa County Commission:

Jill Eller, Chairman

John Bertram, Commissioner

David White, Commissioner

Attest:

Kristi Cooper, County Clerk