

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
WAGONER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, May 29th, 2011

The Board of Wagoner County Commissioners met with Tim Kelley, Chairman; James Hanning, Vice-Chairman; Chris Edwards, Member; and Carolyn Kusler, County Clerk. Advance notice of the meeting was posted on bulletin boards and public entrances of the Wagoner County Courthouse on May 24th, 2012.

Location: Lone Star Baptist Church
10610 S. 353rd East Ave.
Coweta, OK

- I. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Kelley at 6:30p.m.
- II. Roll Call – Roll was called with the following responses: Hanning, present; Kelley, present; and Edwards, present.
- III. Commissioner Kelley convened Public Hearing to protest or support the creation of a Fire Protection District within the Northeastern fence line of Coweta AKA The Lone Star Area. Several citizens were present speaking against the creation of the Fire District. The primary reasons given were as follows:
 - 1) There has already been a vote and the creation of the Fire District failed to pass because of the increase in taxes and in insurance that would follow the creation of the District.
 - 2) There is an appearance of gerrymandering to get the right population so that the vote will pass. They have taken out the area where the people voted against it. Will they continue whittling down the area until the vote is passed?
 - 3) The financial numbers do not work. The projected \$35,000 in revenue is not enough to pay for the retirement benefits of the volunteer firefighters, purchase equipment, build a fire station, and run the fire department.

4) The possibility that if the fire district is created, Coweta will pull back their ambulance service. Ambulance service is more important than fire protection. Rural fire departments cannot transport someone in need to a hospital.

5) Lone Star cannot service the area west of 305th East Avenue.

6) If the district is formed, the citizens will be paying a fire tax, an ad valorem tax, as well as dues—paying for fire protection several times.

Several citizens were present speaking for the creation of the fire district. The primary reasons given as follows:

1) Any fire protection is better than none since Coweta cannot be relied on.

2) Right now Lone Star Fire is being supported with donations. There needs to be a stable income source.

3) Oak Grove Fire Department is training the Lone Star volunteers. Oak Grove F.D. has an excellent reputation and is the model for the creation of Lone Star Fire District.

4) Fire coverage and ambulance service will be provided through mutual aid for the area west of 305th East Avenue.

5) The new boundary was set according to the ones who wanted fire protection.

6) Grant monies are not available until the fire district is formed.

7) Rumored that Coweta will not renew subscriptions in September.

There was general discussion about what factors affect the ISO rating, whether there were other resources and/or options available that have not been explored, and the fact that grant revenues are decreasing.

- IV. Commissioner Kelley closed the public hearing and moved to discussion and possible action regarding the creation of the Fire Protection District. The Board discussed moving the boundary to 305th East Avenue.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kelley and seconded by Commissioner Edwards to table this item for further review of the map. The motion was approved with the following votes cast: Hanning, nay; Edwards, aye; Kelley, aye.

- V. Public Comment – There was none.

- VI. A motion was made by Commissioner Kelley and seconded by Commissioner Edwards to adjourn the meeting at 8:34p.m. The motion was approved with the following votes cast: Hanning, aye; Edwards, aye; Kelley, aye.

Presented and approved by the Wagoner County Commission on this 4th day of June, 2012.

TIM KELLEY, CHAIRMAN

JAMES HANNING, VICE-CHAIRMAN

CHRIS EDWARDS, MEMBER

ATTEST: CAROLYN KUSLER
WAGONER COUNTY CLERK
