

MINUTES OF **SPECIAL** MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, ROGERS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 219 SOUTH MISSOURI, COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM 1-109, CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009, AT 2:00 O'CLOCK P.M.

Notice of said meeting was filed in the Office of the County Clerk on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 10:53 A.M. and posted on the Courthouse Bulletin Board; Outside the Commissioner's Meeting Room; on the Exterior Window at the Southeast Entrance and Front Door Entrance to the Courthouse; on the Wheelchair Ramp Door and on the county web site.

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chairman Kirt Thacker called the meeting to order at 2:02 P.M.

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL:

Vice-Chairman Kirt Thacker and Commissioner Dan DeLozier were both present. Chairman Mike Helm was absent attending an ACCO legislative conference.

ITEM 3: DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION ON AMENDMENT TO ROGERS COUNTY BURN BAN RESOLUTION #2009-14 (Approved 2-23-09) TO ALLOW FOR AGRICULTURE CONTROLLED BURNING:

Commissioner DeLozier stated that he called this special meeting because he has received several phone calls from ranchers wanting to burn off their pastures just like they do every year. We could allow their local fire department to control the fires.

Commissioner Thacker stated the problem we'll run into is persons with one chicken will claim the are agriculture and feel it will be okay for them to burn.

Bob Anderson, Emergency Management Director, stated that this action is to prevent that. We're talking about acreages that ranchers own. Ranchers that do the burning of their pastures every year already know what to do and how to do it. We want their local fire departments to control the burns.

Commissioner DeLozier stated that he visited with Assistant District Attorney, Barry Farbro about this specific matter and he agreed that the Board can do an exception to the existing burn ban.

Commissioner Thacker stated that he felt we don't need a burn ban, feels we are taking the rights of the people away from them. If people want to burn, let them, then let their local fire departments make runs and charge them if they have to. Having a burn ban is not going to keep people from burning illegally.

Commissioner DeLozier stated that we are trying to avoid the fire departments having to make so many runs and depleting their funds. DeLozier continued that the only exception in the existing burn ban would be allowing agriculture controlled burning. Farmers and ranchers know how to burn, they do it every year.

David Puckett, Northwest Fire Protection District Fire Chief, commented that he wanted to stay with the permit and have the fire departments check off on before allowing burning and issue a permit to the applicant. Last week, 3 out of 5 runs made were for persons burning trash.

Commissioner Thacker stated that state law already doesn't allow burning of trash, it's already illegal and these are the people we are already having trouble with.

After some discussion, Commissioner DeLozier made a motion to allow making an exception to the existing burn ban to allow agriculture burning, pastures and range land only, and person(s) must get a permit from their local fire department and person(s) also have to alert or inform Emergency Management. Commissioner Thacker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Thacker-aye, DeLozier-aye. Motion carried.

Bob Anderson, Emergency Management Director, stated that he will notify all the agencies, media and fire departments of this action.

ITEM 4: RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Thacker made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner DeLozier seconding the motion. Roll Call: Thacker-aye, DeLozier-aye. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:23 P.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ROGERS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

By: _____
Peggy Armstrong, Rogers County Clerk

(SEAL)