

Minutes of the County Commissioners Special meeting held on April 12, 2022

The Board of the Grady County Commissioners met on this day for an Special meeting with the following board members: Ralph Beard and Kirk Painter. Mike Walker was absent.

The meeting was called to order and roll call: Ralph Beard and Kirk Painter

The meeting was opened with the "Pledge of Allegiance"

Ralph Beard gave an update regarding the asbestos in the courthouse. He stated last Monday through Thursday Carpet Masters had been removing tile and carpet and installing tile in Courtroom 2, Judge Lowe's Office, and Judge Lowe's Secretaries Office. On Thursday, Judge Lowe asked the workers if that was asbestos and the workers stated yes, it was. Ralph Beard stated they believed that Carpet Masters were attempting to cut corners by not sealing off the area and taking the necessary precautions. At that time Bobby Cantu, Safety Director, was contacted and the courthouse was evacuated. Crystal Creek LLC was contacted to come in and test to see if there was asbestos in the courtroom. Crystal Creek was able to get here quickly, as we had recently awarded a bid for asbestos removal to them for the Chickasha Senior Citizens Center. They found trace amounts of asbestos in the tile, 2-3 percent. Ralph stated that Crystal Creek has since removed carpet, asbestos and performed air quality testing, and sealed off the courtroom and affected offices. They confirmed that on Monday the courthouse would be safe to reopen; however, to be on the safe side it was decided to wait to open the courthouse until Tuesday April 12, 2022. Charles Sifers, Assistant District Attorney, asked how much work Carpet Masters completed. Ralph Beard stated they completed about half of the work; but we still currently have some of their tools in the courtroom. Charles Sifers asked if Crystal Creek would only do the removal of the asbestos, and if we would need someone else to finish the job. Ralph confirmed this. Charles then stated if we discharge Carpet Masters, we will have to pay them for the work they completed and they would need to be able to retrieve their tools. Ralph asked if the cleaning company was still working and the area is sealed off, do we let them come in now to get their tools or wait until the removal was complete. Charles stated that he would think you would wait until the removal was complete. Kirk Painter stated due to safety issues Carpet Masters needed to wait until after hours to come in and retrieve their tools. Charles stated that since the job was awarded off a quote and not a bid it would be easier to break the agreement with Carpet Masters and that we could also get quotes to finish the job. Ralph asked if Carpet Masters gave us a bill for the portion of work they completed and if they already purchased the carpet, if we should have them add the price of the carpet in and give us the carpet to finish the job. Charles stated he did not see a problem with this as we would still have to purchase carpet either way. Kirk wanted to know if we could deduct the expenses, we had due to the removal of asbestos from what Carpet Masters invoiced us. Charles stated that we could not, if we owed them money, we had to pay it. If we wanted to pursue compensation for the asbestos removal due to their negligence then we would have to file a lawsuit and pursue it through the court system.

Ralph Beard made a motion to terminate the business relationship with Carpet Masters. It was seconded by Kirk Painter. AYE: Ralph Beard and Kirk Painter.

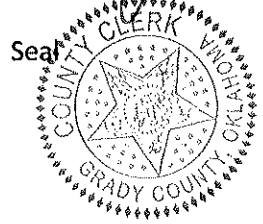
Ralph Beard made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Kirk Painter. AYE: Ralph Beard and Kirk Painter.

Meeting Adjourned.

Passed and approved on Monday, April 18, 2022.

The Board of the Grady County Commissioners

Attest: *Jill Locke*
County Clerk



Robert Beard
Chairman

Gene J. Panter
Vice Chairman

Member