

May 25, 2021
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the agenda session with Chairman Ron Hirst, Commissioner Daniel Friesen and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Henry Blickhahn, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Commissioner Hirst thanked the Sheriff's Office for organizing the Peace Officers memorial service and Hutchinson Police Department for participating in the service for fallen officers. He also corrected a statement regarding the club that provided meals for Peace Officers Day.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Friesen made a motion to table item 7A the Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems Proposed Regulations stating it should not be on the agenda today, **Mr. Sellers seconded** to hear Mr. Friesen's reason. The Board discussed item 7A since it was previously tabled for today from April 13, 2021. Mr. Sellers thought maybe thirty days would be sufficient to put it back on the agenda stating it could not be indefinitely postponed. Mr. Friesen thought the Commission was too far apart to have a discussion today. **Mr. Hirst made a motion** to set a date for the next agenda meeting to discuss the proposed regulations, it failed for lack of a second. Mr. Friesen requested his motion be read and voted; the motion was approved by a 2-1 vote with Mr. Hirst opposed.

There were additions to the agenda under business items: Public Works Director Mr. Brittain had a High-Risk Rural Road agreement and a Federal Aide for Construction/Engineering with Kirkham Michael. Then adding under item 10 another executive session for acquisition of real estate.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of 6A through 6C. The Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on May 21st, 2021 of \$598,871.36 and May 28th, 2021 of \$607,539.87 as presented. Next item directs the chairman to sign minutes for April 13th, April

27th, also drafts of May 7th and May 11th, 2021 as submitted. Resolution 2021-12; **A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERSONAL TRAINING AND FITNESS STUDIO ON A PARCEL LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M. IN RENO COUNTY, KANSAS at 4516 N. Kent Road.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Health Department Director Karla Nichols made a presentation to the Board updating them on the Health Departments projects, COVID-19, organization charts for what they cover and grants. She brought the following staff with her Karen Hammersmith, Megan Gottschalk-Hammersmith, and Bethany Jantzen for questions.

Public Works Director Don Brittain explained KDOT awarded a High-Risk Rural Road project for the low bid of \$365,246 to CC & I Engineering, Inc. to work on signage east of K-14. This is for the authority to award the High-Risk Rural Road Federal Fund Award Contract to CC & I Engineering, Inc. He also related from KDOT that this is to approve and sign for Kirkham Michael to do the engineering inspection of this project. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to approve contracts as presented by Mr. Brittain and authorize signatures. The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Brittain also gave explanation on an agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) for the construction of 69th Avenue Bridge 26.70 as part of the off-system bridge program. This bridge is located two miles north and .5 miles west of Willowbrook stating that it is replacing a narrow six span steel beam bridge built in 1959. Reno County's share is 20 percent estimated at \$179,354.80 and all design cost of \$75,645 with an approximate total \$254,999.80. KDOT's share is 80 percent, with a total estimated project cost of \$896,774 in fiscal year 2022. An agreement for Engineering Services with Kirkham Michael was approved and signed by the BOCC on April 13th, 2021. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the agreement with KDOT for construction on the 69th Avenue Bridge as presented by Mr. Brittain. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Administrator Randy Partington updated the Board:

- 1) On how the \$12 million CRF money was distributed.
- 2) He and Mr. Sellers thought it beneficial to attend a meeting with American Rescue Plan group that would give

suggestions from the community on how to spend the upcoming \$12 million the county would be receiving.

- 3) An email was received regarding the KAC Conference on October 18th thru 20th, 2021 in Overland Park. He said four rooms were reserved for attendees. He had not received an agenda yet for sessions.
- 4) The Treasurer emailed with the sales tax amounts showing the numbers are ahead 113 percent of last year.
- 5) Reminder June had three meetings, 8th, 22nd, and 29th and special meetings on July 6th and 7th for budgets.

Mr. Friesen requested a standardized department report template for reporting to the Board.

Commissioner comments:

Mr. Sellers commented on the Tele Health for the Health Department. He mentioned the meeting with American Rescue Plan to listen to community ideas. He stated with the General Election coming up on November 2nd, 2021, he would like to discuss putting the addition of 2 more members to the Commission Board on the ballot. He was concerned about the wind discussion supporting 45 to 60 days to move it forward placing it on the agenda again.

Mr. Friesen was frustrated with not being able to communicate with the other members between meetings regarding the wind regulations. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to set as a standing item on the agenda for discussion of a five-member commission discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. He also discussed a pay increase and a legal question on automatic aide from the Rural Fire District Chiefs from the Yoder meeting. He said Mr. Weishaar spoke about a four-year planning session and the Fire Chiefs stepping up. Mr. Weishaar would be reporting next week on the meeting.

Mr. Hirst encouraged citizens in the townships to serve your community and sign up for elected positions. He was disappointed to not discuss the wind regulations today. He thought they needed to have an agreement and not wait and urged a discussion take place soon.

At 10:45 the meeting recessed for ten minutes.

The meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

At 10:55 **Commissioner Hirst read the motion** for the Board to recess into executive session for the purpose of preliminary discussions regarding the acquisition of real estate for a period of 15 minutes with no formal decision expected. County Administrator Randy Partington and County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan to remain for the executive session at the conclusion of the session the Board will resume its regular session. **Mr. Sellers seconded**, and the motion was approved with a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:12 **Mr. Hirst moved** for the Board to recess into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pertaining to a non-elected employee for a period not to exceed 30 minutes. No formal decision is expected. Requesting Human Resources Director Helen Foster, Randy Partington, and Joe O'Sullivan remain for the executive session **seconded by Mr. Sellers**. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:42 **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to extend the executive session for 10 minutes more. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:50 **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen**, to recess into Executive Session to confer with the Board's legal counsel on a privileged legal matter in the attorney/client relationship relating to contractual negotiations with the City of Hutchinson for a period of one hour with no formal decision expected. Requesting Sheriff Campbell, Randy Partington, and Joe O'Sullivan remain. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board will return to regular session at which time the meeting would adjourn for the day.

At 12:32 p.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners
(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk

Date

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