

January 12, 2021  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the agenda session with Chairman Ron Sellers, Commissioner Ron Hirst, Commissioner Daniel Friesen, 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 Darryl Peterson, Grace Christian Church via phone.

Commissioner Sellers welcomed the new Commissioner Daniel Friesen and acknowledged the re-election of Commissioner Ron Hirst. He then read some comments on the Commission and Health Department.

Commissioner Daniel Friesen thanked the Board stating this would be a unique opportunity to be on the Commission. He wanted to do his part and honor the chair that past Commissioner Bob Bush had occupied and be respectful on all matters.

Health Department Director Karla Nichols, Health Officer Karen Hammersmith, and Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar each spoke about the vaccine progress on distribution.

Mrs. Nichols stated that Kansas Department of Health and Environment would let them know when more doses would be available to Reno County, possibly in February or March. In the meantime, they were making plans for distribution when it arrives. She said communication was the key for what was coming with vaccines.

Mrs. Hammersmith stated doses were distributed currently through Walgreens and CVS for long term care facility residents and later in the year the 13,000 elderly residents and the public would have the opportunity for the vaccine.

Mrs. Nichols read an email from Dr. Scott Pauly. He had four areas to update as follows: 1) Trend, 2) Therapies, 3) Mitigation, 4) Immunizations and points under each category.

Commissioner Friesen asked about the number of individuals declining the vaccine. Mrs. Hammersmith replied they did not have those numbers but were mimicking the flu vaccination

distribution and may have a townhall meeting to get the information out about the COVID vaccine.

Mr. Weishaar stated the state disaster declaration could be extended again after January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He said they were working on the distribution plan for COVID vaccines that should be completed by next week and brought before the Commission. He replied to Mr. Friesen's question on declined numbers by using a percentage of first responders and others that declined the vaccine next week.

Brock Wells, 212 W. Avenue B, Hutchinson, welcomed Mr. Friesen to the Commission and proceeded to request the Commission let Health Order 20-05 expire in January. He spoke about the virus peaking in November and now slowed down. He said there was an article with data comparing 50 states with or without mandated masks.

There were no additions to the agenda.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 of \$724,936.8 along with CARES Act Spark monies approved of \$365,967.26 as submitted and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2020-992, 993, 2021-01, 04 through 06 as presented by staff. Next on the consent agenda were three resolutions; Resolution 2021-01; A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE DEPOSITORIES FOR RENO COUNTY FUNDS. Resolution 2021-02; A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE HUTCHINSON NEWS AS THE OFFICIAL COUNTY NEWSPAPER. Resolution 2021-03; A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE VACATION OF A 30-FOOT-WIDE FUTURE STREET EASEMENT LOCATED IN ROLLING HILLS SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE NORTHEAST ¼ - SECTION 29 OF T22S, R5W OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> P.M., RENO COUNTY, KANSAS, Adam and Maria Post and Lee Olsen located at Lots 5 and 10, Block 1 of Rolling Hills Subdivision, addresses are 2325 E. 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 1900 E. 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hutchinson, Kansas. Last item on the agenda was the appointment of Charles "Chuck" Smith as Little River Township Treasurer. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. Mr. Sellers asked Mr. Partington if Reno County was close to ending the CRF funds. Mr. Partington replied that they were within a million dollars left and were very close to completion.**

County Planner Mark Vonachen met with the Board to recommend approval for the appointment of Jack Martin to a first 3-year term on the Planning Commission beginning retroactively

on January 1, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2021. He explained they were one member down since summer 2020 and Mr. Martin applied for that position. Mr. Martin had been on the City of Hutchinson Planning Board and member of the joint venture of City/County Planning and he did not live in the city limits as part of the requirement. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen**, to approve the appointment of Jack Martin from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 as recommended by Mr. Vonachen. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Friesen asked about the selection process for the Planning Commission. Mr. Vonachen explained it was up to the County Commission to review and approve the applications. He said that there was no set policy, and the Planning Commission members were strictly decided on for consideration by the County Commissioners. Mr. Hirst clarified that normally the Board nominates someone from their district, 2 from within the City, 3 from District #2, but they needed an extra person since the vacant spot was created by that person moving into Turon from the country.

Patrol Captain Levi Blumanhourst met with the Board to recommend approval for the purchase of two 2021 Ford Interceptors from Midwest Ford at a total cost of \$66,486 after trade. He said in years past they would purchase four vehicles, but they scaled back this year to two hybrids. He spoke about the cost savings with the hybrids. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the purchases from Midwest Ford for \$66,486 after trade in as outlined by Captain Blumanhourst. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Captain Blumanhourst was available for the next item on the agenda for the purchase of one 2020 Ford F150 Responder pickup from Midwest Ford at a cost of \$18,009 after trade. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen**, to approve the purchase of a 2020 Ford F150 Responder pickup from Midwest Ford for \$18,009 as outlined by Captain Blumanhourst. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

The Board briefly discussed moving the Sheriff's annual vehicle purchases to the consent agenda, deciding not to move them leaving the request under business items for reasons Mr. Hirst outlined.

Last item on the agenda was the reorganization of the Board of County Commissioners. **Mr. Sellers moved** to appoint Mr. Hirst Chairman in 2021, **Mr. Friesen seconded** the motion. The motion

was approved by a roll call vote of 2-1 with Mr. Hirst abstaining.

**Mr. Sellers moved** to appoint Mr. Friesen as Vice-Chair in 2021, **Mr. Hirst seconded** the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-1 with Mr. Friesen abstaining.

Commissioner Sellers questioned the Health Department budget for next year. County Administrator Randy Partington replied that they used CARES Act money in 2020 along with grants. The Health Department would use CARES Act funds, but additional income would be needed if the funds are not watched closely. He said the Health Department would keep applying for grants in 2021 depending on staffing and how much financial help would be needed.

County Administrator Randy Partington pointed out expenditures from the 2020 budget stating these were not final numbers, and said all areas looked in good shape. He stated the year-to-date expenditures with carry over money was 85 percent which includes the last pay period but not encumbrances. County Clerk Donna Patton had explained the election expenditure went over because of the added expense of supplies for postage. Next was an update on the Landfill bid opening that will be between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers and Pre-construction Courthouse meeting for questions and answers on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Planning and Zoning Wind Energy regulation study session was to take place on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at Public Works Conference Room and it would be on You Tube for viewing only and not open to guests. Last, a study session with the Commissioners on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Veterans Room to discuss goals for 2021.

Commissioner Hirst mentioned Harvey County Commissioner Ron Krehbiel a QUAD County member had passed away. He thanked County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan for the answers provided to explain KDHE, Health Department, and the Board of Health in detail.

Commissioner Friesen commented on items he noticed such as the Commission Chamber was not ideal for the current situation and suggested maybe looking at options for a more open room for meetings. He suggested a permanent technology plan for each meeting, for instance having an option for call in's or residents present on the screen if they could not appear in person. He questioned if the restoration project included

changing the black window entrance to match the current gray window frames preserving the historical aspect of the courthouse.

Commissioner Hirst stated Mr. Sellers had done an excellent job as the Chairman and management of meetings, thanking him for his efforts in 2020. Mr. Friesen agreed.

At 10:10 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
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Date