

January 19, 2021
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the agenda session with Chairman Ron Hirst, Commissioner Daniel Friesen, 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 Steve Gill, Turon Community Church via phone.

Commissioner Hirst mentioned the special work study session via You Tube from the Public Works Facility in South Hutchinson at 4:00 p.m. today where they will discuss Wind Energy Regulations.

Lyndon Ropp, 4705 S. Whiteside, Hutchinson, said he was not in favor of the extension on mask restrictions. He developed a spread sheet with CDC details showing data from deaths.

Connie Newcome, Inman, said her focus and concern was on the hazards of vaccines. She had handouts for the Board backing up her opinion for not administering the COVID vaccine. She wanted the public to do research before receiving the vaccine.

Commissioner Friesen appreciated her comments and asked that questions be submitted before the agenda session to have adequate time to obtain answers. He trusted the medical experts on the vaccines.

Douglas Smith, 620 S. Algona, Arlington, spoke about protecting others by wearing masks to help slow the spread of COVID. He said Americans all have rights. He hoped one was to protect the person next to us, but he wanted some people to know not to impose their opinion on rights of others.

Health Department Director Karla Nichols spoke about goals to have a group communication to the public with a common message, so everyone was on the same page with information. There would be an update on Wednesday that she would pass along to the Board. Commissioner Friesen asked what the committed plan was. Mrs. Nichols stated this week the plan and registration would be given to the community informing them on the vaccines. Mr. Friesen stated his first priority was for the

65 plus community to have information communicated by text or phone calls since not all of the 65 plus residents had technology to receive the vaccine messages.

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on January 22nd, 2021 of \$1,104,107.73 along with CARES Act Spark monies approved of \$497,168.87 as submitted and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2021-7, 10, and 12 as presented by staff. Next on the consent agenda was to appoint Sandy Pangburn to serve on the Reno County Health Department Advisory Board for a term effective 1/19/2021 through 12/31/2023. Mrs. Nichols explained briefly about Mrs. Pangburn's history and said she would represent the Hutchinson Community College position. Last item on the agenda was to appoint Aubrey Nuss to serve on the Reno County Health Department Advisory Board for a term effective 1/19/2021 through 12/31/2023 as presented by staff for A through E. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Kevin Cowan Bond Council with Gilmore & Bell met with the Board to explain **Resolution 2021-04; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFERING FOR SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING AND IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2021 OF RENO COUNTY, KANSAS.** He said the county proposed to issue its general obligation bonds to pay costs of the Courthouse improvements and to retire the Refunded Notes. Reno County selected Raymond James and Associates, Inc. in Kansas City, Missouri as underwriter for general obligation bonds of the issuer in order to provide funds to permanently finance the Improvements, retire the Refunded Notes and refund the Refunded Bonds. The bids for the interest rate and final figures would be coming in lower than normal, estimated at 1.75 percent. He will be back in February with results and stated that we were at a historical position with low rates to sell bonds. The true borrowing cost was 1.1 percent. He explained coupon rates being higher and why. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to approve the resolution as presented by Mr. Cowan. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Clerk Donna Patton met with the Board to discuss a future resolution to cancel certain county warrants. She stated this was an annual resolution for outstanding warrants dating back to 2018. They could reissue checks if the recipients notified the Clerk's or Treasurers Office.

County Administrator Randy Partington began the discussion of the Policy on Commission Meetings. He had a draft of the policy guidelines for the meetings and procedures for the agenda. He mentioned the agenda sessions being twice a month instead of every week along with a possible fifth meeting when there was 5 Tuesdays in the month. Mr. Sellers stated this was substantial changes in a policy stating that it was important an document for future commissions. Mr. Partington read through each section of the policy for any changes the Commissioners may want to make. The Commissioners briefly discussed changing the agenda meetings to twice a month with the consensus being they were in favor of the change for various reasons. Mr. Friesen wanted it clarified by changing the wording that the Chairman should give his consent for handling items on the agenda, making a change on page one to say "with advice and consent of the Chairman" as he should control the meeting.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan commented on Mr. Friesen's clarification in the policy. The changes discussed would be done for next week's agenda. It was suggested to also put a copy of Robert's Rules of Order with the policy.

Mr. Partington mentioned Granicus was on the agenda for February 9th, 2021 and the City of Hutchinson's address would be tomorrow morning at the Chamber.

Commissioner Sellers thanked the Mayor of Arlington Doug Smith for coming in to speak today.

Commissioner Hirst mentioned Kansas Senator Mark Steffen working with the majority of the House of Representatives may need further explanation from counties on the Transparency Bill.

Commissioner Friesen spoke about the importance of rolling out the vaccines and failure of vaccine communications. He brought up next week's discussion on the Health Departments generator.

Mr. O'Sullivan commented that he had discussed with the IdeaTek attorney the infrastructure and it would be added to next weeks agenda. Mr. Friesen thought it may be a conflict of interest on his part, Mr. O'Sullivan replied he did not believe it would be.

At 10:55 the meeting recessed for five minutes.

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

At 11:00 Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen, that this Board recess into Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel, that being the annual evaluation of the County Administrator, for 60 minutes. No binding action will take place during the executive session. Any amendments or revisions to the County Administrator's contract will be considered and acted upon at our January 26th, 2021 Agenda meeting. He asked that Randy Partington remain for the executive session. At the close of the Executive session, the regular meeting will reconvene, and the Board will adjourn for the day until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 26th, 2021. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date