

January 25, 2022
Reno County Annex
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the agenda session at the Annex Conference Room with Chairman Daniel Friesen, Commissioner Ron Sellers and Commissioner Ron Hirst, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Lead Pastor Curt Vogt, Buhler Mennonite Brethren Church.

Commissioner Friesen requested to move item 7C to 7A1 for the American Rescue Plan Act Taskforce report. Also, item 7F Human Resources Annual Report to be deferred to a future meeting. The Board by consensus agreed to make these changes to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A through 6F including the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on January 21, 2022, totaling \$509,929.84, claims payable on January 28th, 2022 totaling \$383,303.19; Also directs the Chairman to sign minutes for December 28th, 2021, January 11th, 2022; Board approval for the County Administrator 2022 Employment Contract; to approve a reappointment of Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar to the South Central Kansas Homeland Security Council as Reno County's representative effective 1/25/22 through 12/31/23; next was approval for a Resolution #2022-03: A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 79-2801 DIRECTING THE FILING OF A REAL ESTATE TAX FORCLOSURE ACTION; last item was SCS Engineers 2022-2024 Solid Waste Consulting Services Proposal for Reno County Solid Waste Facility estimated costs for a three year proposal; **2022:** \$478,600; year **2023:** \$303,000; year **2024:** \$309,400.

Commissioner Sellers requested a reminder from Mr. Partington for consent item C, Administrator's Employment Contract. In paragraph 12A it speaks about the County Administrator's evaluation. He suggested reviewing the evaluation in the fall with the commission that has experience with the Administrator before the new Commissioners join the Board. He thought there was a misrepresentation on the

reappointment of Adam Weishaar where it stated his current term was to 2023 from 2016 when it currently had expired in 2022. Mr. Partington replied that it should state the current term expired in 2022 with the reappointment to be renewed through 2023.

County Administrator Randy Partington replied to Mr. Friesen's question on consent item 6F about going out for bids, SCS Engineers 2022-2024 Solid Waste Consulting Services Proposal for Reno County. Mr. Partington stated this was a three-year agreement instead of an annual proposal. There was only one other company in Kansas besides SCS. Mr. Hirst was comfortable with no other bids since SCS had a good working relationship with Solid Waste. Mr. Sellers stated that in three years he would be in favor of looking at other options. He agreed with Mr. Hirst that SCS does a great job at the Landfill and has a favorable long-standing relationship with them. Mr. Partington noted the first year's cost on the proposal was higher because of the new cell construction.

The consent agenda motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Jackson Swearer, member of the ARPA Task Force Organization had a presentation for the Board on the Civic Engagement Report. The presentation was narrated by Kansas State Dr. Sean Eddington along with his team who developed the data collected by the Task Force. They outlined seven key funding priorities: (1) childcare being the highest priority, (2) strengthening workforce development program, (3) developing more affordable housing, (4) mental health, (5) support local and small businesses, (6) expanding access to healthcare, (7) enhancing quality of life through access to park development. Dr. Eddington reviewed the ARPA Funding Categories: as support public health, address negative economic impact, broadband infrastructure, provide pay for essential workers, water and sewer infrastructure, equity focused issues, and another category for possibilities.

The Board by consensus requested to review the findings and schedule a study session for discussions. They thanked all the Taskforce staff and citizens for their fantastic report and appreciated all their efforts.

Mr. Jackson stated the recommendation by the Task Force was to put the largest portion of the money toward childcare. They

were working with K-Ready Reno County regarding the distribution of funds.

Mr. Hirst questioned the housing part of the report. Dr. Eddington explained the housing updates for tenants and owners. He briefly reviewed grants for investments and economic rehab on existing buildings. Mr. Hirst asked if Neighborhood Revitalization Program was mentioned. Dr. Eddington replied that it had not been brought up.

United Way representative Lisa Gleason spoke about the next couple of months a market study for the cost of childcare, wages paid to them, and what the need in Reno County was for childcare would be compiled and brought to the Commission.

Task Force member Aubrey Patterson spoke about the seven priorities with childcare being the primary concern of Reno County citizens. She said people want this issue solved and the timing was right to address the issue now.

President of NAACP Calvin Wright voiced his concern about inclusion requesting that when the reports are finished, and organizations come together, that all minorities who usually aren't included be a part of inclusion.

Mr. Sellers mentioned having Dr. File attend the study session to give an overview on Strengthening Workforce Development. The Board would discuss the other two concerns: childcare and housing. The Board decided to have the County Administrator make a list of questions for the first study session.

Deputy Clerk Jenna Fager met with the Board to recommend approval for a resolution to divide Reno County. She explained the division of County Commissioners into five commissioner districts as compact and equal in population as possible pursuant to K.S.A. 19-204. On January 6, 2022, the Reno County Clerk's Office received the Census 2020 redistricting Data Summary File by the Office of Secretary of State, Division of Census, these boundaries were for population adjustments only. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve RESOLUTION #2022-04; A RESOLUTION DIVIDING RENO COUNTY INTO COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 19-204** as mapped and outlined by Ms. Fager. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Maintenance Director Harlen Depew met with the Board to update them on the progress of Pishny Restoration projects. He

introduced Corey Thomas, John Underwood of Pishny Restoration and Architect Brad Doeden, GLMV. Mr. Depew stated it had been one year since the beginning of the earthquake damage project, comprehensive window restoration and general exterior weatherization of the building project and the original finish date was 365 days from the start. They ran into various obstacles however most of those obstacles have been eliminated and completed. Mr. Thomas explained the causes for the delays. Mr. Underwood briefly spoke on the four different scopes of work and their percentages of completion stating they were anticipating a June date to be completed.

Mr. Doeden commented on a solution for the domes stone repair. They were looking at a special bonding agent. Mr. Doeden liked working with Pishny Restoration because they do quality work.

Mr. Depew added his thanks to the county staff showing their understanding for noise and the cold, setting a good example of Teamwork with Pishny.

At 10:20 the meeting recessed for seven minutes.

The meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

Aging/Transportation Director Barbara Lilyhorn met with the Board for a presentation on Reno County Area Transit Fixed Route Revision and Restructure. She said the route restructure began in 2020 when they altered the way they were doing business. The current routes have reduced hours throughout COVID without wasting gas with a decline in ridership we needed to find the best way to serve the community. This would be a semi-permanent change and the public would have 30 days for comments that would be reviewed. KDOT has accepted the changes and approved them. When COVID has run its course, we will return to expand the service model.

Mike Ellis, Safety Maintenance Coordinator explained the route maps legend to the Board. He said this was an hourly route each leg is 30-minutes to and from. Mr. Hirst questioned outside the fixed route areas was a ride available. Mr. Ellis replied they have the opportunity to apply for a para transit (door to door service) or apply for an on-demand service. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the Fixed Route

revision and restructure as outlined by Ms. Lilyhorn. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

The Board asked Ms. Lilyhorn to come up with a plan for signage of routes. Ms. Lilyhorn replied that she would and report back to the Board.

Ms. Lilyhorn was also available for her Department of Aging and Public Transportation Annual Report.

Human Resources Annual Report was deferred to a future meeting.

County Administrator report:

Mr. Partington mentioned monthly department reports. He noted the Service Awards Ceremony tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. in the Veterans Room at the Courthouse. He stated there were two more flash passes for the Chamber Breakfast on Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 9 a.m. he and Mr. Sellers were going to attend.

Mr. Friesen suggested changing the department annual reports, he said the graphs and budgets were going in the right direction.

County Commission Reports:

Mr. Hirst appreciated ARPA people that were involved looking at the long-term investment of the funds available.

Mr. Sellers spoke about preliminary thoughts on Reno County housing meeting to bring back some ideas in the study session.

Mr. Friesen spoke about quarterly reports keeping issues in mind for the study session. He was going to report on Economic Development. He mentioned the COVID challenge in Reno County had been handled well, we were not trending with national numbers for hospitalization, and he thanked the health workers for that.

At 11:05 a.m. the meeting recessed for five minutes.

The meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

At 11:10 a.m. Mr. Friesen moved to recess into executive session not to exceed 30 minutes with the governing body, County Administrator, and County Counselor to discuss the subject of the performance of one or more employees within the Appraisal Department; the justification for the executive session is the need to discuss personnel matters related to non-elected personnel. There was to be no action taken after the executive session, **Mr. Hirst seconded the motion.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:30 a.m. Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to extend the executive session for 10-minutes until 11:40 a.m. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:40 a.m. Mr. Sellers moved after the first executive session to recess into executive session on an attorney/client privilege to discuss the subject of county contracts with the executive session justified by the need to discuss with the County Counselor subjects which would be deemed privileged. The session is anticipated to last for 10-minutes at which time the Board will resume its agenda meeting and County Administrator Randy Partington is requested to remain for the executive session **seconded by Mr. Friesen.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:50 a.m. the meeting returned to regular session and adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 8th, 2022.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date