

February 8, 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 Pastor Kendall Sheats, Hope Church.

County Planner Mark Vonachen recognized and appreciated Lisa French thanking her for her service on the Reno County Planning Commission Board from 2013 to 2021. He said her skills helped board members to understand changes that were needed in the zoning regulations.

The Board added their comments on how Ms. French controlled and conducted with dignity the difficult wind meetings. They all appreciated her leadership and thanked her for her nine-years of volunteer service to the Reno County community. Commissioner Friesen read and presented the plaque to Ms. French.

Ms. French thanked the Board and said she enjoyed her time spent with the Reno County Planning Commission. She stated it was a rewarding experience and she felt she was leaving the Planning Board in a much better position to address whatever came next.

There were no public comments or additions to the agenda.

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 February 4th, 2022, totaling \$1,454,249.96, claims payable on February 11th, 2022 totaling \$1,258,762.42; and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2022-64, 65, 67, 79, 80, 87 and 96. To approve permission to spend up to \$51,000 total, including trade in of three vehicles: 1) 2007 GMC Envoy with 119,718 miles, 2) 2005 Envoy 154,772 miles, and 3) 2006 Dodge Dakota with 100,701 miles, to replace one new compact SUV vehicle for the District Attorney and one new compact SUV vehicle for the Appraiser; to approve Planning Case

2020-09; Resolution #2022-05: A RESOLUTION REVISING AND UPDATING THE APRIL 2016 EDITION OF THE RENO COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS BY AMENDING THE TABLE OF CONTENTS, ARTICLE 15-105(14), AND CREATING ARTICLE 23 AND INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE NEW REGULATIONS, pertaining to Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems; next was approval for a Resolution #2022-06: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP FOR RENO COUNTY PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 1-103 JURISDICTION OF THE RENO COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS OF RENO COUNTY, KANSAS 2016 EDITION FOR A PORTION OF RENO COUNTY, KANSAS, pertaining to expanding the Zoning Regulations countywide as it relates to Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems; approve County Appraiser Contract with Kansas Department of Revenue (PVD). The consent agenda motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Clerk Donna Patton met with the Board to discuss a resolution to cancel certain county warrants from 2019. Ms. Patton would request Reno County Communication Specialist Laurie Moody put a list of names on the website for the next two weeks for people to call into the Clerk's Office (620)694-2934 or Treasurer's Office (620)694-2932 to re-issue a check. She stated she would be returning in two weeks with an updated resolution with the final amount of the warrants to be canceled and not re-issued.

Mr. Friesen asked the County Administrator for an explanation of how six Reno County Boards/Committees selected members and how their Appointment Procedures work. Mr. Partington explained why the various boards/committee appointments came before the Board and what authorizations were by Kansas Statutes, County Resolutions and Commission directives. Mr. Friesen's main concern was the public having the opportunity to enter their name on an application to become a member of a board or committee. Mr. Friesen thought the application needed to be uniform for new and renewed members. He asked the Board to consider evaluating positions and create a policy for applicants. The Board briefly discussed several items they wanted included in a policy requesting Mr. Partington draft the ideas and return.

County Administrator report:

Mr. Partington attached department updates for the Boards review. He reviewed a 2021 Financial Report stating the final numbers would be after February 2022 and highlighted totals for departments.

Mr. Hirst requested to let the public know the Capital Funds account was building for any future county projects.

Mr. Sellers asked for an update on the approved wage increases by the Board and their effective dates. Mr. Partington replied that the 2-percent cost of living went into effect January and the wage increases would be effective on the February 18th payroll. Mr. Sellers then asked if the issues with the new Health Insurance had been worked out. Mr. Partington replied most of them had been taken care of stating that Blue Cross and Blue Shield was all in one package and the new insurance was a combination of different pieces and the consultant was working with the county on all those issues. Mr. Sellers then inquired when the Solid Waste new scale would be open. Mr. Partington replied that February 14th the new scale would be up and operational however Solid Waste Director Megan Davidson said she would have a grand opening in March.

Mr. Friesen inquired if a staff survey had been taken. Mr. Partington stated no survey had been done but they were having a Benefit's Committee meeting this week.

Mr. Hirst commented on an email he sent to Finney County on how they handled the county childcare and Early Learning Network, coordinating it between the Jr. College/City/County. He was advised by County Counselor Mr. Hoffman to contact Lincoln County for information on childcare also. He believed ten-months was too long for the report discussed in last week's meeting, in his opinion it needed to be sped up. He had a discussion with Community Corrections Director Randy Regehr regarding the ARPA funds and the state legislature decisions.

Mr. Friesen commented on one format change for the Commissioners Comments part of the agenda. He believed the members of the Board should have time to respond on topics brought up by the other members.

Mr. Sellers was pleased to recognize Lisa French for her involvement with the Planning Commission. He stated in some cases recently the citizens misunderstood how the Planning Commissioners worked and how they operate. The members on the Planning Commission are a group of volunteers not paid by the county, they care about their community and donate their time and energy on cases making Reno County a better place to live. On a positive note, the Treasurer's Office seems to not have the long lines, and someone suggested that more people maybe using the mail-in renewals or not coming in on the last day of the

month. He commented on today's agenda showing the county administrator is responsible for the day-to-day actions of the county and the Commissioners job is to provide input on important issues.

Mr. Hirst stated the Chairman of the Planning Commission Russ Goertzen asked to visit, keeping everyone on the same page with this Board, Mr. Vonachen, Mr. Brittain, and Mr. Partington. The Board agreed by consensus to have Mr. Partington schedule a lunch or dinner meeting with the above-mentioned personnel.

Mr. Friesen suggested on the Planning Commission written policy stating that members were not elected to the position but were appointed. If a citizen had a problem with the Planning Commission, they should come speak with this Board. The Board had an invitation from Solid Waste to see the first truck go over the scale on Valentine's Day, February 14th, 2022, Mr. Sellers would be attending. Mr. Partington said a press release stated it was open to the public since this was a ribbon cutting ceremony at 8:00 a.m. but Ms. Davidson had informed him that the open house would be in March 2022. Mr. Friesen thought the county should consider electronically updating maps in real time on our website for road conditions, i.e., snow or flooding. Mr. Partington would check with Public Works Director Don Brittain on the feasibility. Mr. Hirst mentioned the Sheriff did updates with road conditions on Facebook.

At 9:55 the meeting recessed for ten minutes.

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

Commissioner Friesen mentioned the Board agreed by consensus to work through lunch after an agenda meeting in March. He stated they would discuss in that study session the ARPA Funding.

At 10:05 a.m. Mr. Friesen moved to recess into executive session with the governing body, County Administrator, and County Counselor to discuss the subject of the performance of one or more fire district personnel with the executive session justified by the need to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in confidence. The session is anticipated to last for 30-minutes at which time the Board will resume its agenda meeting and another motion will be made to recess into a 2nd executive session on a separate matter with no formal

decision to be made on the discussion, **Mr. Hirst seconded the motion.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 10:35 a.m. Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to extend the executive session for 5-minutes until 10:40 a.m. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 10:40 a.m. Mr. Friesen moved to go into executive session until 11:00 a.m. with the governing body to discuss the subject of county legal agreements with the executive session justified by the need to discuss with the County Counselor subjects which would be deemed privileged by the attorney/client privilege requesting the County Administrator to remain. The Board will resume its agenda meeting with no formal decision to be made on the matter discussed and adjourn for the day, **seconded by Mr. Hirst.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:00 a.m. the meeting returned to regular session and adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date

