

February 18, 2020
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in agenda session with, Chairman Ron Sellers, Commissioner Bob Bush and Commissioner Ron Hirst, County Administrator Randy Partington, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor David Dubovich, Park Place Christian Church.

There were public comments:

Susan Helten, 10408 E. Smoots Creek Road, Cheney, KS expressed concern with County Planner Mark Vonachen having help to do projects in the county. She asked if the commission could provide some assistance to help him.

Commissioner Sellers replied that department was staffed adequately and did not feel that additional help was needed when they researched this at budget time.

Commissioner Bush added that Mr. Vonachen had support provided from a consultant during the wind energy CUP when the volume was higher and was hesitant to bring more staff on board at this time.

Mrs. Helten thought the consultant was advisory only, not helping with day to day paperwork or looking up information. She thought the commission could find enough funding for Mr. Vonachen to have an extra person in his office.

Public Works Director Don Brittain was in the audience and stepped up to the podium stating publications take a large amount of time. He said Mr. Vonachen had the Public Works office staff to assist him when needed so he is well covered. Commissioner Hirst stated they would address the issue if more help was needed during the countywide zoning process.

Andy Helten, 10408 E. Smoots Creek Road, Cheney, KS was concerned about the Board's discussion on zoning a southeast portion of Reno County may fade away and not happen like in 2014 when it was tabled and forgotten. He then went in a different

direction on regulations and wind energy as land use. He thanked the Commission for recording meetings.

Mr. Brittain stated that in 2014 zoning was discussed for the whole county or not to zone. They now have direction for the southeast portion of Reno County to discuss zoning which was not given in 2014. He said we will then move to the west in the future.

Each Board member made further comments on zoning and regulations and encouraged people to attend Planning and Zoning meetings/hearings to communicate their concerns.

Commissioner Sellers welcomed the new County Administrator Randy Partington and asked him to give a background overview to the public. The Board is looking forward to working with you.

Mr. Partington gave his history before coming to Reno County and how he enjoys county government and being a part of a community. His father was a City Administrator of Great Bend, so he grew up with community values.

Commissioner comments:

Commissioner Hirst noted receiving an email concerning the Health Department and Wastewater Systems having a meeting Thursday morning. Commissioner Sellers commented that the Health Department was working hard to compromise and communicate well with the septic system group. He said the public water table is very important.

Commissioner Bush asked Mr. Partington to attend the meeting on Thursday and speak with Health Department Director Nick Baldetti on this group and get their history. He also asked about having the Quest Center give a quarterly report on the funding package they did for the Entrepreneurship Program to let people know about the work they are doing and how public tax dollars were being allocated.

Commissioner Hirst suggested setting up an update from the Reno County Extension Office also. Commissioner Sellers asked Mr. Partington to set up these two agencies for updates.

Commissioner Sellers spoke again about Senate Bill 294 and Senate Bill 295 and noticed on the state site that the tax committee was advised to pass the bills. He thought Reno County was open about their budgets. He asked where Mr. Partington

where this was at and any suggestions on what to do? He asked if KAC was forcefully speaking for us on this issue. Mr. Partington commented Senate 294 was recommended for approval yesterday and will be going to the full Senate with amendments. He said it was a lot of work to send out notifications for a tax increase to each taxpayer. The KAC and League of Kansas Municipalities were both working hard to oppose Bill 294. This bill goes through a lot of work for notifications for the County Clerk's Office but does not change the tax increase for the taxpayer. The one change is the public hearings can be at the same time with one notification being sent. This applies to every taxing district that levies more than \$20,000 in revenue. County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan stated the school districts are exempt. Commissioner Hirst stated a hearing date was set for September 15th after our budgets and should not be considered by the State. Commissioner Bush said it will probably pass and is bad government and prepare for when it passes. Commissioner Sellers will again write a letter to Senator Berger opposing this Bill. All Commissioners would meet with Senator Berger if needed to express their displeasure with the bill.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on February 21, 2020 of \$591,616.45. Next item was change orders 2020-22, 62, 73, 77 through 97, 99, 100 through 103 as submitted. The final item on the consent agenda was to approve January 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, 2020 minutes as presented. Commissioner Sellers asked Appraiser Brad Wright to give a brief explanation of change orders. Mr. Wright gave explanation of dates and times of valuation notices on real estate. He said valuation notices go out and noted that most people want their values to go up, but then their taxes would also go up. He spoke about corrections and payment under protest on December 20th, 2019. Now personal property is based on what that person had as of January 1st of that taxing year but can be prorated when sold by letting the Appraisers Office know. He stated that trailers are not prorated. Oil and gas are valued by what is in the hole using what data they can to determine value. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Public Works Director Don Brittain met with the Board to recommend approval of a contract agreement with (KDOT) Kansas Department of Transportation for the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program (KLBIP) for the replacement of Arlington Road Bridge 26.25 (8.25 miles east of Arlington) at \$150,000;

and the removal and permanent closure of Sterling Road Bridge 3.30 (12 miles west and 2/3rd mile south of Pretty Prairie) for \$50,000. KDOT will reimburse at a rate of 90 percent with a maximum reimbursement of \$200,000, which Public Works would be receiving by meeting the bridge requirements. **Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the agreement with KDOT as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Brittain noted that Reno County was rewarded Federal Funds in the amount of \$328,841.69 from KDOT. He stated this federal fund allocation is for transportation related projects and he will use that money to offset the cost for the rehab of Nickerson Blvd. bridge, 38.50 over the Cow Creek Diversion Cannel that was now under construction. The bid price on the rehab of Nickerson Blvd. was a \$595,948.50 cost to the county and will now be \$267,106.81. Also, the KDOT Cost Share Program applied for on the 43rd Avenue Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad last fall where no funding was received, is anticipated to have a second round for applications this spring. He has chosen to make application on a 50-50 cost share for the replacement of the Arlington Road Bridge over the north fork of the Ninnescah River located on the eastside of Arlington. He continued that the bridge would have bid letting in February of 2021 with an estimated cost of \$1.9 million to replace the bridge. The bid letting this Thursday will be for Nickerson and the 43rd Avenue bridge. He would bring amounts to the agenda session next Tuesday, if the newspaper did not beat him to it.

At 9:55 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date