

February 19, 2019
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in agenda session with, Chairman Bob Bush, Commissioner Ron Hirst and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Gary Meagher, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Maggie Tonn, Bahai's of Hutchinson.

Public comments:

Ron Vincent with Carl Vincent Services met with the Board to comment on the Health Departments Waste Water System end-user cost share discussed last week. He had a few concerns; (1) was the cost for a review on a new system being paid by contractors, homeowners or manufactures and (2) also the amount of paperwork required by Reno County for septic systems. He stated that in surrounding counties he may have one or two sheets compared to about fifty pages in Reno County, (3) any licensed contractor could do the installation it was not just limited to one person, (4) not that hard to check with other counties on their processes for septic systems.

Commissioner Bush noted that probably the cost would be the homeowner's responsibility but said a cost sharing was suggested with the county maybe picking up some of that cost. He thought the estimated cost for a review was not more than \$4,000 to \$5,000.

Mr. Vincent stated that after speaking with manufacturing representatives of septic systems, ADS and Infiltrator Manufacturing, they indicated their companies would consider paying toward the cost of a review. He stated ADS had a concern that once reviewed by BG Consultants another procedure or policy would be added on to the review later. He gave an example of a system that met codes, but later after the product came in, a nitrogen procedure/policy was added in 2005.

Commissioner Sellers asked what counties Mr. Vincent worked that did not have systems reviewed. Mr. Vincent replied that several surrounding counties for instance; Kingman, McPherson, and Harvey had one or possibly two pages for an installation of

a septic system, not like Reno County who had lots of extra paperwork, in his opinion.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti commented that the ultimate goal was to protect water quality and with new science technology coming through, sometimes there were added procedures or policies like testing for nitrogen. A drafted copy for a policy on septic systems would come before the Board in the March 5th agenda session and would have a cost share analysis. The Board urged Mr. Vincent to review and further comment at that agenda session.

Commissioner comments:

Commissioner Bush requested Public Works Director David McComb give a report on the winter storm preparations. Mr. McComb stated each storm was different, so his supervisor prepared for the kind of treatment to use depending on weather reports for road conditions either during or after an event. He stated the trucks were ready to treat all county roads however bridges were the priority. He had fourteen trucks for two 10 hour shifts with fifty employees on stand by with several salt and sand stations throughout the county ready to keep them out on the 600 miles of road.

Commissioner Bush commented on a new House Bill 2273 that was introduced on Monday. The Chamber of Commerce contacted Mr. Meagher for comments. It contains requirements for wind farms which no one had brought to the Reno County Commissioners attention. He was very unhappy to be asked to scramble to vote blind on the Bill. He was not happy at all with Kansas legislative members especially five local representatives that were present at a meeting the first part of February who stated that this was a local decision, according to a newspaper article by Mary Clarkin. Mr. Bush was disappointed by Representative Joe Seiwert who had upfront knowledge of the bill and knew there was a possible NextEra wind energy farm near Pretty Prairie waiting for a Conditional Use Permit in Reno County. The Bill in his opinion was poorly written and stated it was a local call but set requirements and setbacks without knowing specific information here in Reno County. He stated, "The state had overreached, precluding local government from doing their job."

Commissioner Sellers agreed with Chairman Bush's comments and points were well made adding it was the same for the state tax lid, he felt the tax lid was not necessary. He thanked Mr. McComb for the upcoming snow removal efforts. Mr. Sellers was

contacted by a citizen who wanted the Commission to re-address the bike route in the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Hirst spoke about last Tuesday's Crime Prevention Forum where 22 people attended from several smaller towns from Turon to Haven. He stated that pamphlets were to go out in the communities and they also discussed the drug situation in Reno County.

Commissioner Bush stated the City of Hutchinson had volunteers with the Police Department. Mr. Hirst replied that the officers were going out to these communities and spreading the word on Crime Prevention by telling neighbors to keep watch in their neighborhoods since they did not have a volunteer group. Mr. Meagher said he thought Reno County had Reserve Officers. Automotive Director Kyle Berg was in the audience and said it was the Senior Patrol that checked out situations in small communities. Mr. Bush also noted that this afternoons meeting would be available on tape along with the power point presentation.

County Administrator Gary Meagher reminded the Board there would be no meeting next Tuesday, February 26th, 2019. Regarding snow removal, he noted that about four or five years ago, satellite station sites for salt and sand were located around Reno County to make it more efficient for snow removal. He also commented that Public Works was on top of the weather conditions.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on February 22, 2019 of \$347,205.83 as submitted also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2019-118, and 119. Next item on the consent agenda was to appoint Christine Vargas to serve on the Reno County Health Department Advisory Board effective 2/19/19 through 12/31/2021. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Sellers requested Mr. Baldetti explain about Ms. Vargas's recommendation. Mr. Baldetti stated Ms. Vargas had been a representative with the Domestic Abuse Center in Reno County and her name had been recommended for the advisory board as a person who would be a good lay individual in the community.

Commissioner Bush requested in the future to have documentation for appointees, and Mr. Baldetti agreed.

County Clerk Donna Patton met with the Board to recommend approval for a resolution to cancel certain county warrants. She said they received no phone calls for extra checks to be written. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve resolution **#2019-02; A RESOLUTION TO CANCEL CERTAIN COUNTY WARRANTS.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. McComb was also present to recommend approval for a tabled item from February 12, 2019 for a Noxious Weed Annual Management Plan and Eradication Progress Report. He stated this report was required by state statute to be submitted annually and the only change was in the treated acres reported to the state. Mr. McComb stated the Noxious Weed Department sold, at a discounted rate, chemicals for weed prevention to Ag producers, townships, sewer districts and to individuals. He noted on the Eradication Report the approximate \$31,000 reimbursement was for labor from the two noxious weed employees that worked for Public Works Road and Bridge. That amount was for wages paid for their services when they were not able to spray. The total expenditures for 2018 were \$82,154.85 amounting to \$14.92 per acre and noted that this was less than the 2017 amount. The actual amount without the reimbursement was \$51,265. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve both the Noxious Weed Annual Management Plan and the Eradication Progress Report as outlined by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Community Corrections Director Randy Regehr met with the Board to recommend approval for a Community Corrections Criminal Justice Information Systems Security Policy update. He stated the change was in wording for address personnel ID. The Advisory Board approved and Mr. Meagher along with Mr. O'Sullivan had reviewed the policy update. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the policy as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Human Resources Director Renee Harris met with the Board to recommend approval for an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Plan and EEO Policy Statement. She stated this was in coordination with the (JAG) Grant disbursement to Community Corrections. In an amount in excess of \$100,000, the County was required to develop an updated EEO plan and Utilization Report to be in place. The new policy would be updated into one document and added to the current policy, Section IIB page 11

was added for Policy on Language Diversity. She stated if approved today it would be added into the employee's handbook.

Commissioner Sellers noted on page 4 Section 1B the paragraph only spoke about Department Heads not the Elected Officials. Mrs. Harris replied that they could not direct elected officials to comply with policies only suggest and hope they would want to follow county policies.

County Counselor Mr. O'Sullivan explained that elected officials that held a department head position, the policy would be applied to them to follow.

Commissioner Bush suggested to approve, subject to changes being reviewed. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the EEO Plan and EEO Policy Statement with changes as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Solid Waste Supervisor Justin Bland met with the Commission to recommend approval to purchase a 2019 Caterpillar D8T Dozer from Foley Equipment for \$835,539.88. He stated they would be trading in a 2001 D8 Bulldozer for \$54,300. It had a CPT done in 2009 at 14,987 hours, then again in 2015 after 11,000 more hours. He said it currently has 34,041 hours since the last rebuild. This dozer was mainly for pushing trash but was used on various other jobs as well and noted it was their "go to machine." The Landfill dozers are specially equipped with cutters, guards and a front blade that was extra tall. Mr. Sellers asked if this was budgeted in the Capital Outlay Fund. Mr. Bland replied it had been budgeted and by doing the CPT program it saved a million dollars by using the rebuild system. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the purchase of the 2019 Caterpillar Dozer as outlined by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Meagher discussed with the Board a modification to the County's Economic Development Job Incentive Policy. He stated the policy was adopted in 2011. Per a discussion last fall by the Commission, they indicated they would like to modify the job requirement from 10 jobs with benefits, \$500.00 for \$15.00 base wage, \$1,000 for \$18.00 base wage, and \$1,800 for \$21.00 base wage. Dropping the job requirement to include smaller businesses either starting up or adding on 5 to 9 jobs with benefits adding language to allow the same base wages with an incentive of 50 percent for the 5 to 9 jobs as 10 and above.

Commissioner Hirst supported the 5 to 9 jobs based on salary and benefits stating it would help the entrepreneur groups and smaller businesses that wanted to come into the area.

Commissioner Bush supported the 5 to 9 for smaller businesses, even the ones that added 1 to 5 to their employment at \$15.00 an hour but was not in favor of the 50 percent incentive and stated he would like to see 75 to 100 percent.

Commissioner Sellers would support 5 jobs in smaller businesses, but he did not believe the incentive amount would create jobs, however he was good with 5 jobs at the 80 percent incentive. The Board agreed toward the 5 jobs at 80 percent direction and Mr. Meagher would make the changes bringing back a final draft in a couple of weeks.

Commissioner Hirst left the meeting at 10:15 am.

Automotive Director Kyle Berg, Aging/Transportation Director Barbara Lilyhorn met with the Board for their regularly scheduled meeting. Both discussed various current issues not requiring action by the Board.

At 10:45 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date