

February 21, 2017  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in agenda session with, Chairman Dan Deming, Commissioners Ron Hirst and Bob Bush, 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 Wanda Wood, Bahai's of Hutchinson.

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 24, 2017 of \$304,687.36 and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2017-336, 342 through 353, 355, 357 through 358, and 367 through 368. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Election Clerk Alisha Johnson met with the Board to recommend approval by the Clerk's Office to destroy election materials at Sonoco with Jace Bruce and Alisha Johnson as electors present to serve as witnesses. Materials to be destroyed are from the 8-5-14 Primary Election; 11-4-14 General Gubernatorial Election. **Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the destruction of election material as outlined by Ms. Johnson. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Public Works Director David McComb met with the Board to recommend approval of the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report. Mr. McComb explained the amount of chemicals sprayed each year and the financial summary of the Noxious Weed Fund sent to the Division of Agriculture.

Commissioner Hirst questioned the survey item on the report asking what that was for. Mr. McComb explained it was required to survey 10 sections of ground every year and those sections were chosen by the state. It was not done during 2016 because of the change of venue and personnel. The state determines how many acres of noxious weeds are in Kansas by this survey. Mr. Hirst asked about the contractual. Mr. McComb replied it was a

contract with other agencies; they contract with Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) to spray noxious weeds along state highways. The contractual under expenditures was to have equipment fixed or hire people to perform a service.

Commissioner Bush wanted an explanation for the ten sections and the personnel services line. Mr. McComb stated the state sends a list of the ten sections each year to be surveyed. Mr. McComb also said some of the amount shown under personnel services was 2016 salaries left over from the previous employees, two of which retired and had benefits paid out to them. He went over the previous employees; a weed director, long time weed tech, clerk and a part time employee. They currently have two full time weed supervisors that are licensed to spray weeds by the state. They may use other public works employees to assist at times. Mr. McComb stated the budgeted amount for 2017 salaries/personnel services would be considerably less than 2016.

Mr. Deming said there was a significant savings by moving the Weed Department to Public Works and personnel savings. Mr. McComb replied that he could not put an amount on the savings since they are not using the old weed building and had moved the vehicles to Public Works along with cutting personnel. **Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the Annual Noxious Weed report as described by Mr. McComb. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. McComb was also present to give explanation for the next five items on the agenda.

Mr. McComb recommended approval for the Noxious Weed 2018 Annual Management Plan briefly explaining how he modified and condensed the wording to make it easier to read and combined duplicated goals. Prior year statistics are the only changes made each year. His goal is to put them on the consent agenda since it is just a report to the state each year. Mr. Bush asked it to have three years comparison when putting the reports on the consent agenda. Mr. Hirst inquired about private property spraying **Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the 2018 Annual Management Plan as outlined by Mr. McComb. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. McComb recommended approval to declare the triangle tract of .37 acres in Sewer District #3/10 (Blue Spruce) as non-essential excess property to be sold to Mr. Wendell and Mrs.

Keri Miller for a minimal amount. He stated we just vacated Red Rock Road between the Miller property and Reno County. The fence line on the property was never used and never had need for the area. Normally when property is disposed of it is offered for bid to the public; however in our subdivision regulations under splitting property, you have to meet the minimum requirements in that zoning district. The .37 acres does not meet the requirements but the regulations do allow for boundary adjustments which is what we will be doing making that property a part of Mr. Miller's. Mr. McComb gave a brief history of the business run by Mr. Miller since it used to be on sewer property. **Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve disposal of that piece of property to Mr. Miller as outlined. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. McComb was again present to recommend approval to declare a 1969 HC-138 Truck Mounted Crane and a 1990 Caterpillar 613 C Scraper as surplus property to be sold at public auction. He added a 2001 Eaton Chip Spreader to the list of items to be auctioned. If they needed a chip spreader it would be rented instead of owned. Mr. McComb was hoping to get around \$60,000 for the equipment. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush**, to approve public auction described by Mr. McComb. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. McComb recommended approval to purchase a 2006 Terex HC80 Crane from Jayhawk Crane, Wichita, Kansas, at a cost of \$390,000. A new crane was estimated at \$650,000 and the 2006 eighty ton crane has 5,000 hours on it which is low. **Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the purchase as outlined by Mr. McComb. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. McComb finished with an update concerning bridge load inspections recently performed by Kansas Department of Transportation. He stated Kansas Department of Transportation established a wide bridge load rating program. This is the second year for the program and it was established to bring each locally owned bridge into compliance with the code of federal regulations. The state will perform a load rating on every bridge in the state. In 2016 the state was to gather all bridge file information from each county and take a sampling of load rating for each county. They load rated four bridges in Reno County; Lake Cable Road (1 mile north and 3 miles east of Arlington) mile 1990 a 40 foot wooden structure rated 10, 19, 29 was inspected and closed; 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue mile 2670 (north of Hutchinson on 69<sup>th</sup> and Yaggy Road) rating was raised from 10, 18,

24 to 20, 31, 40 tonnage concrete bridge; Woodbury Bridge (wooden structure) mile 2568 on the county line with Harvey County over the Little Arkansas River rated at 5, 10, 15 and was reduced to 4, 8, 14 tonnage; 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue bridge (over railroad tracks east of Old K-61 Hwy) mile 3380 rated at 9, 16, 24 and was reduced to 3, 6, 12 tonnage. All these bridges were on township roads and three tons is the minimum amount of weight at a legal limit and not to be closed by law. School buses cannot cross the 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue bridge because they must be rated 8 tons to cross. Public Works went out to change posting on bridges. These bridges were reviewed for load ratings with KDOT and their contractor. We had some questions and they will get back with us in two weeks. If anything changes on the 43<sup>rd</sup> bridge it would probably be closed. In 2017 twenty bridges will be load rated in Reno County from the 10 year plan with this being the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. They supply a list of twenty-five and we pick twenty. Public Works contracts with BG Consultants to inspect the bridges every 2 years unless the bridge is in such bad shape that it needs an annual inspection.

Commissioner Bush questioned how many bridges will be repaired this year. Mr. McComb replied that five new bridges were scheduled to be built and one major bridge (Woody Seat bridge) to be repaired.

Commissioner Deming asked about the 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue bridge and what it would take to rebuild the bridge. Mr. McComb went into detail of the railroads requirements to rebuild a bridge over their tracks. Mr. McComb stated there were not a lot of options on a timber bridge. He discussed right of way issues and he cautioned what we build. The estimate from BG Consultant of \$1,656,000 could be more right of way to right of way.

Sid Arpin, BG Consultants gave further explanation for three span bridges of 105 feet not the 150 feet railroad wanted. He stated that this has not been formally sent to the railroad for consideration. Mr. McComb spoke to Mike Benjamin, railroad spokesman, at length to see if there was room for negotiation.

Mr. McComb spoke about the bridge plan and its issues.

Mike Berblinger, Superintendent of USD 313, met with the Board discussing the Prairie Hills Middle School traffic that was created by changing the bus route from 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. We are bottle necked by buses and parents so we redirected departing

vehicles to 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. We extended our bus routes about fifteen minutes and that affects about fifteen routes. The people picking up or dropping off children are not abiding by the signs posted that say no parking on Lucille. Buses don't have room to get through off of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They would prefer to have the bridge over the railroad tracks at 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Old K-61 Hwy.

Tom Angel, 7616 East 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, spoke to the Board about his concern with traffic control on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He spoke about four buses trying to make a left hand turn on Lucille off of 30<sup>th</sup>. People going to work at 8:00 a.m. cannot flow. Apple Lane traffic will be impossible to get on to 30<sup>th</sup> to cross under the railroad trestle and cross K-61 Highway. He was real concerned about closing the 43<sup>rd</sup> bridge and emergency vehicles being able to get through. His opinion was that one accident could cost more than rebuilding the bridge.

Michelle Patton resident at 1505 E. 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, has a daughter who attends Prairie Hills Middle School and her concerns were for students walking home and with the extra heavy traffic crossing 30<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Bush lives in the area and he discussed the traffic problems on 43<sup>rd</sup> and Lucille Road. He stated with \$2 million to rebuild bridge; he would like to see if law enforcement would check out the situation. A lot of people pick up their children and it is a safety issue.

The Board discussed having city, school, county and township representatives address the issues on safety, traffic and parking along the road. Mr. Arpin suggested doing a traffic study whether the bridge is closed or not before deciding on any action. Mr. Meagher wanted to speak with the other agencies involved and the Board advised him to go forward with discussions by consensus.

Maintenance Director Harlen Depew and Automotive Director Kyle Berg 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 28, 2017.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reno County Clerk  
cm

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date