

February 22, 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 Willmar Harder, Buhler Mennonite Church.

There were no public comments.

There were two items added to the business section of the agenda: 7D executive session on non-elected personnel matters and 7E executive session on attorney/client contractual matters.

Mr. Friesen requested to pull item 6E from the consent agenda for a separate vote since it was a conflict of interest for him.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A through 6J excluding item 6E to be voted on separately, including the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on February 18th, 2022, totaling \$863,468.94, claims payable on February 25th, 2022 totaling \$412,006.95; and directs the Chairman to sign final minutes for January 25th, 2022 and February 8th, 2022; approve a Resolution **#2022-07: A RESOLUTION TO CANCEL CERTAIN COUNTY WARRANTS** pursuant to K.S.A. 10-815; Audit/Financial Statement Services by Adams Brown, LLC; approve Noxious Weed Annual Management Plan and Eradication Progress Report; approve Letter of Support for Stratataca - Kansas Underground Salt Museum for their Tourism Attraction Sub-Grant for Kansas (TASK) grant application; approve the purchase of five new bull mobile Litter Fences for the Solid Waste Department from Metta Technologies for \$43,240; approve a Declaration of Local Disaster from February 8, 2022 expiring February 15, 2022 due to wildfire conditions; approval for an Extension of Declaration of Local Disaster from February 16, 2022 to February 23, 2022. The consent agenda motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve consent item 6E a Fiber Lease Agreement with IdeaTek to Reno County Landfill. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0 with Mr. Friesen abstaining.

City of Hutchinson Fire Department Fire Chief Steve Beer updated the Board on the numerous wildfires. He described three fires and gave an estimated amount of property value saved from the fires. He spoke about how useful drones were with firefighting and how he would use them in the future. In March or April, he will be back with some recommendations to change the rules and regulations also to discuss proper equipment and proper station locations. Chief Beer spoke in detail about various fire related topics. Mr. Sellers questioned why most of the fires were happening. Chief Beer replied that most citizens burn not realizing that a larger tree trunk can burn up to one month, so homeowners need education on burning. He tried to hold classes and not many people attended. Mr. Friesen commented classes would be a good idea to let citizens know how to burn in the county.

Mr. Friesen stated he pushed this resolution ahead of putting it on a future agenda because of the ongoing challenges facing the county with fires. **Resolution #2022-08; A RESOLUTION RESCINDING AND REPLACING RESOLUTION #2012-40 AND DELEGATING TO THE RENO COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND THE RENO COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGER CERTAIN AUTHORITY OVER RENO COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS 3,4,6,7,8,9, RENO-KINGMAN JOINT FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1, AND RENO-HARVEY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2.** **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve adding this resolution to the agenda. Mr. Hirst said resolution #2012-40 had a lot of the same items and requested the new resolution be put on a future agenda. Mr. Friesen clarified the new resolution was about coordination and providing additional authority stating it could be changed again in the future.

Mr. Hirst requested Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar help explain the changes from resolution #2012-40 and resolution #2022-08.

Mr. Weishaar said the biggest difference between the old resolution #2012-40 and #2022-08, was 2012-40 was just a blanket authority to the Administrator. The new resolution #2022-08 spells out more in depth what the Administrator can and cannot do giving him the power to delegate authority to the Emergency Management Director to coordinate better with the fire districts. He said the bottom line was it delegated more authority from the Administrator down to Mr. Weishaar than resolution #2012-40 did and gives him teeth to make and carry out decisions.

Chief Beer commented when incidents happen Mr. Weishaar was a vital link to making decisions in the command post and is a huge part of their successes allowing them to all work together to mitigate situations.

Mr. Partington explained that the old resolution gave him general authority over fire district chiefs not the fire scenes. He explained the new resolution would give Mr. Weishaar what is needed for coordination on fire scenes with Fire Chiefs following any order issued by Reno County Emergency Director. He read number 4 from the new resolution. He explained this resolution was originally scheduled for March 8th but with recent fires Mr. Friesen had asked to move it for today.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve amendment to the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve the motion as amended by the addition of the resolution as presented. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Weishaar presented his annual report to the Board. He briefly reviewed what Emergency Management was and its history. He gave four phases of Emergency Management: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. He spoke about the local disaster declaration stating once it was in place the county was responsible for the first \$253,781.80 in damages before receiving public assistance. The State of Kansas is responsible for \$4,788,744.40 before receiving any federal assistance, there was a further disaster that could be declared if both amounts were reached, it was the presidential disaster where the federal government may reimburse up to 75 percent of the eligible expenses and the county would have to cover the other 25 percent. He also reviewed several other areas.

Reno County Correctional Facility Captain Shawn McClay recommended approval to raise the amount for reimbursement cost to house State Parole Violators. Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) requested Reno County set their daily billable rate for parole violators. He said currently KDOC reimburses Reno County \$53.00 per day to hold parole violators, this change is due to budget increases in salary budget, along with other increases in operating a jail. The maximum billable per diem rate set by KDOC is \$94.29. He stated after speaking with the Sheriff and the Administrator the per diem rate was increased to \$62.00 for Reno

County. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the per diem rate increase as discussed by Captain McClay from \$53.00 to \$62.00. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Administrator Randy Partington presented Reno County Advisory Board/Committee Guidelines. The Commission requested a policy to be in place for any Committee/Board moving forward. It stated any county affiliated board with a vacancy should arrange to post a notice of the vacancy and an application for the Board position to the County's website and social media at least 90 days prior to filling the vacancy. All applications to be available to the Board of Commissioner's for review prior to appointments being made. The Board agreed by consensus to approve the administrative process for this policy as outlined by Mr. Partington. Mr. Friesen thought they should follow this policy from now on even if it delayed some candidates. Mr. Partington explained RCAT and Health Department applications that had January term positions. March has Juvenile Advisory Board with one opening and one reappointment. Mr. Sellers stated since the departments did not know about the change it would be fair to let the past applicants be appointed.

At 9:57 the meeting recessed for three minutes.

At 10:00 a.m. Mr. Friesen moved for the commission to enter into executive session, starting at 10:00 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. with the county administrator and the county counselor to discuss the subject of performance of one or more county non-elected county employee with the executive session justified by the need to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel in confidence. **Mr. Hirst seconded the motion.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 10:15 a.m. Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to extend the executive session for 10-minutes until 10:25 a.m. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 10:25 a.m. Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to go into executive session for ten minutes 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. 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 the meeting returned to regular open session with no binding action to be taken as a result of the executive sessions and continued with the agenda session.

Mr. Partington mentioned half of the monthly department reports were attached in the agenda packet. In the month of March Reno County will be the first quarter host for the Quad Counties of Harvey, Butler, Sedgwick, and Reno County. He asked for dates the Commissioners would be available to schedule the meeting for lunch and discussion. Mr. Sellers suggested a tour of the new scale house at Solid Waste. Mr. Hirst said they usually have lunch and discussion at the tour location and use the new conference room, maybe a Friday. The Board agreed to set up a Friday date if possible. The next work session, meet with Chief Beer and Mr. Weishaar to discuss the fires on March 22nd or March 29th after the agenda session. Mr. Friesen suggested the 22nd reserving the 29th for ARPA discussions. The Board agreed to schedule the work study after March 22nd agenda meeting.

Mr. Hirst gave a thank you to sponsors and teachers who have active FFA program. They spend a lot of time with students training tomorrows leaders in all vocations.

Mr. Sellers attended with Mr. Hirst and Mr. Partington on Monday, February 14th, watching the first truck to cross the new scales at Solid Waste facility. He was impressed with the facility they did a good job that will last for 50 years. He gave negative comments regarding the resolution today that got added to the agenda, the Administration needs to work hard to get those items in the packets for the public to view before they get approved by the Board. Fire Chief today was thankful to City Public Works for working on the fires. He wanted Mr. Partington to speak with Public Works Director Don Brittain and the Chief about assisting with fires in the county.

Mr. Friesen responded about items on the agenda, he had asked for the resolution to be added and approved today since it needed an emergency response, he appreciated the reminder. He mentioned points made to him about citizens not fully aware of burn piles, they should have more advice on burning, may have to have our Chief Fire Manager address more education on fires and burning. Recent internal comments were made related to the wage study. Mr. Partington did a great job on the study process, and we acted on it which was important. He made several other comments on wages.

At 10:50 a.m. the meeting adjourned into the work study session following the regular agenda meeting.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date