

March 17, 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, 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 Pastor Henry Blickhahn, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Commissioner Sellers moved item #8 the COVID-19 update from Health Department Director Nick Baldetti. He reported on the community preparedness for the virus stating the situation for the county, state and national environment has shifted since last week. He said they are receiving huge amounts of information, meetings, planning, and response in a short amount of time evolving very quickly. Reno County has been working closely with Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Kansas Department of Education, Emergency Management, and the Governor's Office. With the recommendations from these agencies, Reno County adopted the social distance of six feet (if you are within that six-foot bubble stay under 10 minutes), social gathering are under fifty people and should be using your best judgement. Governor Kelly on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> strongly suggested a one-week closure of all public schools statewide in conjunction with the spring break, making it a two-week closure for all schools.

Commissioner Sellers thanked Mr. Baldetti for his and his staffs work. He asked about the walk through at the hospital. Mr. Baldetti said the walk thru went very well and noted the hospital was prepared for COVID-19 patients, putting in restrictions and taking steps to limit visitors to one contact. Mr. Sellers asked about nursing homes. Mr. Baldetti stated the Center of Medicare Services made the decision to close the doors to visitors Thursday or Friday last week for safety reasons as the elderly are at a higher risk. Does Reno County have testing capability.

Mr. Baldetti said yes, the number that are matching for testing is appropriate for the resources we have, but if nothing changes, we will run out. If you are showing symptoms call your

primary physician first and they will ask questions. Depending on your answers and after you are approved by the state, you will get tested. Mr. Baldetti answered several questions the Commission had concerning COVID19. He talked about testing and where information would be posted for the public to keep them informed with the correct information since the media has been reporting some misinformation.

Susan Helten, 10408 E. Smoots Creek Road, Cheney, KS questioned where the commission was at after the Planning Board voted for approval to proceed with zoning the southeast portion of Reno County. County Administrator Randy Partington stated he spoke with County Planner Mark Vonachen who would have it on the agenda next Tuesday for action.

Angela Mans, 14918 E. Maple Grove Road, Mt. Hope, KS thanked everyone for protecting communities with the COVID-19. She wanted the Commission to do a moratorium on wind energy. She asked them to change regulations to keep residents safe and time to get the safeguards in place through the regulations. Commissioner Hirst stated that on April 16<sup>th</sup> the Planning & Zoning may have a discussion on this issue however, there could or could not be changes made.

Commissioners comments:

Commissioner Hirst thanked all fire fighters and departments responding to the large fire south of Turon, Todd Strain said all went well.

County Administrator Randy Partington asked about the Quad County meeting taking place or not. Commission decided to keep planning on the meeting unless otherwise notified. Fire Bugle had not heard back from Chiefs in Fire District #6 and #8, so the Commissioners wanted a request sent out to please get this done. The Planning Commission will hold a meeting concerning the southeast zoning issue on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at the Public Works facility in South Hutchinson with no public comment.

**Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on March 20th, 2020 of \$410,608.99 and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2020-127 through 130 as submitted. Resolution #2020-09; APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUEST BY FERMAN AND KAREN EASH TO ESTABLISH A RESTAURANT AT 4918 E. IRISH CREEK**

**ROAD.** Last item on the consent agenda directs the chairman to sign minutes for February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as submitted. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Sellers read a proclamation to proclaim March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as "Taking Down Tobacco Day" with Candance Davidson, Health Educator with the Reno County Health Department accepting the proclamation.

Commissioner Bush requested Sheriff Campbell be present for the Board to ask questions. The Board by consensus moved item #9 to after department updates. It is for the construction contract with Putnam Concrete Enterprises LLC for the excavation and reconstruction of an 85' X 100' asphalt slab at the firing range at a cost of \$34,000. The county will pay \$17,000 of the cost and split with the City of Hutchinson who will pay the contractor \$17,000.

Solid Waste Director Megan Davidson met with the Board for her regularly scheduled monthly meeting. She gave a brief overview of various issues not requiring action by the Board.

Sheriff Darrian Campbell gave a presentation answering questions from the Board. He stated there was a contract with a five-year renewal where both the city and county would maintain the maintenance of the firing range. The Sheriff has budgeted \$15,000 annually for range improvements. The current building was FOP funded and the roof was updated several years ago. They have a long-range plan for multiple agencies to use the facility.

At 10:40 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
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Date

