

March 22, 2022  
Reno County Annex  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held an 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 Becky Stark, Buhler United Methodist Church.

Director of Public Health Karla Nichols read the Proclamation for National Public Health Week of April 4 thru 10, 2022. Commissioner Friesen presented the proclamation to Ms. Nichols stating he recognized all the hard work and appreciated what her department does for the community. Mr. Sellers commented when he came on the commission, he did not know how much the Health Department did for Reno County citizens. He wanted to pass along his thanks to staff. Mr. Hirst appreciated the working relationship between the Health Department and the Commissioners, and thanked Ms. Nichols and her staff.

There were no public comments and no additions to the agenda.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to** approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A through 6J, including the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on March 18th, 2022, totaling \$436,985.26, claims payable on March 25th, 2022, totaling \$389,814.01; approval for **Resolution #2022-09; A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A COUNTY APPRAISER** to appoint Michael Plank for a term commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2025; approve a renewed application for a Cereal Malt Beverage License for Hutchinson Recreation Commission DBA Fun Valley Sports Complex for ON PREMISES Sells in the amount of \$125.00. Mr. Sellers commented that he was a Hutchinson Recreation Board member however there was not a conflict; to approve BOCC minutes from February 22<sup>nd</sup>, February 22<sup>nd</sup> Work Study Session, March 1<sup>st</sup>, and March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, approval of a Caterpillar Certified Powertrain Rebuild from Foley Equipment on Solid Waste Equipment #321 a 623G Scraper in the amount of \$432,702.12; approve an agreement between Reno County and JEO Consulting Group, Inc. for Professional Services for 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge repairs over Cow Creek Drainage; to approve Public Works purchase of a 2022 ¾ ton Dodge Ram 2500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4X4 from Allen Samuels,

Hutchinson, Kansas, for a cost of \$45,711.00; to approve Planning Case #2023-15 a request by Jesse Keim for a conditional use permit to establish a manufacturing facility to construct kitchen cabinets and other wood products. The property is located at 11203 S. Obee Road which is at the southwest corner of E. Greenfield Road and S. Obee Road; approve Planning Case #2022-01 a request by Jason & Christy West to rezone approximately 20.69 acres of land from R-1 Rural Residential District to AG Agricultural District. The property is located at 303 N. Mayfield Road which is at the southwest corner of N. Mayfield Road and E. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue; approve permission to purchase two (2) used vehicles to be used as unmarked cars for the Sheriff's Office detective Division at a not to exceed cost of \$39,000 for both vehicles as presented by staff. The consent agenda motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Conservation District Manager Chloe Gehring gave a brief history of the Conservation District serving Reno County for 75 years. She made a presentation of the 2023 Budget to the Board. She stated the Reno County Conservation District was requesting \$2,500 more, making it \$50,000 for FY2023 which was an increase from previous years. She reviewed seven different services and money that was cost shared from the State of Kansas. The Conservation District owns equipment that can be rented in place of chemicals, grass seed sales, and fencing supplies.

Mr. Sellers had a couple of questions for Ms. Gehring. He asked where did the Conservation District get their Tech funds from? Ms. Gehring replied they were from grant dollars. Mr. Sellers asked about other groups that do similar programs as the Conservation does, how do you not overlap something. Ms. Gehring stated that we are a co-located NRCS service center. The Cheney Water Shed is a project of the district however it has a different footprint and serve five counties, and the Conservation District serves the whole of Reno County. She is the only employee of the Conservation District.

Mr. Hirst encouraged a tour at the Cheney Lake Water Shed. He encouraged the Commission to attend a Cheney event where they talked about crops and cost sharing offensive. NRCS asked to participate in fire mitigation. He thanked them for help with Senator Moran where they provided information.

Mr. Friesen thanked her for her presentation. AG is one of the pillars of the economy in Reno County. He encouraged her to do more education of county residents with fire and sewer efforts.

Maintenance/Purchasing Director Harlen Depew reviewed the change order in the amount of \$928,440.80 from Pishny Restoration for additional repairs to the courthouse dome. He said the concrete cap rests on top of steel tresses and then the limestone is on top of that. A large discussion and explanation with Mr. Depew and the Board over inspections and repairs recommended by the different engineers. The Board consensus was if the insurance company pays the claim, to give authorization for Mr. Partington to proceed with the work. If the county has to pay, it will need Commissions approval. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the change order not to exceed the amount of \$928,440.80 from Pishny Restoration for additional repairs to the courthouse dome as presented. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2 to 1, with Mr. Friesen opposing. The Board requested Mr. Depew keep the company moving in a timely matter.

Mr. Depew was also present for his annual update giving a review of the past year. He said the current staff did the best they could with the workload. Mr. Friesen suggested looking into contracting labor to help.

Mr. Hirst questioned County Attorney Hoffman and Mr. Depew if a change order came thru could you add a penalty clause. Mr. Hoffman explained the legal aspect of a contract and will review it. Mr. Friesen questioned the cost of renting scaffolding and asked Mr. Depew to check into the cost.

County Administrator Randy Partington gave his report to the Board. He had half of the department monthly reports. The Board briefly discussed the Solid Waste New Policy with high winds. Mr. Friesen mentioned having media coverage come out to the Landfill to witness the trash issue. Mr. Partington reminded the Board of the March 29<sup>th</sup> ARPA meeting at 9:00 a.m. and said it would be recorded. He introduced the new Appraiser Michael Plank who gave a brief history of himself. The Board and staff welcomed him to Reno County.

Mr. Hirst commented on an article in The Hutch Post about an appreciation dinner at the VFW this Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> between 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm in honor of Vietnam Veterans who will eat free at the all-American dinner. Senator Marshall had a lot of useful information given. FSA requirement applications can call 620-669-8161 on fencing questions. Good representation from Harvey County, Reno County, Kansas Forest Service and County Fire Districts. Mr. Hirst attended a Stepping up place meeting.

Mr. Sellers as a County Commissioner and individual was disappointed with the reaction of the local FSA agent when a request was made to extend burn dates. The FSA agent replied to the request to extend burn dates stating those dates were made in Washington DC and he couldn't change them. Senator Marshall needed to help ranchers/farmers in their time of need, he said it was poor government. The Board briefly discussed a summer burn plan.

Mr. Friesen agreed with the response for help on extending burn dates. Senator Moran sent apologies as he was in Poland assisting there. Senator Marshall communicated to them by Mr. Partington again with request for dates. He received emails about the Solid Waste closures. Dusty Tocha sent a very long email on fire/burning. Septic systems came up in his email box, deferred to Mr. Partington and should now come to the Commission level. An email was received about a property in the Medora area for junk cars and how to handle the situation.

At 10:40 a.m. the meeting recessed for a 20-minute break and reconvened at 11:00 a.m. for the special study session.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
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Date