

March 23, 2021
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the agenda session with Chairman Ron Hirst, Commissioner Daniel Friesen, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present. Commissioner Ron Sellers attended via zoom.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Kim Biery, Trinity United Methodist Church.

Commissioner Hirst commented that two weeks ago the Board did not know what was happening with SB40, it has now passed. All Commissioners have read what Sedgwick County was doing regarding the mask mandate. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to add for discussion in the business section for the mask mandate exemption for Reno County. Mr. Hirst added it as item 7D on the business agenda. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

There were no public comments. Revision to the agenda: Mr. Hirst requested item D on the consent agenda for the Public Works Broadband Pole Policy revision be deleted for a proper definition since it should be utility not broadband.

After reading all items on the consent agenda Mr. Hirst asked to take off for discussion item 6G for Public Works Oversize/Overweight Haul Loads Policy Adoption. He gave a brief explanation on item 6I Proposal from Hammel Scale to relocate the current scale to save money.

Mr. Friesen moved, to remove from the consent agenda items 6E Public Works Buried Utilities Policy Revision, 6F County Road Entrance and Culvert Policy Revision, 6G Oversize/Overweight Haul Loads Policy Adoption be discussed as separate items. **Mr. Sellers seconded**, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of 6A, B, C, H, I. The Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on March 19th, 2021 of \$574,198.35 and claims payable on March 26th, 2021 of \$306,774.57 as submitted. Next on the consent agenda was a Cereal Malt Beverage License for Hutchison Recreation Commission DBA Fun Valley Sports Complex. Public Works' purchase of a 4,000-gallon water tank from Niece Equipment at a cost of \$26,800. Solid Waste's purchase of a 2017 CAT 330FL Excavator from Foley Equipment for \$212,000. A

Proposal from Hammel Scale to relocate the current scale at Solid Waste to the new scale house location; and the purchase of a new, additional scale at a total cost of \$114,075.

Commissioner Sellers asked for clarification on item 6I. Mr. Partington replied that when Solid Waste Director Megan Davidson researched and spoke with the engineer and contractor, both agreed it would be beneficial to move the current scale since it still had useful life. She found moving the current scale was a cost saving to the county instead of purchasing two new scales. The motion was approved by a roll call vote 3-0.

The Board started discussing Public Works items on the consent agenda starting with 6E the Public Works Buried Utilities Policy Revision. After speaking with staff Mr. Friesen was concerned this was a regulatory issue instead of policy and asked if approval was needed by the Board or was just simply policy changes with department approval not the commission.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan addressed the question stating it was most important to have the County Commission approval on this document. The policy was recommended and drafted by the Public Works Department Director and any revisions are prepared by him which had been years ago prepared by the county engineer. He stated that one change was the county engineer, which Reno County no longer employees an engineer but is replaced by the Public Works Director. Primary duty was for Mr. Brittain to ensure right-of-way and safety, policies should have Mr. Brittain signature and put the commission signatures also.

Commissioner Hirst stated that we approve policies if someone asks, then we are aware and rely on department heads expertise. Commission Sellers stated it was a better approach for the commission to approve a policy instead of department heads approval alone.

Item F Public Works County Road Entrance and Culvert Policy revision was not discussed.

Item G Public Works Oversize/Overweight Haul Loads Policy Adoption. Mr. Hirst discussed the overweight limits, stating he tagged his semi-trucks with 85,500 pounds not the current policy 80,000 pounds. Mr. Brittain replied that the maximum of 80,000 was from decades ago and changing the maximum gross weight to 85,500 was okay with him since we have a different road system

now for legal loads. **Mr. Hirst moved**, to approve 6E, 6F as discussed and amend 6G with the following change, the Reno County Public Works Department Policy Oversized/Overweight Haul Loads in paragraph as per Reno County Resolution 95-25; A vehicle in combination or combination of vehicles should be considered overweight when a maximum gross weight exceeds 80,000, he would strike the 80,000 and put in place 85,500, **Mr. Sellers seconded**. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Hutchinson Community Foundation Director of Strategic Initiatives Kari Mailloux gave an overview on the foundations mission. She spoke about the Reno County Health Departments role and continued assistance to the community, congratulating them on their accreditation. She talked about how the non-profit partners worked together in 2020 to get through the pandemic. She spoke about "No Wrong Door" and childcare providers, and "rallyreno.org", thanking the commission for their support.

The Board thanked the Foundation for their efforts in our community and was impressed with their help with partners with the COVID-19 and beyond and thanked them for their presentation today.

Public Works Director Don Brittain gave an update to the Board on 2021 major projects. He spoke about grants on road and bridge projects, KDOT agreements, and other various projects and issues.

Health Department Director Karla Nichols introduced Dr. Scott Pauly. He thanked the commission for their support these last months. He spoke about being in a better position now than last year. Vaccines are our best defense and spoke more on mask mandates asking our community to be respectful of others and to continue hand washing and social distancing.

Interim Health Officer Karen Hammersmith stated that they believe and support wearing masks, social distancing, and hand washing along with staying home when you are sick have slowed the virus. They are asking everyone to continue these until the immunizations get distributed in the community. She stated they would appreciate everyone getting the vaccine when it is available to them.

The Board had a lengthy discussion on the mask mandate and whether it had strong enough evidence data to support wearing

masks. Mr. Partington stated a resolution was prepared by Mr. O'Sullivan same as last July's resolution and was available today that opts Reno County out of the Governor's Mask Mandate. They also briefly mentioned that SB40 was waiting for a majority vote.

Mr. O'Sullivan clarified the resolution opting out of the Governor's Executive Order 20-52 and 20-68 and read part of the EO and said that our resolution on mask mandate wording would be the same as when Reno County opted out on July 2, 2020.

Mr. Sellers questioned the legal procedure for discussion items added to the agenda, could they be voted on for action. He was not in favor of action until March 30, 2021. Chairman Hirst replied that it had been done before so the answer was yes, it could have action taken today with a vote.

Health Department Director Karla Nichols introduced Megan Gottschalk Assistant Director of Population Services, Karen Hammersmith Health Officer and Assistant Director Clinical Services, Bethany Jantzen Accountant for the Health Department.

Mrs. Nichols proceeded to explain the three areas for discussion today. 1) Community Health Assessment and the Health Improvement Plan. She gave a summary overview of the community identifying health needs and plan. It is a plan that is a living breathing detailed document that is used daily. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve this Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan as presented by Mrs. Nichols. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mrs. Nichols explained the Grant Application to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. These grants are applied for annually and are founding grants, then mentioned several grants and the state formula operational amount. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve grant application for Kansas Department of Health and Environment as presented by Mrs. Nichols. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mrs. Nichols lastly explained the Accreditation Awarded by the Public Health Accreditation Board to the Reno County Health Department. Ms. Jantzen, Mrs. Gottschalk, and Mrs. Hammersmith have worked very hard for the last four years for this accreditation. This means they have standards to abide to and are here for the community's public health. The licensing board sent a letter from their staff and Board of Directors on

accreditation. Board of Commissioners thanked them for their hard work and accreditation.

Commissioner Sellers questioned Mrs. Gottschalk about the New Beginnings detox facility. Mrs. Gottschalk replied they would be working with substance abuse partners.

Mr. Partington gave his report to the Board going over a couple of items. He wanted to set a date in April for the Five Bugle presentation on a Thursday and the Board was available and agreed on Thursday, April 29th at 9:00 a.m. The presentation could take an hour or several hours and they could have it in the Commissioners Chambers or in the Annex Conference Room. He brought up the Federal money coming to Reno County and how Townships will be receiving money from COVID-19 but was not sure of the process. He gave estimates of thousands of dollars coming to townships and Reno County would receive twelve million but noted that there were guidelines to follow, or the money would have to be returned. Cities will receive monies also.

Mr. Partington stated that Shonda sent out an email yesterday to Department Heads regarding the Canon Copiers lease agreements and asking what need they would have for bids. Since the cost was estimated to rise annually by \$50,000 and stated that this would be an increase to each department. Mr. Friesen encouraged continual reduction in copies and use technology upgrades using the COVID money.

An emailed copy has been sent to commissioners on the CRF money of \$12.6 million that states how the money was spent and accounted for with reports sent to the state. He briefly went over the presentation of amounts on the screen.

Commissioner Sellers appreciated the hard work by John Deardoff, Gary Meagher and Leslie Roederer and stated that it was a positive, positive, job they did on the CRF monies noting that it was Randy Partington's suggestion to hire them.

Mr. Friesen asked to have them engaged again with additional funding. Mr. Partington will ask them to help with the \$12 million we will receive stating that the three of them made it work last time. He stated that we have two and half years to spend the money.

Mr. Partington asked the Board for the effective date on resolution 2021-07 to opt out of the Governor's mask mandate that was approved today. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr.**

Friesen, to complete resolution 2021-07 by inserting the effective date and time as March 24, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:07 p.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 30th, 2021.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date