

March 26, 2019
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in agenda session with, Chairman Bob Bush, Commissioner Ron Hirst and Commissioner Ron Sellers, 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 Pastor Jeff Slater, First United Methodist Church.

Public comments: none

Commissioner comments:

Administrator Gary Meagher did a follow up from last week regarding the Pretty Prairie Wind Energy public notices sent out to property owners. He stated that the county sends out various communications and for this situation it was a "Notice of Public Hearing" with a copy published in the Hutchinson News to notify the general public in the county. He went on to say in this case the same notice was sent as published to property owners within 1000 feet of the proposed towers in the NextEra conditional use permit application. The letter contained the specific location, what the public hearing was about, time, date, and who to contact and how to get more information about the hearing or project requested for re-zoning. Notices were sent out March 4th, 2019, and the legal notice was published on March 6th, 2019 and noted that there were no complaints until last week. Reno County Citizens for Quality of Life Group, LLC sent an email the same day as the agenda meeting to Mr. Mark Vonachen. It stated that the letters sent out were confusing to them, which was the first notice of a problem. He then showed information that was on the county website now. He went through a slide presentation of what and where information could be found on the website including several places to find maps and turbine locations. He finished with, they used the same format as with all Planning and Zoning cases because it satisfies the legal requirement.

Mr. Meagher commented that there was one county planner and he was trying his best to make sure information was getting out as soon as possible with the limited staffing. He said Mr. Vonachen was having to review all information and reports and

was limited by time and resources. Mr. Meagher then commented that Reno County sent out 154 notices and NextEra sent out all notices to the un-zoned area residents stating that the statutory requirements for sending out notices was met.

The Board agreed the information and maps were great tools showing where the NextEra towers would be located.

Public Works Director David McComb was in the audience and commented that he and County Planner Mark Vonachen would answer technical questions. They have two staff members available to assist as needed for the large volume of paperwork coming in.

There was one addition to the agenda; transfer of \$75,000 from Register of Deeds Tech Fund to the County Tech Fund.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on March 29, 2019 of \$201,978.40 as submitted also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2019-141 through 146, and 148. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. McComb requested the Board move item 7a to the bottom of the agenda to wait for John Riggins, PE with Kirkham Michael to arrive.

Human Resources Director Renee Harris met with the Board to recommend approval for an Employment Separation Policy. She stated that the county has a current policy in place, however it is now in one policy with changes under notice to leave employment. This policy requires a 10-day notice from an employee to voluntarily leave the counties employment or that employee would forfeit their accrued leave payout. The notice must be received by the HR office at least 9 days in advance in paper or email form.

The policy also addresses employees who have already retired under KPERS and come back to work for the county after retirement. The rules with KPERS limits the employee to earn \$25,000 a year maximum salary then a 30 percent employer paid "fee" is required and submitted to KPERS versus the regular deduction. The 30 percent fee is subject to every single dollar paid to the employee after reaching the \$25,000 limit. When a Working After Retirement employee decides to leave the county, we could be subject to the same 30 percent fee on the balance of their PLT or Sick Leave which could easily top \$10,000.

Any Reno County retiree on or after today's date, that falls under the "Working After Retirement" situation, will not be eligible for payout of accrued PLT or Sick Leave upon separation of employment. Three employees are currently retired county workers and came back to work for the county. She stated that they will be grandfathered in. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the Employment Separation Policy as outlined by Mrs. Harris. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. Commissioner Bush asked if the 10-days were calendar or business. Mrs. Harris replied they would be calendar and stated that most employees try to give two weeks' notice.

Mrs. Harris also gave explanation for the Workers Compensation and Safety Policy. This policy combines current regulations and procedures into one document, so employees don't have to look in multiple policies when they have an accident or injury on the job. There was one revision to the policy on page 2, item #2 under "In the Event of a Workplace Injury". She said employees are not entitled to consider time off to attend medical appointments including the date of the injury, as time worked. The employees can use Sick Leave to cover approved appointments, then PLT once Sick is exhausted if the employee has not been approved for TTD. She said some departments were handling this differently so this policy will ensure all supervisors and employees are following the same expectation. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the Workers Compensation and Safety Policy as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mrs. Harris also presented for approval for the DOT/FTA Policy and Procedures for Reno County Department of Public Transportation (RCAT). She stated this was an annual renewal and the only change for 2019 was in reference to the use of Medical Marijuana and CBD oil on page 3, paragraphs 4 and 5. Paragraph #4 The Federal Government and the Department of Transportation (DOT) do not recognize Medical Marijuana prescriptions or it's recreational use. Federal Law always supersedes State Law and the county will follow the Federal Government regulations and guidelines. Use will not be allowed by the county's employees, individuals, drivers, operators and or contractors to be employed or perform work at any of the County's locations. Paragraph #5 claiming the use of CBD oil will not be considered a medical excuse for a positive marijuana test. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to approve the DOT/FTA policy as outlined by Mrs. Harris. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Registrar of Deeds Michelle Updegrove met with the Board to recommend approval to transfer \$75,000 from the ROD Technology Fund to the County Tech Fund. She stated the ROD Tech fund receives approximately \$60,000 each year and as of February 28th the balance was close to \$258,000. The practice in past years was to use the transferred funds to help with other county technology projects.

Mr. Meagher noted funds come from the Register of Deeds filing fees and benefit the Treasurer and Clerk's Office Tech funds per statute. The Register of Deeds is permitted to transfer any excess funds that are not needed for technology to the County Tech Fund providing it is used for technology or upgrades. The current County Tech Fund has a balance of \$87,000 making the total after the transfer \$162,000. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to approve the transfer of \$75,000 from Register of Deeds Tech Fund to the County Tech Fund as discussed. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Sellers questioned if the tech funds could be used to improve the GIS map system. In his opinion it was difficult and not user friendly for citizens to get the information needed.

Register of Deeds Michelle Updegrove, Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar met with the Board for their regularly scheduled meeting. Both discussed various current issues not requiring action by the Board.

Public Works Director David McComb met with the Board to recommend approval for an FY2021 High Risk Road Sign Project Grant. He said that last year they applied for this grant and did not receive it. This project is in Reno County east of Hwy 14. KDOT will do an October letting for the project in 2020 and start the project in 2021 checking signage on all county roads making sure they are up to MUTCD standard codes. He said missing signs will be installed and if needed, existing signs will be relocated to comply with current standards. This project is 100 percent funded by KDOT and once approved by KDOT, a resolution will need to be signed. Mr. McComb said this would provide exact sign information for their computer location. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to approve the High-Risk Road Sign Project as outlined by Mr. McComb and requested the Chairman's signature. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. McComb met with the Board for his regularly scheduled meeting. He discussed various current issues not requiring action by the Board.

Mr. Meagher addressed Commissioners Sellers question about the GIS map. He received an email from Information Services Director Mike Mathews who has been working with Tyler Technology on the same type of system Johnson County has for GIS. Once they get done setting up Johnson County, they will move down to us to make our system more user friendly. The cost will be approximately \$1700 per year. He will report back to the Commission when that will take place.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan noted in the vouchers today there was a payment for the Reno Kingman Joint Fire District #1 FRA (Fireman's Relieve Association). He explained each of the fire districts is entitled to form an FRA. He noted that this is not an organization the Commission has any oversight. He further stated that not every fire district has one in Reno County. It is an association that by law, provides benefits to fire fighters and responders. This is done when the association wishes to expend some of its revenue, which its revenue comes from the Kansas Department of Insurance. He discussed the coverage and benefits for the Fireman's Relieve Association.

At 10:30 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date