

March 30, 2021
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Ron Kyker, Countryside Baptist Church.

Commissioner Hirst had an opening comment about the command center from the recent fires. He was highly impressed with the excellent job by everyone involved. Mr. Friesen echoed thanks to fire personnel and staff.

There were no public comments.

There were two additions to the agenda: addition of an executive session for 30-minutes on an attorney/client matter. Discussion of continuation of opting out of the April 1st mask mandate, putting it in the commissioner reports.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of 6A. The Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on April 2, 2021 of \$474,866.62 as presented. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar met with the Board to recommend approval for Resolution 2021-08; A RESOLUTION RENEWING A PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR RENO COUNTY, KANSAS. He stated the Governor's Disaster Declaration was set to expire on May 28th, 2021. He was requesting a June 30th, 2021 renewal date putting it approximately 90 days from today to get more people vaccinated if they want to be and hope they would not have to extend it again. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to approve the resolution as discussed by Mr. Weishaar. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Weishaar gave the Board an overview of the fires that happened in Reno County. He stated that citizens and businesses were bringing donations and stated that all agencies worked well

together including a tanker at the airport they used to help control the fires.

Interim Human Resources Director Helen Foster and County Administrator Randy Partington met with the Board to recommend approval on an Optional Extension of Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) and Emergency Family & Medical Leave (EFMLA) Mrs. Foster stated this change came from the American Rescue Plan Act passed into law on March 11th due to go into effect on April 1st, 2021 and noted that this is an optional extension. She discussed the circumstances these could be used for and how many hours the employee could take, such as going to get a vaccine or recovery from being vaccinated or due to COVID testing or sickness. They are waiting for clarification on the expanded FMLA. She explained the differences of both. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen**, approved as outlined by Mrs. Foster for the Extension of Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Emergency Family & Medical Leave. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Community Corrections Director Randy Regehr recommended approval for the Community Corrections' FY22 Kansas Department of Corrections Juvenile Services Reinvestment Grant Application. He spoke about the Justice Reinvestment Grants. This grant was in year two of a 3-year grant paying for a full-time licensed addiction counselor and a part-time mentor and he stated the SAC program was provided and open to all children in the community. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen**, to approve the Community Corrections FY22 Kansas Department of Corrections Juvenile Services Reinvestment Grant as presented by Mr. Regehr. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Regehr was also present to recommend approval for the Community Corrections FY22 Kansas Department of Corrections Comprehensive Plan Grant. This grant funds their adult supervision program and he spoke about goals, budget summary, Horizons, and Oxford housing. He explained Community Corrections revenues are grant funded not funded by Reno County, however Reno County provides a wide range of services and it is an alternate to prison. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, approved Corrections Comprehensive Plan Grant as outlined by Mr. Regehr. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Solid Waste Director Megan Davidson met with the Board to make a presentation for possible action today on the Solid Waste Fees. She introduced SCS Engineers Director of Management

Services Vita Quinn and Project Manager Kellyn Modlin along with SCS Engineers Vice President/Senior Project Director Monte Markley P.G. Ms. Davidson gave a background overview of fees stating the landfill was currently 100 percent user fee based. The presentation was from a Solid Waste Study and Financial Model update by SCS. The study found that the current revenues were not sufficient to fund all of the landfills operating, capital, and debt service requirements throughout the 5-year planning period through 2026 while maintaining adequate reserves. C&D tipping fees per ton was a topic of discussion charging \$10 per ton to potentially offset the need for user fee increases. SCS had two scenarios, 1) based on current operations there could be a one-time increase from \$96 to \$109 until 2026, 2) C&D charges a tipping fee of \$10 per ton would generate approximately \$320,000 additional revenue in 2022 and in addition to the one-time increased user fee of \$102 until 2026. Ms. Davidson and SCS were recommending the County consider adopting a \$10.00 C&D fee per ton and a one-time Reno County user fee increase of 6.25 percent in 2022, to \$102.00. The Board discussed user fees on the tax statements, single resident fees versus multiple unit fees, possible demo/destruction charges and commercial user fees along with fees from other counties compared to Reno County's fees. Ms. Davidson clarified \$10 per ton or a minimum of \$10 or flat fee per truck making a policy decision or less than a ton fee.

The Board had a lengthy discussion on fees.

Ms. Quinn clarified this report, and the annual updates are what SCS call a revenue sufficiency analysis. It does ask whether Reno County Solid Waste would have enough money to pay their bills now through the next five years, if not what do they do to generate more revenue. That is why SCS looked at taking the pressure off the user fees. This study was not meant to deal with the broader picture for whether charging these fees on the tax statement was a fair way of creating revenue and would not be reflected in this analysis.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve scenario #2 providing the gross dollars to have a revenue sufficiency for the landfill operation as presented with the notice that allocations within the modeling fee may change.

Ms. Davidson explained along with Mr. Markley the efficiency and cost savings at the landfill with work they do instead of subcontracting it out along with having a replacement plan for equipment and other measures they take to cut expenses. Mr. Markley stated the model considered the avoided cost and cost

savings in it to not raise the user fees even higher than purposed.

Commissioner Friesen inquired about the \$5 to \$6 million cash in reserve at the Solid Waste facility. Mr. Markley said the reserve was based on a state formula and was mandated in case the landfill ever closes and would be used to maintain the gas wells for the required 30 years.

Ms. Quinn clarified the cost savings had been addressed and she would be the person to answer any questions since she worked on the model. She stated any cost savings that were recognized from reduced costs from projects at the landfill were incorporated in this study including testing payments being made over time. She explained financial versus operational. She recommended moving to tipping fees but after a tipping fee study, other issues got worked out before it could be implemented.

Mr. Sellers for the question called before the motion that was seconded by Mr. Hirst. The question was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. Now Mr. Hirst said was the vote on the motion with a roll call vote, Friesen no, Sellers and Hirst yes. The motion was approved by the vote of 2-1 with Mr. Friesen opposed.

Mr. Hirst spoke about giving our local contractors the opportunity to bid on construction projects. Mr. Partington will work on this in the future. Mr. Hirst asked about the 160 acres for the landfill. Ms. Davidson replied they need to use all the dirt they could use for the storm water drainage, it will all be used.

Mr. Partington mentioned having the audio/video done in the Annex Conference room by the first meeting in April, saying that IT will test it to make sure it works before the agenda meeting. Next, the Human Resources Director position closes at the end of today. He said he received nine applications and is scheduling interviews after accessing the applications. He was told by Mr. Depew that the February natural gas bill was \$12,676.82 which was 10 times higher than same time last year. Then last he said he would be on the KWBW radio morning show tomorrow. Last week there was a meeting with the architect for options of where the commission room would be on first floor, second for offices, fourth and fifth floor renovations and get cost estimates.

Mr. Friesen asked to allow the County Counselor for briefing on April 1st for county health orders and the effect of the decision for the mask mandate. Mr. Hirst spoke with Mr.

O'Sullivan and Mr. Partington yesterday regarding the mask order and he said they were waiting to relook at item 20-68 in the Governor's original plan. He said until we know what the documents say it would be impossible to do at this time.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan stated there was no governors order at this time. However, he could have a rough draft for adoption and approval at such time the governor actually makes such an order and could reference opting out of it, this would be his recommendation at this time. He also gave explanation of Senate Bill 40 and then spoke about sections important to the county within the bill. He went over K.S.A. 65-201 giving explanation for the Board's role and requirements for Health Orders to be issued.

Mr. Friesen spoke about mandates in place for Reno County and how to solve orders from the Health Department regarding schools.

Mr. Sellers spoke about the mask mandate that was lifted last week, and read an article published on March 30th, 7:35 a.m. about new cases of COVID nationwide. He asked Reno County residents to keep safe and keep the virus rates low asking citizens to do their part.

Mr. Hirst spoke about the administrator looking at short- and long-term solutions on projects and appreciated his efforts. They attended the K96 Corridor Economic Coalition taking a tour.

At 11:25 a.m. Mr. O'Sullivan read the motion requesting for this Board to recess into executive session for not to exceed thirty-minutes for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel on a privileged legal matter relating to the county's statutory authority for the construction and replacement on bridges. Requesting the County Counselor, County Administrator Randy Partington and Public Works Director Don Brittain remain for the session. No formal action is to be taken and after the executive session the Board will return to regular session and adjourn for the day. **Mr. Sellers moved, and Mr. Hirst seconded the motion as read** it was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:40 a.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date