

March 31, 2020  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held an agenda session via Zoom 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 Kim Biery, Trinity United Methodist.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti and Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar gave a COVID-19 update.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti reported the executive order, 20-02 issued by the Governor did not supersede executive order, 20-16 for the stay at home order until April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020; however, it was restrictive more or less for essential and non-essential businesses. If a business was not certain they were essential, it could use the resource setup for them to check at [governor.kansas.gov](http://governor.kansas.gov) website. He reported there was no new information at this time.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar spoke about the burn ban on restricting burning and an option to extend for two weeks. He spoke with County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan said the declaration expires in a week, he would like to add burn ban with no other documentation. He spoke about trouble getting emergency equipment for responders they have a large shortage and can't service the public also there is not enough supplies to go around.

Commissioner Sellers asked if Mr. Weishaar would like them to contact local legislators through an email to push Reno County's concerns for needed supplies, the answer was yes. The Board then discussed other issues with COVID-19 timeline and model numbers.

Public Works Director Don Brittain discussed Kansas Department of Transportation cost share on a Letter of Support on a fifty-fifty match for the Arlington Road Bridge 17.55 in City of Arlington, \$1,250,000 sharing the \$625,000, he was requesting approval for the Letter of Support. He said if the

KDOT approved Reno County would pay the half amount, if not the whole amount would fall to Reno County to pay. Mr. Brittain then spoke about the 43<sup>rd</sup> Bridge, Nickerson Bridge, 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Wilson Road, and 56<sup>th</sup> east of Pennington giving an overview of the cost and FEMA reimbursement amounts for those roads/bridges.

Chamber of Commerce President Debra Teufel thanked Reno County staff and Mr. Baldetti for keeping members informed on COVID-19 virus. She spoke about Greater Hutch "Rally RC.org" assisting businesses with dollar for dollar helping where they can during this crisis.

Commissioners comments:

Commissioner Hirst thanked everyone involved for working together as a team to get us all through this virus.

Commissioner Bush thanked Hutchinson Police Chief Hooper for doing a drive by on non-essential businesses for security. He cautioned business owners to take a hard look at making sure they were essential.

Commissioner Sellers thanked Reno County staff for their hard work and Information Services for being able to Zoom the Commissioner meetings during the virus. He mentioned Treasurer Brenda Kowitz for keeping her department open by working with the public on an appointment basis.

County Administrator Randy Partington stated departments are on a hiring freeze. They are watching COVID-19 true impact to the General Fund revenue. There could be a \$500,000 impact and the property tax impact are unknown at this time. He stated the departments would be looking at possible cuts to the budgets for both this year and next year.

**Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on April 3rd, 2020 of \$543,680.90 and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2020-146, 147, 150, 152, 155 as submitted. Next, Letter of Support for the Kansas Department of Transportation's Cost Share Program for the replacement of Arlington Road Bridge located on Main Street in the City of Arlington approximately ½ mile east of K-61 Highway. Last on the consent agenda was resolution **#2020-10; A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP FOR RENO COUNTY PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 1-103 JURISDICTION OF THE RENO COUNTY**

**ZONING REGULATIONS OF RENO COUNTY, KANSAS 2016 EDITION FOR A PORTION OF SOUTHEAST RENO COUNTY, KANSAS.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Partington gave explanation of the county policies concerning economic development.

Superior Boilers CEO Doug Wright presented an overview of the Development Agreement for the purpose of boiler and pressure vessel manufacturing and distribution expansion Superior Boilers planned for its facility. He would like to bring in new to existing building to keep jobs here in Reno County. He thanked the commission for their support.

Ms. Teufel noted it had been a marathon project from October 2017 until now looking at new options along the way.

Chairman Sellers stated item 8b was consideration for a burn ban in Reno County that was presented by Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar. Mr. Weishaar was asking for two weeks from today bringing it back then for a possible extension or expiration. The Board discussed more about AG timeline for burning after the discussion each Board member agreed on one week adding more information next week. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush,** to approve a one week from today an extension for the burn ban. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commission Sellers had two items to bring up; Red Cross Blood Drive blood is in demand encouraging the public to please give, second was church gatherings not part of the ban on groups greater than 10.

Mr. Weishaar stated he was not familiar with the Governor making a complete exemption in Saturday's order. He stated they should be still practicing safe social distancing. The Board discussed other methods such as media during the pandemic for churches to protect their people by using common sense.

At 9:55 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
cm

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Date