

April 14, 2020
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the 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 David Dubovich, Park Place Christian Church.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti and Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar gave a COVID-19 update. Mr. Baldetti reported statistics for COVID-19 for the nation and Reno County. He reported on the new Governor's order 20-18 extended until May 1st is aimed at social mass gatherings being limited to under 10 people with specific language toward larger groups for instance, religious gatherings. The Governor's 20-16 order did not get extended for the stay in place order that was to conclude on April 19th, 2020. He asked that the Commission help to form a task force looking at Reno County post stay in place order in the event the Governor did not extend her order. He noted the task force would work toward bringing businesses open and people back to work using public health and safety.

The Board discussed some of the cases here in Reno County and asked about the three people who had no more symptoms and were at various levels at the hospital. Ten who were confirmed positive with quarantine with no more symptoms and 7 days with no symptoms is when they are considered COVID-19 recovered. They also briefly discussed the ventilator supply and Mr. Baldetti stated that if all cases come at once he would be concerned but with prevention we will be in a good position. They gave suggestions to Mr. Baldetti on who to include on the task force.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar gave the COVID-19 timeline and gave social media numbers. He appreciated a Health Department employee who developed a public dashboard that is being used by several agencies across the state, and handmade masks that were being made and donated. Commissioner Hirst asked Mr. Weishaar to touch base to get input from Fire Chiefs before discussing the burn ban. Mr. Weishaar said this decision

for a burn ban was different than in the past because was not just dry conditions but COVID-19 social distancing.

Darrin Unruh, 401 W. Main, Pretty Prairie, was concerned about the burn ban issue. He said they only have a small window for burning pastures which could affect people in the county for a full year, and he asked if we could use a case by case basis to be allowed to burn.

CJ Blue, 16304 S. Fall St, Hutchinson, he also asked for a case by case basis to burn. Commissioner Sellers asked about pasture versus CRP burning. Mr. Blue mentioned a time frame window from April 1st to April 15th to burn and said the end of April would be too late and affect them into next year.

Commissioner Bush was not opposed to a case by case basis however he knew Mr. Weishaar was opposed. Then he mentioned the 810 acres that burned last week after the Tuesday burn ban went into effect. They had to call in 55 first responders from other areas using up resources.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar said the real question was if anyone could override a burn ban. He stated once a burn ban was in place, no one could override it if you open it up to do a case by case basis, we would not be in a burn ban anymore. He further stated the burn ban was not to punish anyone but to protect our first responders. He noted even Solid Waste burning was limited.

Commissioner Hirst disagreed with Mr. Weishaar. He explained the Burn Association saying he preferred a case by case basis presented to Mr. Weishaar for people to burn. He wanted pasture burning not CRP because this was a good week to burn.

Commissioner Sellers spoke about the effect COVID-19 is having on all residents and stated that this issue could be addressed next week.

Commissioner Bush noted this was a gray area and wanted to protect first responders, then said he was sorry but at this time he could not agree to allow burning.

Commissioners comments:

Commissioner Hirst commented on the FSA regarding the CRP burning. He said there were two different programs on CRP, a

ten year and a twenty year, but FSA are willing to work with residents. One is preferred which is burning, second is inter-seeding and third was a light disking. Cost share on CRP is 50 percent to do any of those three.

County Administrator Randy Partington discussed searching employees from other agencies for an on-call Death Scene backup who could possibly train to take over for John Tracy when he retires. He said prior to next week's agenda meeting information would be sent on the one million-dollar cuts from the 2020 budgets from all departments. EMS has made cuts also for the commissions review.

Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on April 17th, 2020 of \$539,360.71 and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2020-161 as submitted. Last on the consent agenda was resolution **#2020-11; A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE RENO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND STAFF ATTORNEYS COMPRISING SAID OFFICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROSECUTING ACTIONS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF COUNTY CODES AND RESOLUTIONS** as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Sellers read both proclamations; first was to proclaim the week of April 13th through 18th, 2020 as "Week of the Young Child", second was to proclaim the month of April 2020 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month". There was no one in the audience to accept either proclamation.

Solid Waste Director of Operations Megan Davidson met with the Board to recommend approval for an item tabled April 7th, 2020 regarding the Master Plan Update of the Reno County Landfill for the 2021 Budget year and an overview of the operations at the Landfill for the upcoming year and future years for Budgeting Purposes. She introduced SCS Engineers Vice President Monte Markley who did a presentation on the Master Plan and Solid Waste Fee Options. They wanted to recommend the rates for 2021 budget year remain the same as the current FY2020 rates. With the economic uncertainty and the scale relocation project, they believed this was the best option for FY2021. The operating fund balance will be in a deficit in 10 years by not doing an increase this year, but that is if they did not do any increases at all after the 2021 budget year. They are also in the process of doing an extensive rate study with SCS to determine what will be in the best interest of Reno County to proceed further in the future on fees. The financial model that

we utilize to track our revenues and expenditures gives us a good idea of where we need to be, not only five years from now, but for as long as ten years from now. Ms. Davidson would like to maintain the current Reno County User Fee Rate of \$96.00 a year; and the Out of County Tonnage Fees of \$33 per ton for FY2021. The fiscal impact for budget year 2021 will see no increase in revenue, but after the 2021 year depending on the direction of the rate study, years to follow could see increases in revenues.

The Board briefly discussed the rates going up next year to \$100 from the current fee of \$96.00 or to do tipping fees, deciding the best option for Reno County.

Ms. Davidson and Mr. Markley gave a presentation on a possible Mohawk Road closure and sited reasons for the closure of Mohawk Road. Ms. Davidson said Reno County owns both sides of the quarter section from Blanchard Avenue to Clark Road. Mr. Markley said the new facility will be located east of Mohawk Roads current alignment. Due to the heavy equipment for operating the landfill and citizen traffic within the landfill footprint, Mohawk Road from Clark Road south $\frac{1}{2}$ mile at the Reno County Property line will need to be vacated for traffic control, safety reasons and restricting site access as required by KDHE regulations. They gave two options; 1) close Mohawk Road at the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile line will cost Reno County approximately \$8,734 self-performing the work in labor and materials as a capital expenditure, 2) relocating the road will cost Reno County approximately \$92,097 in labor and materials as a capital expenditure.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan went over the process of closing a portion of a road with the Board.

The Board was in consensus to put this item on the agenda next week for action.

At 10:25 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday,
April 21, 2020.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date