

April 21, 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 County Clerk Donna Patton, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 stated that he is establishing a task force so when the times comes, there will be a specific plan in place to open Reno County back up. Commissioner Bush commented that everyone had worked really hard to make sure people from outside of Hutchinson were included on the task force. Commissioner Hirst commented that there would be a Chamber of Commerce meeting on Thursday and he would contact Debra Tuefel to see who all needed to be involved. Mr. Baldetti stated that the plan is to have a physical plan in place. Commissioners thanked Commissioner Bush, Mr. Baldetti and the Chamber for putting all of this together. Mr. Weishaar said that Reno County is one of 89 counties that have declared a Public Health Emergency. He thanked the Elected Officials, County Staff and the Public for all their help. Mr. Baldetti talked a little about the call that he, Commissioner Hirst and County Administrator Randy Partington had with Senator Moran. He is not sure how much financial help the cities and counties will be getting from the Federal Government. Commissioner Bush asked if Mr. Partington could put a letter together for the Federal Legislators asking that counties be a part of the stimulus package. Mr. Partington said he would get a letter drafted.

Commissioner Hirst commented briefly about the call with Senator Moran and went over an email that was sent to each of the commissioners.

Commissioner Bush commented that if someone would like to view the task force meetings, they could contact Debra with the Chamber of Commerce and she could get them a link to view the meetings via zoom.

Commissioner Sellers thanked the United Way, the Chamber, and the Community Foundation for the purchasing of cards and certificates to help our small businesses. He also hoped that the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting could be held in the Courthouse with social distancing.

Mr. Partington asked if the commission would like to move the discussion on the budget cuts for the 2020 budget year to the additions to the agenda. By consensus, the Board agreed to move the budget cut discussion to 10a. Additions to the agenda.

Mr. Partington briefly discussed the new temporary FMLA and emergency paid sick leave. Commissioner Sellers asked if the employees understood this leave act and was it being used.

Human Resources Director Renee Harris commented that she thought all the employees understood it and a few employees were utilizing it.

Mr. Partington stated that he and Ms. Harris have been talking about the KDOL shared work program in case employees were furloughed so they could draw unemployment. He thought this would have a possible savings for Reno County.

There was one addition to the agenda besides the one previously mentioned. It is for a discussion to rescind the burn ban.

Commissioner Bush asked what changed Commissioner Sellers mind from last week, and Commissioner Sellers commented that he had received some phone calls and he believes he voted incorrectly and would like to correct his vote. Commissioners Bush and Sellers talked briefly about why they voted like they did and why they made those choices.

Mr. Weishaar commented that he had reached out to all 13 fire districts in the county and of those, three did not support the ban, eight did support the ban and two did not respond. He also commented that the reason the three did not support the ban was because they lived in a large agricultural area and received many phone calls about the ban. Commissioner Bush wanted to see the ban stay to support what staff and the first responders would like to see.

**Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to move the discussion to repeal the burn ban to item 10a Additions to the

Agenda. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-1 with Commissioner Bush voting no.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush,** to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on April 24, 2020 of \$360,068.41 and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2020: 162-165 as submitted. Last item on the consent agenda directs the chairman to sign minutes for March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> afternoon and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 as submitted. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Sellers read a proclamation proclaiming the week of April 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> as Reno County Crime Victims Right Week. District Attorney Keith Schroeder accepted the proclamation. He then read a proclamation proclaiming the week of May 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> as Police Week. Sheriff Darrian Campbell was present via zoom to accept that proclamation.

Reno County Fire District #3 Chief Bobby White was present via zoom to request a replacement for their command vehicle a 1999 Dodge Durango with a new  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton, crew cab, four-wheel-drive pickup for a total cost not to exceed \$35,000. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush** to approve the purchase of a new  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton, crew cab, four-wheel-drive vehicle not to exceed \$35,000. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Partington explained to the Board how he came up with the dollar amounts that each department needed to cut. The reductions ranged from .4% to 11% depending on the size of the departments budget. Mental Health, the Museum and TECH had no cuts to their amounts. He stated that this was an internal adjustment and if approved, the adjustments would be made in our Financial Software. **Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to allow Mr. Partington to make the recommended changes. Sheriff Campbell asked if this was anticipated cuts or if they were going to make the cuts. Commissioner Sellers commented that we are making the cuts due to anticipated cuts in revenue. Commissioner Sellers commented that we might also have to make similar cuts to the 2021 budgets. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

**Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to repeal Burn Ban 20-03. Mr. Partington read the ordinance and stated that if approved, the ban would begin today at 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Bush asked Mr. Weishaar and Chief White if they had any comments. Chief White stated that he agreed with the burn ban

and would like to see it stay in place. Mr. Weishaar commented that smoke inhalation could present the same symptoms as COVID-19 and therefore could waste tests or PPE's that are both in short supply. Commissioner Bush was concerned about going against staff recommendations and the eight Fire Departments that would like to see the ban stay in place. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-1 with Mr. Bush voting no.

**Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to recess into executive session for 60 minutes to convene at 11:15 a.m. in the County Commission Chambers to confer with the Board's attorney on privileged legal matters pertaining to the Kansas Employer-Employee Relations Act, K.S.A. 75-4321 et seq and the establishment of Uniform Pay Plans and Procedures applicable to all county employees. No formal decision will be made following the executive session. Parties to be in attendance include the County Counselor, County Administrator and County HR Director. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 12:15 p.m. the meeting adjourned until Tuesday April 28, 2020.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
dp

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Date