

May 5, 2020  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held an agenda session 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.

Commissioner Sellers asked to come back to the COVID-19 update when Mr. Baldetti and Mr. Weishaar were in attendance.

Commissioner comments:

Commissioner Sellers asked last week how the Board wanted to move ahead with Planning and Zoning meetings, where are we?

County Administrator Randy Partington stated after speaking with Public Works Director Don Brittain and the Planning and Zoning Chair they would be holding the May 21st meeting at the Public Works facility where they could accommodate people. If they needed more room, when one person leaves another may enter the meeting. The next meeting agenda for P&Z was on a Tower and a house and the process on wind regulation, so there would be no public comments.

Commissioner Bush commented on an upcoming meeting Thursday morning with County Administrator and election officers regarding plans for safety, paper ballots, etc.

Mr. Partington also commented on the cuts requested by departments in 2020. RCAT had federal funding to give them additional savings so she changed line items for her outside agencies making them stay the same. He will meet this week with department heads for their FY2021 Budgets and setup meetings with outside agencies, three at a time. He is working with the Annex and Courthouse about reopening to the public. The Treasurer's Office is still working by appointment only, and Mr. Partington is working on security and safety for social distancing to open in the next two weeks.

Commissioner Bush stated with a reduction of revenue his goal was to protect jobs and look at a step increase for

employees. Slim down or hold the line on the budget one more year with large equipment purchases. Commissioner Hirst agreed and was in favor to look at step increases.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti gave a brief overview of the Governor's plan released on Thursday. He was recommending approval for a non-organized activity statement to be released. It reads as follows: "Non-organized recreational activity may be allowed at public and private outdoor parks if practicing appropriate social distancing of at least 6-feet, and groups of more than ten who cannot accommodate 6-foot distancing are not allowed to congregate. All participants should practice proper hygiene and all equipment should be sanitized before and after all non-organized activity."

The Board discussed organized and non-organized sports. They agreed by consensus for the Reno County activity statement being released.

District Attorney Keith Schroeder commented on the specific Governor's order 20-29. What Mr. Baldetti proposed uses good common sense.

The Board went on to discuss the Governor's phases and testing indicators. Mr. Baldetti expressed his opinion in depth of the indicators. He said the Governor would look at the whole state according to numbers in her phases not just hot spot numbers to continue phases.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar spoke about the Public Health Emergency Declaration. He spoke about a Betel Cleaning System rented for six months by the state to reuse FEMA respirators sending used ones to Topeka to clean and sanitize, then returning the masks. This can be done 20 times to extend the life of the mask. He mentioned the numbers from the Walmart RV setup for testing last weekend.

Commissioner Bush had an addition to the agenda to discuss COVID-19 assistance to Reno County from the Chamber of Commerce and possible compensation. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush,** to approve the addition to the agenda as stated. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush,** to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on May 8th, 2020 of \$107,427.59 and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change

Orders numbered 2020-171 through 174, and 176 as submitted. Next, award bid in the amount of \$127,365.30 to Theis Dozer Service, Inc. for the repair of road right-of-way scour/washouts along 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, east and west of Wilson Road. Last on the consent agenda was an agreement with Kirkham Michael and Associates, Inc., for Engineering Services for the routine Federal-Aid Secondary Highway System (FAS) and Off-System (OS) Biennia Bridge Inventory and Appraisal for the sum of \$32,226 as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Public Works Director Don Brittain explained contracting the 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue project out instead of using Public Works personnel and equipment. He stated, "It would take our staff and equipment away from other bridge and road overlay jobs" because the many tons of rock and hundreds of cubic yards of dirt needed to be hauled in. FEMA will be reimbursing Reno County for 75 percent of the cost and felt it was better to spend taxpayer money on other projects. He did not anticipate having a repeat issue again at that site with the repair work being done.

Commissioner Bush discussed the incredible job Debra Teufel, Chamber of Commerce did in correlating information to various businesses and industries. He said she is very involved in the community and has a great relationship with the Reno County Health Department and other agencies and stated that they are good partners. He would like to give them \$50,000, a flat rate amount, until December 31, 2020 for the assistance with the COVID-19 starting with the first townhall meeting. Mr. Baldetti agreed with Mr. Bush on the Chamber of Commerce's media, social messaging, and constant communication.

The Board will put the \$50,000 to The Chamber of Commerce on next week's agenda for action. They asked Mr. Partington to work with Debra Teufel on a written agreement for the \$50,000 flat amount with a monthly report for all the communications.

At 10:25 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
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Date