

May 11, 2021
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Steve Gill, Turon Community Church.

Commissioner Hirst thanked the IT staff for the installation of the audio/video system in the Annex Conference Room. He commented on the Fallen Police Officers Ceremony for peace officers on Friday, May 14th at 11:00 a.m. in front of the Law Enforcement Center.

Health Department Educator Seth Dewey invited everyone in the community to the Reno Recovery Collaborative to take part in events starting at this month's Third Thursday. The purpose is to remove the stigma associated with substance misuse. Changing the stigma and language around substance misuse requires effort not only of ourselves, but by the community as a whole.

Hutchinson Community Foundation Aubrey Abbott Patterson and StartUp Hutch Program Director Jackson Swearer read a letter addressed to the City and County Officials in Reno County. Mr. Swearer and Ms. Patterson were representing eight organizations who wanted the opportunity to have a voice on the important funding decisions regarding the American Rescue Plan's approximate \$17 million the city and county would be receiving. The Board wanted to digest more information and discuss the funds in thirty-days since they had until 2024 to spend the \$12 million the county would be receiving.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of 6A and 6B and the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on May 14th, 2021 of \$425,683.79 as presented. Next item was the Audit Agreement with Adams, Brown, LLC. The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 3-0.

Sheriff Darrian Campbell gave a brief background on the 2500 Motorola radios that would be phased out. He received a proposal from TBS Electronics in the amount of \$186,956 for the purchase of sixty APX4000 new portable radios for use by deputies of the Reno County Sheriff's Office and said these should last for approximately ten-years. The state would send a notice from date of purchase when the use of the APX4000 radios would no longer be in service. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the purchase of APX4000 for 60 new portable radios from Motorola for \$186,956 as outlined by the Sheriff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Planner Mark Vonachen met with the Board to recommend approval for Planning & Zoning Case 2021-05 a request for a Conditional Use Permit to establish a personal training and fitness studio at 4516 N. Kent Road, a home business. After briefly going over the CUP he stated that Staff approved, and the Planning Board voted 7-0 to approve with 7 factors and 6 conditions. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to approve the Planning & Zoning Case 2021-05 based on the 7 factors and 6 conditions as outlined by Mr. Vonachen. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

USDA Rangeland Management Specialist Dusty Tacha made a presentation on "Woody Encroachment of the Hutchinson Sandhills". He showed land cover history of the area and explained how the dense growth of trees makes it an extreme fire threat. He advised intentional burns should be in July through September instead of in the spring to kill the cedar trees. Mr. Tacha spoke about help with mechanical removal to clear cedar trees off acreage and that it can be funded by the EQIP program. The Board discussed fires and burning. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to direct Emergency Management to coordinate with Hutchinson Fire Districts, Kansas Forestry Service/USDA Mr. Tacha, and landowners to draft some positive and negative re-enforcements bringing the draft back in three months to continue the discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Reno County Emergency Medical Services Chief Dave Johnston met with the Board to recommend a lease to purchase for both a new ambulance and remount of an additional ambulance. The lease option would allow for both ambulances to be acquired in 2021 while remaining within the authorized county budget. After a discussion of options **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve option one for a lease-purchase of the ambulances

with an annual cost of \$71,686 for five-years. The total lease cost including interest was \$358,430.55. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. Mr. Sellers requested Chief Johnston redo the budget amount for 2022 sending the revised copy as soon as possible.

Solid Waste Management Director Megan Davidson updated the Board on general information and projects at the Landfill. She then recommended approval for resolution 2021-11; **A RESOLUTION PROVIDING A SCHEDULE OF FEES IN CONNECTION WITH SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND AMENDING RESOLUTION 2019-05.** She stated:

- 1) Residential fees would remain the same at \$96.00 per household unit.
- 2) Commercial and Industrial Businesses, Public Service and State Assessed Facilities would be \$106 per unit.
- 3) Implementing a Construction Demolition fee applicable to all residents and business entities. If separated upon delivery, a tipping fee at the rate of \$10 per ton and fractional portions thereof with a \$10 minimum per load. Mixed loads will be assessed a tipping fee at the rate of \$20 per ton and fractional portions thereof with a \$20 minimum per load. The tipping fee would be effective January 1, 2022 to be assessed on the 2021 ad valorem property tax statements.

Mr. Friesen believed the rates were still out of balance and Ms. Davidson stated that these rates were annually reviewed. Mr. Friesen suggested evaluating user fees starting in six months. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve item 7Ei; resolution 2021-11 with the schedule of fees for Solid Waste as outlined by Ms. Davidson. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 10:45 the meeting recessed for five minutes.

The meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

Arts & Humanities Council Representatives Michelle Waln and Jim French made a summary presentation for 2020. Hutch Rec Executive Director Tony Finlay presented a budget 2022 letter requesting \$7,000 for HRAH (Hutchinson/Reno County Arts & Humanities).

Reno County Extension Horticulture Agent Pam Paulsen and Karl Koehn highlighted the Extension Office stating a new agent

had been hired two weeks ago. She said they would like to remain status quo with the current allocation of \$365,000 for 2022.

Reno County 4-H Fair Treasurer Meghan Miller and President of Livestock Sale Committee Jason Stallman made an invitation to the 4-H fair events beginning on July 17th, 2021. They were requesting an increase from \$16,500 to \$20,000 due to higher prices charged to hold the fair at the Kansas State Fair grounds. Mr. Stallman explained the revenue and expenses of the sale profits.

Horizons Mental Health Chief Executive Officer Mike Garrett requested to maintain the funding allocation for CY2022 of \$452,025. He spoke about the challenge for them with uninsured patients and receiving their services at a discounted rate or free.

Reno County Museum Executive Director Michael Ables and Betty Taylor reviewed the 2020 budget. He recommended for FY2022 a total request of \$205,000 an increase of 3 percent over 2021. An additional \$15,000 for repairs to the Museum was figured in.

T.E.C.H. President/CEO Brenda Maxey and Vice President Kevin Hess made their allocation request for FY2022 of \$510,000 thanking the county for their 48-year partnership. She went over the services offered and spoke about the outreach team.

County Administrator Randy Partington made a recommendation for the Emergency Management Signage at a cost of \$11,496 to put the logo on the right-hand side of the LEC building and for Communication Specialist Laurie Moody to make directional signs for a not to exceed \$1,500 cost. There was a brief discussion on cost and the directional signage. **Mr. Hirst moved** to do the Emergency Management signage \$11,496 and the not to exceed directional signs for \$1,500. Mr. Sellers had abstained because of a conflict of interest. The motion failed for lack of a second. Mr. Friesen was not in favor of the cost.

Mr. Partington discussed the financial reports for 2021 stating that we are in good shape. The Board discussed the General Fund accounts and other revenues/expenditures.

Mr. Partington mentioned that monthly summary updates from all departments were in the agenda packet for review.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar scheduled the District Fire Chiefs meeting at District #8 Yoder for May 19th to go over the strategic Plan and get their input.

Mr. Partington spoke about the American Rescue Plan Act Funds increasing some to \$12,042,385 dollars receiving fifty percent of it this week.

Commissioner Sellers commented on the department reports and he thought they were a good addition to the agenda and encouraged the public to get their COVID vaccine shots. He appreciated Mr. Dusty Tacha referring to Fire District #2 and looking at a long-term solution.

Commissioner Friesen echoed Mr. Sellers comments on a fire solution. He spoke about the funding requests for outside agencies and would like the County Administrator to look at what funding should look like for their amounts. Also, next year's outside funding line to show what the total budget is and show grant funding and for them to work harder on fundraising and obtaining grants.

Commissioner Hirst mentioned Sheriff Campbell graduated the new Sheriff's school. He thanked the citizens for their help financially for the Fox Theatre and stating they had good attendance for Riders in the Sky. He would like to take the opportunity with Fire Management to put together a pilot program speaking to the Farm Management Programs. On Mr. Friesen's comment, we can discuss what the Commission would want from outside agencies and not give Mr. Partington that responsibility, it should come from us.

At 11:50 a.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 25, 2021.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date