

May 12, 2020
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the 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 and a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Tim Kraft, First Church of God.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti gave updated numbers reporting the statistics for COVID-19 in Reno County. He stated the Walmart RV tests all citizens, but he urged people that if they had symptoms to call their physician or if they had no physician, go to Prairie Star or the Hutchinson Clinic for testing.

The Board discussed updates from KDHE, testing and the Governor's release for reopening the state.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar gave a brief update on the Emergency Disaster Declaration expiring on May 18th. He asked the Board to sign a resolution that would extend the declaration for sixty days extending the declaration into July. The purpose of the resolution is to keep Reno County in disaster mode. He talked about 88 counties with positive cases, severe weather coming in, updates three times a week instead of daily, and a 30-day supply of PPE's. Mr. Weishaar talked about KDHE and opening dental offices.

Mr. Baldetti stated that he spoke with County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and District Attorney Keith Schroeder about resending prior Health Orders for Reno County on traveling. However, the Governors executive order for this phase nullifies local health orders on traveling.

Additions to the agenda; approving a resolution and an executive session for a privileged legal matter on real estate tax foreclosure. **Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to add items to the agenda. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on May 15th, 2020 of \$386,695.07 and also consisting of a Cereal Malt Beverage Application Renewal for Oasis Convenience Store for Off-Premises Sales. Last on the consent agenda was an appointment of Heath Hewitt as Trustee on the Langdon Township Board as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Public comments:

Angela Mans, 14918 E. Maple Grove, wanted a moratorium on wind energy so another CUP could not be filed until the Planning & Zoning Commission had a chance to consider changing the regulations.

Commissioner Sellers remarked that there was an email sent from the County Administrator that covered facts that stated a CUP application cannot be accepted until the legal case is finalized.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan noted NextEra was prohibited from filing a CUP application in the same territory for one year after the previous application is finalized through the courts. Appeals have not been filed.

Commissioner Hirst asked about another company filing an application in the same area of Reno County. Mr. O'Sullivan replied that pending legal proceedings would affect anyone trying to obtain a CUP. The courts would have to finalize a decision before a future CUP application could be submitted. Mr. Hirst asked if it would apply to another company in the zoned or un-zoned area. Mr. O'Sullivan said that if the project would be in the un-zoned area totally, then a CUP would not be needed.

Susan Helten, 10408 E. Smoots Creek Road, had concerns about testing in rural communities. Mr. Baldetti explained the process for getting test kits from the state and stated that with Health Department staff administering the tests, any action for COVID-19 would be reimbursed. She also asked about a moratorium passing from Planning and Zoning to be acted on by the Board. Mr. Bush replied that any recommendation from Planning and Zoning would be considered. Mr. Hirst added we have more knowledge now than two years ago.

Mr. Bush introduced Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce President Debra Teufel, 117 N. Walnut. Ms. Teufel thanked the Board and appreciated their consideration of Mr. Bush's proposal for a contract until December for \$30,000 in assistance however, she declined the offer from the County. Ms. Teufel said this role by the Chamber was very important in serving the community and their members and being a voice for the business community. They met in April assisting with the formation of the Reno County Economy Recovery Task Force to help with guidelines when businesses could reopen safely after the impact of COVID-19. She gave a timeline of working with the various community/business groups by hosting subcommittee meetings, forming a steering committee who came up with phases for reopening and following the Governors phases. She appreciated the kind words and the offer by Mr. Bush. Ms. Teufel stated her staff worked 183.5 hours working toward communication which has put the community and businesses at ease. She noted the countless hours spent by volunteers who worked alongside us.

Horizons Metal Health quarterly report was given by CEO Michael Garrett. He spoke about changes to mental health with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Garrett also gave explanation of the 2021 Horizons Mental Health budget request asking for a 5 percent increase for next year noting four documents for the increase, number of self-insured people, a funding analysis, cost per billable hour, and billable hour self-pay on a sliding scale.

TECH Inc. President/CEO Brenda Maxey, 10 E. 1st Avenue, gave the Board an overview of their proposal. She commented on funding employment and programs like residential sites, family services, and children services. She requested their allocation for FY2021 be the same as FY2020 at \$510,000.

Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to extend Reno County resolution #2020-12; A RESOLUTION RENEWING A PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR RENO COUNTY, KANSAS as presented by staff. 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 Parkington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

Commissioners comments:

County Administrator Randy Partington stated that CDBG funds are available, up to \$300,000, for communities, cities, and counties. Economic Development and Food Programs are included in the application process. A task force is meeting today to decide what part Reno County would play for the CDBG application. He stated this could be part of the \$1.2 billion in CARES money. Then he said The Annex and The Courthouse will be opening more to the public next Monday. District Court will have health screening and take temperatures and would require them to wear masks in the courtroom. He briefly discussed with the Board about the temperature of 100 degrees and how to handle someone for courts with fever and said there would be no jury trials. Mr. Partington informed the Board that The House Taxation Committee will be meeting discussing Senate Bill 294 which passed the Senate and is in the House of Representatives before COVID-19 interrupted.

Commissioner Bush briefly updated the Board about the election department for the upcoming election workers safety and changes that may be made this year. Mr. Sellers asked if the state does not allow a mail ballot election. Mr. Bush explained they did not however, there would be an advanced ballot application mailer sent to every registered voter in the County to request a ballot by mail.

Commissioner Hirst noted Ed Berger's postcard being sent to citizens for self-employed additional income through the Federal and State. This week is National Peace Officers Week and he thanked them for keeping us safe during the pandemic.

Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, that we recess into executive session for a discussion with the Board's legal counsel on a privileged legal matter pertaining to real estate tax foreclosure for a period of sixty minutes. Following which the Board will reconvene in regular session and immediately adjourn. No decision of the Board is anticipated or to be undertaken. The County Counselor is requesting the County Administrator Mr. Partington remain for the executive session beginning at 11:10 a.m. ending at 12:10 p.m. or sooner. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:30 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date