

May 19, 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 Gary Getting, Elliott Mortuary Inc.

**Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on May 22nd, 2020 of \$824,608.83. Next item directs the chairman to sign minutes for April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as submitted. Last on the consent agenda was an Amendment Agreement between the Kansas Department of Health and Reno County for the Health Department's Outreach, Prevention and Early Intervention Services for an extension of contract from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Sellers went back to item #3 on the agenda for Health Department Director Nick Baldetti and Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar to update the Board on COVID-19.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti briefly went over statistics for the country, Kansas, and Reno County stating there have been no new cases in Reno County for a week. He spoke about Governor Kelly's 1.5 phase that was in effect yesterday. He informed the Board of hostile communications towards the Health Department staff and actions they were taking to protect the staff after getting the Sheriff involved.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar briefly spoke about the Public Health Emergency Declaration signed last week. He explained how it would help get Federal reimbursement later and qualifies Reno County for State resources. He spoke about personal protective burn rates due to the State on Wednesday. The state has spent over \$53 million on PPE's and said that the supply chains have opened up more. Information from the state changes frequently and they try to push it out as they get it.

Commissioner Sellers went back to item #5.

Ester Egli, 2111 E. Irish Creek Road, had concerns with transparency for answering emails. She was also concerned about not being able to have public comment at the Planning and Zoning meetings. The Board agreed to at least send an acknowledgement of emails directed to a group of people. They also explained that the Chair of Planning and Zoning control their own agenda meetings, deciding how those meetings will be conducted and if she had concerns take them to the P&Z meetings where they are open to public comment, like June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan gave a further explanation on the Planning and Zonings meetings.

Benedict Unrine, 1814 E. Maple Grove Road, had concerns about public comment at the Planning and Zoning meetings. Mr. O'Sullivan again explained the procedures for the Planning and Zoning meetings and told Mr. Unrine he has been able to send written comments to the P&Z Board since March. Mr. Unrine asked if the Commissioners answered emails. The Board replied that if the email was sent to a group, they read them but did not acknowledge receipt of those type of emails to the sender.

Commissioner Sellers read a proclamation proclaiming Emergency Medical Services Week for May 17<sup>th</sup> through May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Reno County EMS Chief Dave Johnston accepted the proclamation. Chief Johnston thanked the Board and acknowledged his teams hard work and all the other first responders along with the Hutchinson Junior College students.

Chief Johnston gave a slide presentation overview of their call volumes, transports, response times, call volume by city and COVID-19 transports. He said they have not had any employees with COVID-19. He spoke about expenditures staying flat and gave budget highlights.

Conservation District Manager Chloe Wilson gave a brief overview of what they do and explained about the Conservation District. She was requesting the same allocation as last year, \$47,500.

The Reno County Museum/Historical Society Executive Director Michael Ables requested \$185,000 for FY2021 for The Museum. He plans to use the allocation for education enhancements, improving the museum, maintenance, and HVAC. He had a budget that did not include the \$185,000 given by Reno

County last year so the Board wanted to see a revised budget for FY2021 with that information.

The Quest Center Chairman of the Board Daniel Friesen introduced the newest member of the Quest Center Entrepreneur Navigator Jackson Swearer. Mr. Friesen stated that last year's allocation was \$90,000 and the request for FY2021 was lower to \$82,500 a reduction of \$7,500. He spoke about the Quest Centers role in the community for entrepreneurial activity.

Entrepreneur Navigator Jackson Swearer spoke about his position and did a presentation that started in 2019. He spoke about rebranding and starting today with the new logo "Start Up Hutch". He talked about a new community support system.

The Board briefly discussed the Start Up Hutch and asked for more updates during the year. They talked about how to support both the Chamber and Start Up Hutch. Then noted how well the two agencies interacted to make things happen and suggested they may want to look at merging in the future.

Aubrey Abbott-Patterson CEO Hutchinson Community Foundation stated their funding is firm with this project. The pandemic has affected our assets and grant making has also taken a hit. She noted that there has been no talk about changing the commitment to this project. Reno County can only commit one year at a time not the five years the Foundation has committed to.

Commissioners comments:

County Administrator Randy Partington updated the Board on the FY2021 budget however, final amounts will be after receiving assessed valuation from the state. He gave an overview of the General Fund balance stating it would be hard to see without revenue numbers. Commissioner Hirst wanted to also look hard at vehicles for FY2021. The Board discussed the budget items and what departments need for the next year. Mr. Sellers noted in the next couple of days we will see the March sales tax numbers.

Commissioner Bush commented on reopen Hutch and stated that we have the majority of businesses open and we need to support local businesses, if it is a restaurant make sure you take care of wait staff. He gave an example of a donut business working to open back up to the public and what the owner did to go up and beyond for their customers.

Commissioner Sellers mentioned the video that Sheriff Campbell made and thought it was excellent for Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. He commended John Green, Hutchinson News and Nick Gosnell, KWBW Radio for doing a great job with print and radio informing the public on COVID-19. Next Tuesday the Commission will take pictures of the Board.

At 11:05 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 26, 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