

May 21, 2019
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in agenda session with, Chairman Bob Bush, Commissioner Ron Hirst and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Gary Meagher, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and County Clerk Donna Patton, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Rev. Lennie Maxwell of Trinity United Methodist Church.

There were no Public comments.

Commissioner comments:

Commissioner Bush stated that late Friday afternoon a binder was received that raised some legal concerns about the petitions that were submitted. The contents were also given to the Attorney for the Reno County Citizens for Quality of Life LLC, so they could review the contents and provide a written response to the Reno County Counselor by Friday May 24th. On June 11th at the regular meeting for the Board of County Commissioners, Russ Ewy and Joe O'Sullivan will then go over the legal concerns and the written response and make a recommendation to the Board to accept, not accept or change it and the reasons why. The plan is to have a meeting on June 13th at 6:30pm at the Atrium Hotel in Hutchinson to have a discussion then decide how to proceed. Mr. Ewy will present his findings on the petitions submitted and the legal issues raised.

Commissioner Bush also asked when the basement bathrooms will be fixed. Mr. Meagher stated that he received an email from Maintenance Director Harlen Depew stating that the grinder pump failed, and they are trying to get it up and running. Since it is an old building and the parts are old, it is hard to find the parts necessary to get it fixed. He is hoping to have it fixed within the next week or two.

Commissioner Sellers asked if there were any updates on the process for the install of the septic systems in Reno County. Mr. Meagher stated that there has been a meeting between the Health Department and the contractors, but he didn't know of any

updates. He is going to ask Health Department Director Nick Baldetti to give an update at the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Hirst wanted to remind everyone that Memorial Day is approaching. He read a small statement thanking everyone who has served or is serving and appreciated their service. Commissioner Bush liked the reading and wanted to remember all officers and stated that several Reno County employees are serving or have served in the past.

There was one addition to the agenda, an executive session for a privileged legal matter. Mr. Meagher also wanted to replace the recommendation in 7a with an update from Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar about the road situation and to get a disaster declaration signed. The original 7a recommendation will be tabled until the June 11th meeting.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on May 24th, 2019 of \$220,411.01 as submitted also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Order numbered 2019-175 and approval of minutes for April 1st (canvass), 2nd, 9th (canvass), 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th as submitted. Last on the consent agenda was to appoint Reta Joy Campbell to the Reno County Council on Aging for a term of May 2019 to December 31, 2019. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to table item 7a, a recommendation of Planning Consultant, Russ Ewy, regarding the protest petitions filed related to Planning & Zoning Case 2019-01 until June 11th. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Reno County Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar met with the Board to inform them about the road closures and to get a disaster declaration signed. Mr. Weishaar commented that so far 35 roads have been closed and over 20 have high water on them. He stated that the decision to close roads is made by Public Works and the Township Officials. They are working on getting a map put on their Facebook page or on the Reno County web page. Cow Creek is set to crest at 12.6 feet and have historical flooding. Little Arkansas River at Alta Mills also causes problems for Buhler and they might have to go through McPherson to get out of town. The Arkansas River near Haven is

also set to rise considerably. The disaster declaration that was signed on April 30, 2019 is still in effect and will keep going and will roll into one disaster period. KDEM is in Reno County to do a road assessment. They will be taking pictures of damaged roads and bridges and showing them to the Governor's Office.

Commissioner Bush asked about the financial resources and Mr. Weishaar stated that all our reimbursable expenses will qualify us for a 75% to 85% reimbursement of what they approve. He also asked about Willowbrook bridge and whether it would be closed. Mr. Weishaar stated that he didn't believe the bridge would be closed but if they did, they would send out an ever-bridge notification to warn the people that they are about to close the bridge.

Commissioner Sellers asked where they would be releasing water from and if it is necessary to release the water? Mr. Weishaar stated it would be coming from Cheyenne Bottoms and when released it flows down Cow Creek and causes flooding. He also stated that he, KDEM and Rice County has all asked them not to release the water and it still gets released.

Commissioner Hirst encouraged the Townships to keep track of their time and to stay in contact with Mr. Weishaar. He stated that they have been in close contact with the Township Boards.

Commissioner Bush said that he was contacted by the Mayor of Buhler to see if there was something that could be done with the roads between Hutchinson and Buhler so when there is major rain, it doesn't cause issues for people trying to get in and out of Buhler. He would like to meet with Mr. Meagher and Public Works to see if there is anything that can be done. He is also concerned about Fire and Ambulance getting through to Buhler when the roads are flooded. Mr. Meagher stated that it would be a big project but something they could look in to. Mr. Weishaar reminded everyone that as the water table rises, water will be getting into basements and they should start moving things out that might get wet. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the disaster declaration. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Administrator Gary Meagher met with the Board to recommend the purchase of a new pumper truck for Reno/Kingman Joint Fire District #1. Mr. Meagher stated that the purchase had already been discussed with the Chief. He said the purchase price was not to exceed \$292,545 of which \$210,000 will be paid down and the remainder will be on a 4-year lease/purchase with Peoples Bank & Trust with an interest rate of 3.5%. They looked at several ways to finance, and this was the most favorable way to purchase. \$113,723 will be due and payable when the chassis arrives/upon invoice and the remainder due and payable at final inspection in Snyder, NE. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the recommendation to purchase a new pumper truck from Danko Emergency Equipment for a not-to-exceed cost of \$292,545; of which \$210,000 will be paid from the District's Special Equipment Fund with the remaining balance of \$82,545 to be financed as a Lease-Purchase from Peoples Bank & Trust.

Commissioner Hirst asked about the date plus 9 days, what did that mean? Mr. Meagher stated that Danko extended the proposal good until May 19th plus 5 days so that falls into today's meeting. If the recommendation had not been approved today, the cost would have gone up over \$2,300. Mr. Meagher thanked the Board for the approval today. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Horizons CEO Mike Garrett met with the Board to give his quarterly update. Mr. Garrett went over several things including some changes that were happening. He also went over increased revenues due to several new programs they are offering and went over their expenses. When their budget has been approved, he will bring it to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval. Commissioner Bush said that he appreciated Mike taking the time to come to the meetings.

Debra Teufel President/CEO Hutchinson Chamber met with the Board to go over their budget request for FY2020. Ms. Teufel thanked Commissioner Bush for being on their Economic Development Advisory Board. She then went over several goals for Economic Development and stated that 18.44% of the employees in Reno County are in retail. Some of her goals are to fill 346,000 square feet of retail space across the county and to target tourism. She stated that for FY 2020 they would like \$50,000. Commissioner Sellers asked what their current funding is, and

she stated it is currently at \$37,400 and has been for four years.

Shawn McHaley, Reno County Undersheriff met with the Board to go over the Sheriff's Department Capital Improvement Plan. He explained the need to replace traffic radars and went over the plan for new radios. He also went over the replacement of vehicles and stated that once they reach 80,000 to 90,000-miles they either trade them off or sell them to other departments. They are wanting to replace 1 patrol truck (\$17,000), four new patrol SUV's and equipment (\$33,500 each), and two used detective/admin cars (\$19,500 each) plus \$8,000 for install of all equipment by shop maintenance. They also need to replace two overhead garage doors. Commissioner Sellers asked if this was a flaw in construction and Mr. Meagher stated that it was a design flaw and they weren't the correct doors. They need an annual maintenance program for their backup generator, maintenance on NWS backup servers, mobile data terminals in 8 patrol vehicles and includes a maintenance plan. They also need support for servers for a secured connection with KHP & KBI. They had to switch to a newer style taser, and they are planning on replacing 5 each year. They need I-record hardware & software updates but they are looking for a cheaper alternative that will work just as good. They are needing to purchase a Sonic wall maintenance plan & support between NWS and vehicles. They are budgeting for 97 employees for an upgrade to Microsoft 365. They might not need this many, but IT has asked them to budget for 97 just in case. They are replacing cameras in the patrol vehicles at 2 or 3 each year. They want to continue with the Lexipol Policy program for annual updates to their policies to stay in compliance. Sonic wall firewall replacement recommended by IT. Gun range needs some repairs especially to the asphalt. Hutchinson Police Department is going to try and contribute \$15,000 so that is what Reno County is looking to do.

Commissioner Sellers asked where the gun range was located. It is on the east side of K61 over by the bridge out of South Hutchinson. Randy Henderson, Reno County Sheriff explained the radio replacement. They are wanting to pay off the life of the lease at \$13,386 then purchase/lease new radios.

Commissioner Sellers asked Mr. Meagher if he could put together a spreadsheet that goes back 2 or 3 years and what each department had requested to compare to what they are asking for this year.

At 10:40 County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan asked the Board for an executive session to review a privileged legal matter with the Board's legal counsel, relating to the wind energy project petitions. He indicated they would need 45 minutes for the presentation and there would be no decision requested of the Board. He further indicated that County Administrator Gary Meagher remain in the room during the presentation. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to go into executive session commencing at 10:45 a.m. for the reasons indicated in the request by the County Counselor. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:30 **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush,** to extend the executive session for 10 minutes. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:40 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 28, 2019.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
dp

Date