

May 26, 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.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar briefly spoke about several points; 1) conversations throughout the weekend with the state to continue as they currently are with the emergency operations. 2) If the Governor did not veto a bill passed by the legislature to take direct control of \$1.25 billion in federal coronavirus relief aid. 3) Not having a state declaration could negatively impact the county. He went over the costs to the county if that declaration did not stay in place. He said that it would mean no more supplies, equipment or information would be forthcoming, and shutting down the response recovery declaration plan. In his opinion, they need to put all politics aside and do what is best for our citizens. The state needs to do what is best for them and we could continue currently as we are in Reno County. He noted Reno County was doing great with wearing masks and social distancing.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti briefly went over statistics for the Country, Kansas, and Reno County stating there was one case from an inmate at the Reno County Correctional Facility. He said the Governor had two options for House Bill 2054, either veto it or sign it. They will continue to monitor the ramifications of the activity at the state level. Reno County urgency testing window has passed the stage of having to get testing supplies/kits and the Health Department going out to remote sites to test. If citizens would like to have a test done, they could test through the Health Departments medical partnerships by contacting either their physician, Hutchinson Clinic or Prairie Star. Mr. Bush asked about Walmart testing and them being valid. Mr. Baldetti replied that he would always recommend being tested by a physician, Hutchinson Clinic or Prairie Star with a professional swab instead of self-nasal swab testing.

Mr. Sellers asked about flooding. Mr. Weishaar replied they were watching to see if the water would rise from Rice County with the 2 to 4 inches of rain expected.

Sheriff Darrian Campbell gave an update on the COVID-19 positive result transferred from another jurisdiction at the Reno County Correctional Facility. He stated she could not bond out so was put in isolation under PPE guidelines. Jail Captain Shawn McClay made comments on the guidance from Sheriff Campbell and Health Department Director Nick Baldetti for more jail protocols.

There were no public comments or additions to the agenda.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on May 29th, 2020 of \$440,264.87 and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2020-180 as submitted by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 9:35 Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to open the public hearing regarding an application to be submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds under the CDBG-CV category; and accept proposals for Grant Administrator of the CDBG-CV. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Administrator Randy Partington discussed CDBG-CV grant money for the Economic Development portion of up to \$300,000 for businesses outside the City of Hutchinson needing assistance with financing due to COVID-19 starting at \$25,000 to \$35,000 per business. He said there were two options for a certified grant administrator, SCKEDD (South Central Kansas Economic Development District) of which Reno County is a member and Ranson Financial Group. SCKEDD had the lower fee for the application process of \$1,750 with Ranson at \$3,000, but both agencies offer the cost of administration with a maximum of \$15,000 if the full \$300,000 was rewarded. He noted after sending the application this week, the turn-around would be in a couple of days for a yes or no. He stated this was not a loan but a working capital grant for businesses outside of Hutchinson and with qualified employees showing proof of low to moderate income. The administrator would go through a process to score ten businesses to award the grant funds.

Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Debra Teufel just supported what Mr. Partington stated about the CDBG-CV program. The grant program was a first come, first served basis. The Chamber did a pre-survey with businesses that felt they had negative impacts as a result of COVID-19 and are eligible for the grant. They had 50 responses within the county with the majority in the city which supports the grant application. The business applications are scored with a demonstrated need and meeting the LMI federal requirement of this grant. The state is allocating a total of \$9 million dollars for cities outside larger city limits. The traditional CDBG would be a loan but noted this is not. She said they will be going beyond their members in the county. We are all competing for this grant so the sooner we move on the first come, first serve basis the better.

At 9:45 Mr. Bush moving, seconded by Mr. Hirst closed the Public Hearing. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Chairman Sellers read resolution and related documents for application to the Kansas Department of Commerce of Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds under the CDBG-CV category. **Resolution 2020-13: A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING LEGAL AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR THE CDBG-CV FROM THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.** Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve resolution 2020-13 as read by the Chairman. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Because he serves as a representative on the SCKEDD Board for Reno County, Commissioner Hirst made the statement that after seeking advice from County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, Mr. O'Sullivan saw no conflict of interest since Mr. Hirst does not have a business that would be involved in any type of application.

Mr. Partington stated that both are qualified applicants and would do a great job however, the main difference was Reno County was a member of SCKEDD and their application fee was lower at \$1,750.

Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to award SCKEDD the Grant Administrator of the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds under the CDBG-CV category as recommended by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Clerk Donna Patton and Deputy Election Officer Jenna Fager met with the Board to update them on the Election Processes for the upcoming Primary in August and General Elections in November 2020 with a list of fourteen issues/concerns that could arise due to COVID-19. She stated the main item was that they would not be closing any polling locations as long as they can find election workers. She mentioned the advanced application fliers that were sent out, at no cost to the county, to all active registered voters in the County and the processes they follow. Mrs. Patton mention the safety kits provided by the state, and how they would be handling training differently to comply with the CDC guidelines.

Commissioner Sellers asked Mrs. Patton about the House Bill 2054 regarding the tax bill. Mrs. Patton explained the bill and entities rate and stated it gets rid of the tax lid. The Board discussed the Bill more.

Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Debra Teufel gave a slide presentation on the Economic Development 2021 Budget request of \$50,000 currently the amount was \$37,500.

Horticulture Agent and Director Pam Paulsen Extension Office 2021 Budget request is staying flat at \$365,000.

Reno County 4-H Fair Treasurer and Board Megan Miller and President and Chairman of the 4-H Fair Board Jamie Schmidt were requesting a flat amount of \$16,500 for their 2021 Budget. The fair will be modified this year eliminating some activities bringing them back possibly next year.

Arts & Humanities 2021 Budget request was presented by Council Board members Jim French and Treasurer Michelle Waln, who is Vice President of Culture with Heartland Credit Union, and Tony Finlay Hutchinson Recreation Commission. They presented on behalf of the Hutchinson/Reno County Arts & Humanities Council requesting the same amount as last year of \$7,000. Commissioner Bush asked for more detail for the \$7,000.

County Administrator and Commissioners comments:

County Administrator Randy Partington updated the Board on the Planning and Zoning meeting posted on You Tube and said they plan on the same format for the meeting on June 18th, 2020. They may have to move the location since public comment on the wind energy will be discussed.

At 11:25 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday,
June 2, 2020.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date