

May 28, 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 Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Gary Getting, Elliott Mortuary Inc.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner comments:

Commissioner Hirst attended the Memorial Day Celebration at Eastside stating the Hutchinson Municipal Band played and the whole program was great.

Commissioner Sellers thanked the County Administrator for the update on the septic tank regulations. He asked if the process of the septic system regulations would be user friendly to the public and county letting the industry work within Reno County.

County Administrator Gary Meagher reminded everyone about the 1:00 p.m. meeting for the FY 2020 Agency Budget Funding this afternoon. He also wanted to remind the public of the June 13th meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Fox Theater instead of the Atrium for consideration of the NextEra Conditional Use Permit application. He asked for one addition to the agenda, item #7a was a seven-day extension of the Disaster Declaration from Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan noted that he and Russ Ewy, County Consultant along with County Planner Mark Vonachen would be prepared to report on the protest petition filed by Citizens of Reno County Against NextEra on June 4th, 2019. He received a response from legal counsel for a group of people who were in opposition, sent at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and is still looking at the response so it would probably be June 11th before a report could be given.

Commissioner Bush clarified Tuesday, June 11th during the regular agenda session at 9:00 a.m. Mr. O'Sullivan would be prepared to make a report regarding the protest petitions to the County Commission and additionally the County Consultant Russ Ewy will provide information on which protest petitions are not eligible based on the recommendation of county legal staff. Mr. O'Sullivan replied that was correct. He went over the June 13th meeting for a formal County Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m., at the Fox Theater. He noted that they will record the meeting, have staff reports and then the Commission would review the recommendations and vote on the NextEra Conditional Use Permit application. That way we are as clear as we can be. Also, he pointed out that the County Commissioners were not accepting open public comment regarding the NextEra Wind process application that was handled through the Planning and Zoning hearings which were 20 plus hours and stated that once our legal opinion is given, they will be making a recommendation. This is a very important issue and we want to get it correct.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on May 31st, 2019 of \$306,354.70 as submitted also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Order numbered 2019-1736. Last item on the consent agenda was to appoint Jason Tedder as Treasurer of Reno Township. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar met with the Board to recommend an extension of the Disaster Declaration. He updated the coming weather situation with expected rain and about signs. He reminded everyone that it is illegal to be in floodwater and he especially asked the public to keep children out of the floodwaters because there are areas of raw sewage and debris in and under the water. Commissioner Sellers noted multiple areas of raw sewage is a huge concern across the state. The Board briefly discussed additional rain forecasted and seeping over the levy concerns. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve an extension of the Disaster Declaration as outlined by Mr. Weishaar. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 9:20 the meeting adjourned until 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, 2019.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date