

May 28, 2019  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in an afternoon agenda session with, Chairman Bob Bush, Commissioner Ron Hirst and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Gary Meagher, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

Commissioner Bush called the meeting to order for the FY2020 Agency Funding requests starting with the Conservation District, Emergency Medical Services, First Generation Video, Museum, Quest Center, Reno County 4-H Fair, Reno County Drug Court, and the Reno County Extension Office.

Chloe Wilson, District Manager for the Reno County Conservation District met with the Board to request an allocation of \$47,500, which was a slight increase in the funding level provided by the Commission for the past three years. She went over a brief history of the 73 years of services to the Reno County community. She stated the importance of the community projects and the countless landowners who have implemented conservation practices and educated thousands of children on the importance of conservation and the value of our natural resources. They serve the community through various programs and partnerships.

Reno County EMS Deputy Chief David Trotter met with the Board on behalf of Chief Terry David who retired Saturday. Chief Trotter gave a brief history of services stating that they were asking for \$1,572,140 for FY2020. He explained the breakdown for the budget request stating the revenue source was transporting patients for EMS, with 5,100 transports being projected for 2020. He went over the revenue, write-offs, operating expenses, net from operations, capital equipment and ended with total funding. Mr. Trotter briefly discussed the Major Capital Equipment Projection from 2020-2024 for ambulances.

First Generation Video Hutchinson Welcome Channel 7 Project Manager Martha Farrell met with the Board requesting \$3,000 and noted this was the same as last year. She gave a brief history of the Welcome Channel and mentioned the YouTube segments, distributing new material monthly to the Greater Hutchinson Convention and Visitors Bureau, and highlighting towns in "A Reno County Snapshot". She stated that major events are promoted

in "HutchInfo", and they promote various other events throughout the year to showcase communities. They run special features like "Spotlight, Trivia Time, and What's Cool?"

Mary Clark, Interim Director for the Reno County Historical Society and Museum stated that her request for FY2020 is \$185,000 and noted that last year the museum was awarded \$169,000 from the County. She gave a brief history about the wonderful artifacts, oral and video histories as well as maps and documents. She addressed the maintenance on the HVAC and entryway carpet along with stating how memberships and programs were down.

The Quest Center Director David Dukart gave a brief summary of stats of the Quest Center's Entrepreneurial Taskforce and Outreach programs along with Haven training, HCC classes, Destination Bootcamp, Women's Leadership, and their involvement with local lending banks. Mr. Dukart said the Quest Center had \$120,000 in loans matched with outside banks of \$630,000 making a total of \$750,000 additional investments in the community. He mentioned the \$435,777 available through revolving loan funds that work along with GAP financing.

Daniel Friesen, Chairman of Quest Board and a Member of the Hutchinson Community Foundation Board explained lowering the bar for Quest loans. He spoke about Economic Development and how they were helping to grow communities and promoting the entrepreneurial base in Reno County. He stated we need to help entrepreneurs before they fail. He explained the \$90,000 requested in funds for FY2020 and stated that last year's funding was \$65,000. He noted a large part of the reason was the backing of the Hutchinson Community Foundation on this effort, and that it is private funding for Economic Development. He expressed what a unique opportunity for the Community Foundation to offer to put \$90,000 toward this program for the next five-years.

Aubrey Patterson, representing the Hutchinson Community Foundation Board and Taskforce on Entrepreneurship, explained the vision of the Foundation by investing in entrepreneurship for Reno County communities by helping to start and build their businesses. She asked the Board to take a leap of faith and join the Community Foundation in investing in our community.

Hutchinson Community College President Dr. File was in the audience to support the effort of entrepreneurship through the college.

At 2:20 the meeting recessed for ten minutes.

The meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Gary Meagher, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

Jami Schmidt and Megan Miller Reno County 4-H Fair Association members met with the Board to request for FY2020 \$20,000. Both explained different aspects of 4-H in the community and the four goals for the county that would also involve out of county residents. The Fair Board would use the extra funds to provide a great County Fair Experience for Reno County asking the FFA and Boy/Girl Scouts to partner in the experience.

Community Corrections Director Randy Regehr met with the Board to explain the different source of funding from the 2020 Alcohol Tax Fund for the Reno County Drug Court. He stated that it is specifically set aside for drug and alcohol rehabilitation and was not coming out of the General Fund. Mr. Meagher gave further explanation on the Alcohol Tax Fund and how it is split up three ways. This year the request was for \$11,218 estimated from the fund. He said they may receive less than that from the state but not more and said it could also roll over.

Megan Miller, Chairman of the Councils Executive Board which governs the Reno County Extension Office, was standing in for Extension Office Director Pam Paulsen who drafted two proposals. The first was for \$373,000, which was an increase of \$8,000 or 2.19 percent and noted that this would maintain our current staff of four agents and two office personnel. This would allow the extension office to run as it has without tapping into the reserve fund that is dangerously depleted. The second option was for \$435,000, which is an increase of \$70,000 or 19.18 percent and would allow them to add a fifth agent making us full staffed and covering all of option ones needs. She went over what that additional person would mean to youth educational and school programs, like STEAM (Science, Technology, Education, Agriculture and Math) as well as life skills and career preparation. They could also work with other service agencies in Reno County and stated this is something we cannot offer with the present staff. They are also making targeted requests for grant money. Kansas State provides a contribution for salaries.

Commissioner Sellers asked about the Extension Board. Ms. Miller replied that there were 10 members. Commissioner Hirst noted each member of their board is from different areas of Reno County. Ms. Miller stated that they reach out to people in the community for Board members.

County Administrator Gary Meagher standing in for Deputy Chief David Trotter to explain the action item of declaring EMS' 2002 ambulance with almost 200,000 miles as surplus to be donated to Trails West EMS located in the Sylvia area. This has been done previously when newer models are acquired. Sylvia has no income stream of their own but provides a service to the community. He stated they can't transport but are able to stabilize a patient while awaiting the Arlington ambulance. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve declaring the 2002 ambulance as surplus to be donated to Trails West EMS as outlined by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Meagher also was present to recommend approval to declare five (5) EMS' old power cots as surplus with one (1) to be donated to Pretty Prairie EMS; and one (1) to be donated to the Hutchinson Community College EMS Education Program; and the other three (3) to be used by EMS for backup units. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the surplus distribution as recommended by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 3:05 p.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
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Date