

May 31st, 2022
Reno County Annex
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held an agenda session at the Annex Conference Room with Chairman Daniel Friesen, Commissioner Ron Sellers, and Commissioner Ron Hirst, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

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

Commissioner Hirst stated he had the honor to attend the Memorial Day Service in South Hutchinson at the Veterans Wall. The Hutchinson Municipal Band played making it a very special time for all who attended. He wanted to thank everyone who made the Memorial Day Celebration a success.

There were two amendments to the agenda; Emergency Management Adam Weishaar on a Letter of Intent for a Fire Mitigation Grant to be added as business item 7B, executive session for attorney/client privilege to be added as agenda item 9A. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the amended agenda. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A through 6L, including the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on May 20, 2022, totaling \$603,701.46, claims payable on May 27th, 2022, totaling \$290,346.21; claims payable on June 3rd, 2022, totaling \$590,250.62; approve BOCC final minutes from April 26th, April 26th ARPA Special Session, and May 10th, 2022; approval of Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board reappointment of Darryl Peterson and first term appointments of Shontina Tipton and Heather Jobe. The appointments are 3-year terms effective 5/24/2022 to 5/24/2025; to approve Community Corrections contract with Uptrust to provide two-way text messaging, web, and mobile applications to improve communication and reduce missed appointment and court hearings. The contract is for one year with a \$1,000 monthly fee; approval for Planning Case #2022-04 for **resolution #2022-14; A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE VACATION OF A 20-FOOT WIDE SIDEWALK EASEMENT LOCATED IN RANDOM ACRES SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE SOUTHEAST ¼ -**

SECTION 11 OF T23S, R5W OF THE 6TH P.M., RENO COUNTY, KANSAS
(David Ellis Jr. and Linda Case);
approval for **resolution #2022-15; A RESOLUTION AMENDING
RESOLUTION 2007-12, A RESOLUTION WHICH ESTABLISHED STIPENDS FOR
DISTRICT FIRE CHIEFS AND PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND
COMPENSTION OF ASSISTANCT FIRE CHIEFS.** Approve a donation of 30
surplus radios to Pratt County Sheriff's Office; approve
addendum to the Reno County Purchasing Policy addressing
conflict of interest and federal debarment of
vendors/contractors; and authorize the County Administrator to
sign Addendum to the policy; approve addendum #6 to the October
26, 1988 agreement between Ray E. Bontrager and Carol J.
Bontrager and Reno County Water District No. 101 with new owner
Regena R. Graber Trust; approval of Perform Yard Software for
Countywide Performance Evaluations at an annual cost of \$24,900;
to approve RCAT Service and Operation hours; approve the
Reno/Harvey Joint Fire District #2 (Buhler) Tender Truck
purchase from Osco Tank & Trucks sales for \$272,357; and declare
their 1999 Freightliner as surplus to be sold on PurpleWave once
the new tender is in service as presented by staff. The consent
agenda motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. County
Administrator Randy Partington stated that Captain Levi
Blumanhourst was in the audience to answer questions for consent
item 6G. He informed the Board that the Tender truck on consent
item 6L had been delivered.

Commissioner Sellers made comments on items 6C and 6K. He
was concerned about the appointments to the Advisory Board not
advertised for 90 days for vetting and was not approved by the
Board per policy. There was a brief discussion with a
suggestion to possibly have all advisory boards add members at
the same time of year with the exception of Community
Corrections and Court Services who by statute replace members in
March or April. Mr. Sellers stated the shortage of personnel at
the RCAT department which resulted in hours being cut was
affecting citizens and he was hoping that RCAT's operation hours
would get back to normal soon.

Maintenance Director Harlen Depew updated the Board on the
Courthouse repairs. He stated in the previous meeting two change
orders were discussed and the dome change order was approved for
\$698,401.20.

Mr. Partington stated the insurance company would not cover
all of the cost for repairing the rust/corrosion on the anchors
from the earthquake claim. The repairs cover the top two floors
only. They did not have an amount to be approved today however

funds were available in the reserve fund if needed to cover what insurance did not.

Mr. Depew said limestone slabs needed to be anchored with steel ties since some previous anchors had rusted away. The insurance denied coverage since the structure survived the earthquake and the current codes do not say they have to fix the anchors. The local engineer recommended anchoring those stone slabs with an anchor grid only to concrete not to clay tiles. The change order covers from the third floor up but not the lower floors. Mr. Depew stated he had questions about the coverage of the whole courthouse not just the top two floors and was awaiting answers.

Commissioner Sellers agreed with anchors on concrete, not clay tiles. He suggested to Mr. Depew to think long and hard before spending more money, we need to move on and get it done, enough time has been spent with Pishney.

Commissioner Hirst also agreed with anchors on solid concrete, not tiles, as he had said previously.

Commissioner Friesen said change order #2 should be addressed first and he agreed to the anchor slabs to concrete not tile. Anchoring should not be just from the 3rd floor up either.

Mr. Depew will stay in contact with the insurance company for information on the dollar amount they will pay. He said the dome was looking good and said they had been working on it over the holiday weekend. The window project had some modifications and was projected to be done by the end of June. Mr. Friesen asked Mr. Partington to put an insurance claim update on the future agenda.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar spoke about reimbursement mitigation money. He recommended to submit a Letter of Intent by June 10th, 2022, of 75 percent federal funds and 25 percent county funds. He explained what would qualify for reimbursement. He stated that no purchase of equipment or to make any fire breaks would qualify. He was requesting the BOCC consider showing interest in going on private property or not to help homeowners.

Commissioner Hirst thought the government was not responsible for mitigation and that it should be the insurance

or homeowners' responsibility. He wanted the individual property owner to apply and not do the grant letter.

Commissioner Sellers did not want to do the grant process.

Mr. Weishaar recommended to send the Letter of Intent to see if they could get the grant money to help Reno County.

Commissioner Friesen stated the back-end expense versus mitigation costs for people, and that he would like to see the fire issues fixed before it happens. He said we should go after as much money as we can then decide afterward. A Letter of Intent should include the scope of fuel mitigation, a very wide scope, be creative he told Mr. Weishaar. The Board by consensus decided to do the Letter of Intent. Mr. Weishaar stated he would submit the high-risk areas county wide for a cost share and provide maps with the Letter. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to approve Mr. Weishaar to draft a Letter of Intent and submit it to the State of Kansas for further review from state to reach a final decision by state for our Letter of Intent. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Health Department Director Karla Nichols reviewed the annual report in a presentation. She brought with her for questions; Karen Hammersmith Health Department Assistant Director Clinical Services, Megan Gottschalk-Hammersmith Health Department Assistant Director of Population Services, Darcy Basye Environmental Health Supervisor, and Bethany Jantzen Finance and Accounting Supervisor. There was a discussion by the Board about licensed childcare and regulations for home versus centers.

County Administrator Randy Partington asked the Board if there were any questions on the monthly reports in the packets. He spoke about Public Works Director Don Brittain in negotiations on more land for the sewer project at H.A.B.I.T. Mr. Friesen inquired about the utility rate study. Mr. Partington replied that rates were currently taxes and user fees and were the same as 1990 rates. Mr. Friesen would like to discuss rates because some water and sewer were under/over funded, he asked to have something brought back to start working with for rates. Mr. Partington stated ARPA requests were received and he was compiling a summary package for the June 14th agenda meeting. The 2023 budget requests needed to be in by June 15th preliminary discussions would take place in June maybe the 21st. There was a large discussion on sewer and water.

Commissioner Hirst thanked all the students in Reno County for their participation in the extra-curricular state contests, it makes it extra special to get to state.

Commissioner Sellers along with Mr. Hirst, attended the Peace Officers Memorial at the Law Enforcement Center on May 13th, 2022, stating the speaker was very good.

Commissioner Friesen questioned if the audio on the live feed was fixed. Mr. Partington said IT tested it and it must be from outside our network. IT gave suggestions to the radio station on how to fix the problem.

At 10:38 a.m. the Board recessed for a 7-minute break.

At 10:45 a.m. Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to go into executive session for 15 minutes until 11:00 a.m. to discuss the subject of matters protected by attorney/client privilege with the executive session justified by the need to discuss with the County Counselor and County Administrator subjects which would be deemed privileged by the attorney-client privilege, with Mr. Partington and Mr. Hoffman present. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:00 a.m. the meeting moved into the Work Session for the discussion of Environmental Health and Septic permits.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date