

June 8, 2021
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the agenda session with Chairman Ron Hirst, Commissioner Daniel Friesen and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and County Clerk Donna Patton, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Tim Kraft, First Church of God.

There were no public comments.

The Board considered the approval of the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A through 6F. Mr. Sellers asked that the minutes of May 25th be corrected to reflect a 13% increase in sales tax revenue rather than a 13%.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen, to approve the Consent Agenda including the correction to the May 25th minutes. The Consent Agenda included the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on June 4th, 2021, of \$103,338.67 and June 11th, 2021, of \$903,028.07 as presented. Next item directs the chairman to sign final minutes for May 7th, May 11th, and May 25th, 2021, as submitted. Amendment Three to an agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; and a Letter of Intent for the Health Department's Outreach, Prevention and Early Development Services (OPEI)(aka Healthy Families Grant). Copier lease and maintenance program. Reno/Kingman Fire District No. #1 declination to participate in the Kingman County amended Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Last item for the consent agenda was Flock Safety Contract for law enforcement cameras, alerts, and notifications. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Friesen would like to see a common plan for technology on printers and copiers.

At 9:10 a.m., **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to go into Executive Session to discuss Non-Elected Personnel for 15 minutes, with no legal binding action to take place and for the County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar to remain. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 9:25 a.m. the Board came back into open session.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar reported to the Board in respect to the meeting that he and Mr. Partington had with the Fire District Chiefs on the 5 Bugle report. Mr. Weishaar recommended hiring a full-time Fire Professional and gave several examples why this job was needed. This would also free up his staff to concentrate on their essential jobs since a lot of their time is spent on the day to day needs of the different Fire Districts. Mr. Weishaar stated that the salary would come from the Fire Districts revenues and allocated among them in proportions determined by the Board. Fire District #9 and JT #1 Fire Chiefs were in the audience and stated that in their meeting, there was a consensus to hire this Professional. He thought there might be a little push back from some of the Fire Fighters, but overall, they thought it was a good idea. Mr. Friesen wanted to know if consolidation of all the Fire Districts in Reno County was a good idea. Mr. Friesen's concept of consolidation was that the current District Chiefs would still keep their authority. Consolidation would be limited to Fire District funds and for accounting purposes. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to recommend hiring a full-time Fire Professional. At Mr. Friesen's request, Mr. Sellers amended his motion to state that the compensation to pay the Fire Professional would come from the Fire Districts revenues. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Friesen moved that within 6 months, Mr. Partington and staff would provide a progress report on Fire District issues which would include priorities for implementing change, which would address proposed consolidation of the Fire Districts for Administrative purposes. **Mr. Hirst seconded the motion.** Mr. Sellers said he wouldn't support that part of the motion considering consolidation. **Mr. Friesen moved,** to amend his motion to remove the reference of consolidation, and **Mr. Sellers seconded** the amended motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Human Resources Director Helen Foster met with the Board to recommend hiring USI as a Benefit Consultant/Broker for Reno County after consulting with the seven member Reno County benefits committee. Mrs. Foster explained that their bid was a little higher, but the committee liked their aggressive approach. Mr. Partington explained the \$65,000 annual contract, savings for that first year was guaranteed. Mrs. Foster said they have a lot of programs for our employees and Mr. Partington

said he thought this was the best Company to save us money. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to approve hiring USI a Benefit Consultant/Broker for Reno County. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Partington began the discussion of moving to a 5-member Board. He reviewed some maps that were created and an analysis that was done in 2014/2015 the last time this issue was discussed. Deputy Election Officer Jenna Fager explained why some precincts might have to be split and if we can follow current precinct lines, that would alleviate splitting precincts. Mr. Sellers encouraged patrons to call or email the Commission if they have any thoughts or questions about a 5-member Board. He would also like the legal requirements of going to a 5-member board for the next meeting and reminded the other commissioners that this would need to be decided by the end of July if they want it on the ballot in November.

Mr. Partington mentioned the Department Reports and that the Financials are on pace.

Mr. Sellers commented that he liked the Department Reports that have been in their packets. Mr. Friesen asked if Mr. Partington could get them a timeline for the budget process. Mr. Sellers would like to discuss the Cash Reserves and if we can reduce that any.

At 11:00 a.m. the meeting recessed for five minutes.

The meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and County Clerk Donna Patton, present.

Commissioner comments:

Mr. Friesen would like to talk about Cash Balance goals and Cash Reserves. He would also like a policy in place in case anything like COVID happens again. He did not elaborate on what the proposed policy would address.

Mr. Sellers said he and Mr. Partington attended an ARP group meeting to listen to how they think the ARP money should be spent. He offered his congratulations to The Hutchinson Community College for their national titles in Football and Golf. He would like to see younger people get vaccinated and agrees with Mr. Friesen that we need a unified technology agreement for printers/copiers. He wanted to discuss streaming

the internal budget meetings online. He didn't know if the wage study would be completed in time for the 2022 budget, but Mr. Partington said he would like to put the money in another fund to cover the wage increases.

Mr. Hirst commented that Mr. Friesen was speaking to someone with the Chamber who has been in contact with someone from NextEra. He was concerned that Mr. Friesen was getting information that might cause a conflict of interest. **Mr. Hirst moved**, to put wind regulations on the June 29th agenda. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to accept the resignations of the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief in FD#6; and further moved that Chief Bobby White of FD#3 be appointed as Interim Fire Chief for FD#6 for the purpose of evaluating and assessing the current capacity of FD#6 to provide emergency response services. Chief White's responsibility will include providing written and oral reports to the County Administrator and to the Board of County Commissioners, with respect to providing future emergency response services in FD#6. The term of this appointment will be for 60 days unless extended or earlier discontinued. Chief White shall be compensated for his services as shall be agreed upon by the County Administrator and Chief White to be paid from FD#6 budgeted revenue. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing Non-Elected Personnel for a period of not more than 30 minutes with no legal binding action to take place. County Administrator Randy Partington and County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan to remain for the executive session. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board will return to regular session at which time the meeting would adjourn for the day. The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:50 a.m. the Board returned to regular session and the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
dp

Date