

June 9, 2020  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the agenda session with, Commissioner Bob Bush and Commissioner Ron Hirst, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present. Chairman Ron Sellers was not available.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Ron Kyker, Countryside Baptist Church.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti briefly went over statistics for the Country, Kansas, and Reno County. He spoke about going to one update call a week. He noted the Governor signed House Bill that would help Reno County move forward. The Board discussed various issues regarding COVID-19.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar briefly spoke about several points; 1) with the disaster declaration in place resources through the state are in place until mid-July. 2) The state switched gears concentrating on flooding and riots. 3) still monitoring all activity with COVID-19. The Board commented on travel to hot spots and how it would be handled. Mr. Baldetti said the World Health Organization had announced new findings that A-symptomatic COVID carriers would be rare for them to spread the disease.

Sheriff Darrin Campbell explained the protest event from last weekend and how his department worked with the lead agency, Hutchinson Police Department, to keep a fluid situation under control to protect the community. He stated that 36 additional officers with 266 overtime hours were used for the protest. Sheriff Campbell spoke about the drone program and its benefits.

Commissioner Hirst commented on how important cooperation was to everyone. He thanked the local churches and the NAACP for their communication.

Commissioner Bush spoke about the faith-based community, the NAACP and local churches not backing the organizer of the protest. He complimented the Sheriff on how the event was handled and his great leadership.

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 June 12th, 2020 of \$363,475.22. Chief Elected Officials' Agreement with the Kansas Workforce Investment Board, Local Area 1. Next on the consent agenda, a renewal of a License Agreement with the City of Hutchinson for the installation of signs, benches and RCAT bus shelter facilities on City property. Last item on the consent agenda was a five-year update of the Solid Waste Management Plan for South Central Kansas Solid Waste Authority-Reno, Rice and Kingman County. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0.

New District Attorney Tom Stanton met with the Board complimenting them on the way they handled the protest concerns with employees. He said there would be no changes in the District Attorneys office except for hiring a new attorney. He spoke on the legalities of COVID-19.

County Planner Mark Vonachen reviewed policies on Planning and Zoning applications going over the permit process, the public input, then the Planning and Zoning decision being made, ending up with that decision coming to the Commission for final approval. He gave explanation of Planning and Zoning case #2020-20; a request by Rita Quillen (applicant: Patrick Wilson) for a Homestead Agricultural Lot Split as provided for under Article 3-106 of the Reno County Subdivision Regulations. Mr. Vonachen stated that after review, staff had denied the application. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 hearing the Planning and Zoning Board gave approval with a 5-0 vote with three conditions attached. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush,** to approve the request by Rita Quillen for a Homestead Agricultural Lot Split as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0.

Mr. Vonachen also gave explanation on Planning and Zoning case #2020-03 a request by the Joseph E and Susan K. Leonard Trust (applicant: Branch Communications, Kole Talbott) for a conditional use permit to construct a not to exceed 199-foot tall self-support telecommunication tower with ground equipment. He explained the height of the tower had been revised to 178-foot with required lighting after the FFA reviewed the request and the location was within 3 miles of the Hutchinson Airport. Staff approved with 10 factors and 7 conditions. Planning and Zoning Board on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 approved the request with a 5-0 vote with 7 conditions and 5 factors. Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve the request by Joseph E. and Susan K. Leonard Trust for a CUP to construct a 178-foot self-support

telecommunication tower with ground equipment as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0.

County Administrator and Commissioners comments:

County Administrator Randy Partington discussed the following items:

- 1) Testing You-tube closed captioning for hearing and deaf citizens for 1,000 hours at a cost of \$900 a year in live format.
- 2) Public Works Director Don Brittain had previously commented on vandalized damage to a crane south of Arlington estimated at \$5,000. Mr. Brittain will be setting up cameras to stop this from happening again.
- 3) Cleaning off the Mezzanine by Youth Services for future use.
- 4) Fire Bugle contacted regarding his consultant visit on June 25<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup> setting up to meet with Fire Chiefs to speak about concerns with issues then meet with commissioners.
- 5) Update on courthouse improvements from Maintenance Director Harlen Depew.
- 6) Budget workshops from department directors starting June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for a half day starting at 8:30 a.m.
- 7) CDBG-CV grant sent a cover letter on the \$132,000. He discussed a committee reviewing applications on businesses to give \$5,000 to \$10,000 depending on the number of employees in a business or giving \$10,000 to \$20,000 after the recommendations were made and after certain criteria was met.
- 8) Committee would consist of five to six members. Mr. Bush suggested one from the Chamber, two businessmen, county administrator, Commissioner Hirst and possible retired banker.
- 9) NAACP had a great meeting and good representation of the community and county staff in attendance.

At 10:30 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday,  
June 16, 2020.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
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Date