

June 14th, 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 City of Hutchinson Police/Reno County Sheriff's Chaplin Director Richard M. Haley also the Pastor at Riverside Baptist Church.

United Way Denise Gilliland updated the Board on the Child Care Market Study. She asked the public in the rural area to come forward to participate on the childcare committee.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to** approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A through 6G, including the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on June 10th, 2022, totaling \$758,143.23, claims payable on June 17th, 2022, totaling \$237,781.90; and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2022-427, 581, 587; Kansas Department of Corrections grant conditions approval for the risk assessment; approve and set a date of Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. for County Canvass of the 2022 Primary Election; approve and set a date of Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. for County Canvass of 2022 General Election; approval to renew an application for a Cereal Malt Beverage License for O'Brien's Marina LLC for Off Premises; approval to renew an application for a Cereal Malt Beverage License for O'Brien's Marina LLC for On Premises as presented by staff. The consent agenda motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Administrator Randy Partington presented the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) summary of requests in an excel spreadsheet. His spreadsheet had requests and program amounts from organizations or individuals. He also had an overview of the final guidelines for spending from the U.S. Department of Treasury's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. He asked the Board if they would like to use scoring by staff or put together a committee to review requests.

Mr. Sellers stated he would prefer no scoring or use of an outside committee. The Board had decided on three major buckets with Mr. Hirst researching Child Care, Mr. Friesen looking into Economic Development, and Mr. Sellers handling housing for the allocation of the \$12 million plus funds.

Mr. Hirst felt some of the items on the summary would not qualify for funds and a discussion should be in the future for those requests. The three main areas Mr. Sellers mentioned fit together for growth in Reno County and he suggested a work study session to discuss them.

Mr. Friesen was in favor of further talks by the Commission and not establishing a committee. He was not clear on allocation amounts for the three major buckets and Mr. Partington had heard several different amounts for the buckets. He thought Mr. Partington should set up a session for the questions from the commissioners may have and suggested next agenda meeting. Mr. Partington knew of the allocated \$440 thousand for the fire brush trucks. The Board discussed housing, administration fees, Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, and a potential hotel project. Afterward they decided to speak with the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Hutchinson and bring back any information to the next agenda meeting.

County Counselor Patrick Hoffman reviewed the City/County Agreements for the Law Enforcement and Emergency Communications. He stated in January after meeting with the Sheriff they made some changes and sent to the City Attorney who approved it; however, the City Council had not voted on approval yet. The agreement discussed the division of funds and services rendered. He indicated most were technical changes and some clarified the county owned building on Avenue G and how it is to be used in the future. The termination period was updated to sixteen months instead of four months giving all parties time to budget accordingly.

Mr. Sellers commented that he appreciated Mr. Hoffman's work on these agreements. He stated it was important the city and county work together getting documents signed so they could continue building a stronger relationship then in the past few years. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** as the county to approve the agreements and have the Chairman's signature on them then asking the City of Hutchinson to agree to them. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. The Board would like to meet with the City of Hutchinson not less than every six months to keep communications open. Also have the City Manager

and County Administrator meet quarterly then come with any information to the Commission and from a Mayors' Forum as well.

Mr. Partington reviewed the high-level 2023 budget. He stated last week he received the estimated valuation from the Reno County Clerk's Office of \$675,720,222 compared to \$641,734,089 for the current year. The increase was 5.3 percent which does not cover the cost of inflation. He gave a tentative budget schedule and deadlines from the state based on the county exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR). The initial budget summary will be on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and he is currently working with the Financial Specialist Leslie Roederer and Admin Associate V Shonda Arpin on the state budget form to proposed mill levy. He said with inflation the county may pay more for fuel and asphalt materials. Mr. Hirst stated there were 600 miles of road in Reno County and to asphalt all of them takes 20-years, and felt it was better to stay with Public Works Director Mr. Brittain's schedule for asphaltting. After a Board discussion Mr. Partington recapped what the Board wanted; to see a RNR budget with options, or budget recommendations, Capital Outlays, or cutting services and/or people.

Mr. Partington also gave explanation to purchase ClearGov for a web-based budgeting management software suite at a cost of \$9,275 for 2022; and then \$26,400 annually beginning January 1, 2023. He showed that the software would create an easier and more transparent budget process for directors, citizens, the commission, and staff. He said it could be taken from the budget without increasing the overall budget. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen**, to approve the purchase of the software outlined by Mr. Partington and authorize him to sign the agreement. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Partington was available to offer clarification of the Board Appointment Process earlier this year. He interpreted the last sentence in the process that all applications will be provided to the Commission at the meeting where an appointment is made, compared with practices in the past that just listed and showed who was being recommended. He stated what was not in the process was; after the 90 days or when the number of applicants were presented to the Commission, and they should have been vetted by the Chairman to see if there were any other applicants or concerns to diversify the boards. Mr. Sellers thought the Board Chairman should get to see the applications and decide whether appropriate or there was need for additional applicants before it is put on the agenda, he thought that

should be added to process. Mr. Hirst agreed to the adjustment to the process. Mr. Partington would add the list and have a discussion before bringing it to the full commission. Mr. Partington asked if the Board had any questions on the monthly reports in the packets. He briefly reviewed the financial report.

Mr. Partington mentioned the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) deadline last week for the shooting range. He said there were four companies that sent in documents. He would like to create a small group to do interviews to see which would be the best fit for Reno County and bring back the results to the full Board. He asked if one commissioner could be on that interview committee. Commissioner Friesen asked if Commissioner Hirst would be involved with the small group, and he agreed.

Commissioner Comments:

Mr. Hirst cautioned citizens on the highly flammable areas in the county. He gave an example of a fire that burnt 200 acres of wheat because of the dry conditions and high winds and noted that it costs farmers and the county money with those fires. A highway patrolman was investigating the fire since it started approximately eight feet into the field. Next comment was that he appreciated the outstanding initiative Mr. Partington took to involve Department Heads and employees regarding Leadership Training and Communication, thank you.

Mr. Sellers was grateful the fire did not start at the landfill. He also appreciated the comments on the Leadership training. He attended The Highlands annual meeting on Friday by invitation of the mayor where Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar and County Fire Administrator Travis Vogt spoke on fire precautions with several residents and took applications to have their property assessed. He attended the City of Hutchinson budget meeting at 3:00 p.m. as a citizen as they were considering the groups that we fund, just to hear those groups fund request as a concerned citizen. He asked the Mr. Partington to give information to commission candidates about the county in general. Mr. Partington was working with Laurie Moody for that information.

Mr. Friesen had no comments.

**At 10:55 a.m. Mr. Sellers motioned, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to adjourn the meeting until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 28, 2022. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

The following public attended the agenda meeting:

Randall Parks, Denice Gilliland, Mike Warren, Julia Westfahl, Marc Howell, Michael Jobe, Clint Nelson, Lorna Moore, Cris Corey, and Carol Moore.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
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Date