

June 22, 2021
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the agenda session with Chairman Ron Hirst, Commissioner Daniel Friesen, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present. Commissioner Ron Sellers attended via zoom.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Kim Biery, Trinity United Methodist Church. Commissioner Hirst thanked the pastors that come in to pray and appreciated them taking time to come in.

There were no public comments or additions to the agenda.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve Consent Agenda items 6A, 6B, 6D - 6F and the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on June 18th, 2021, of \$656,802.07 and June 25th, 2021, of \$1,268,090.07 as presented. Items for approval were, the draft of minutes for June 8th, 2021, the appointment of Craig Smith as Clerk on the Lincoln Township Board, and a renewal application for a Cereal Malt Beverage License to O'Brien's Marina LLC for on premises sales at \$125 and another Cereal Malt Beverage License application for off premises sales at \$75. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to remove item 6C, Solid Waste's purchase of a 2021 CAT 150AWD Motor Grader from Foley Equipment for \$265,542.59 with trade-in value of \$87,000 on a 2011 CAT 140M2AWD SN#M9J00219 from the consent agenda and place it on the agenda for discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Friesen had questions with respect to item 6C, pertaining to the potential leasing of equipment, the life expectancy of the equipment and the replacement schedule. County Administrator Randy Partington said Solid Waste Director Megan Davidson would not be available next week to answer questions. Mr. Friesen stated that he would get a list of questions for Ms. Davidson, and Mr. Partington could bring her answers to those questions to the next meeting. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to table this item until June 29, 2021. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Automotive Director Kyle Berg gave an update and outlined the Sheriff's fuel comparison and fuel savings for standard versus hybrids vehicles. A budget direction request was given to the County Administrator for a five-year rotation report regarding the Sheriff's vehicles. The commission asked for it to be on the next agenda for discussion.

Mr. Sellers began the discussion of expanding the County Commission to 5 commissioner districts. Mr. Hirst commented that he thought the commission needed time to inform the public. Mr. Sellers agreed but he believed three months was ample time to inform the public.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan reviewed the legal process for expanding the County Commission to 5 members.

Deputy Election Officer Jenna Fager requested that the ballot language with respect to the question submitted election on the issue of expanding the County Commission to 5 members, be provide to the Election Office by August 10th, 2021.

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that the issue of expanding the County Commission was considered in 2015 by a committee appointed by the County Commission for that purpose. Following receipt of the committee's recommendations the County Commission at that time decided not to submit the question to the electors of the County. Mr. O'Sullivan also stated that a resolution redistricting the County to be adopted prior to August 10th would be based upon the 2010 census, since the 2020 census wouldn't be available until September. He remarked that the Precincts, Townships, and Wards should be divided as equally as possible.

Mr. Friesen asked the expense of adding two more commissioners. Mr. Partington stated that an \$18,000 salary with benefits would be paid to each commissioner in addition to minimal office equipment. Because the question would be submitted at a General Election there would be no additional cost to submit the question at that time. Mr. Friesen requested a fact sheet be drafted to inform the public of the proposed changes for adding two more commissioners to the Board.

The Board agreed by consensus to review and identify three potential redistricting maps prepared for their consideration by the County's IT Department to examine at the next agenda meeting.

Mr. Partington reminded the Board of the July 6th and 7th budget meetings. The 6th starts at 8:30 am until 2:00 pm and taking a lunch break. On the 7th the meeting starts at 9:00 am ending at 2:30 pm with a lunch break there also. He was asking for direction by July 13th to decide the maximum mill levy for the county. He then briefly went over the process before the Clerk certifies in October. He said he attended the ARP funds meeting to discuss with the focus groups and meeting in the middle of July for use of the funds. Sales tax did increase, and this will help push the mill levy down. Mr. Friesen commented on the cash balance goals.

Commissioner Hirst congratulated the 2021 graduates from Reno County Schools.

At 10:05 a.m. the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 29, 2021.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm/dp

Date