

June 23, 2020
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Kim Biery, Trinity United Methodist Church.

Youth Services Director Bill Hermes recognized Kelly Lott's retirement and thanked her for her 25-years of service to Reno County by presenting her with a certificate of retirement plaque and gave a brief history of her service. The Board congratulated her on her years of service. Mrs. Lott stated it had been a privilege to work at Youth Services she then thanked Mr. Hermes and the Commissioners.

Start Up Hutch Jackson Swearer addressed the Board regarding SCKEDD's potential position, looking forward to bringing a new perspective as the Reno County representative replacing Jim Seitnater.

Commissioner Hirst stated Mr. Swearer wanted to learn more about SCKEDD before accepting the position, so he presented the SCKEDD handbook/by-laws to Mr. Swearer. In his opinion the experience with loans through (Quest Center) and now Start Up Hutch, Mr. Swearer would be a good candidate.

District Attorney's Natasha Esau introduced herself to the Board and gave a brief overview of her education and job description within the District Attorney's Office.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti briefly went over statistics for the Country, Kansas, and Reno County. He stated that we have had 60 positive cases with 10 active cases, and 75 outstanding tests with 50 total recoveries. He would do a press release on the nine new cases from over the weekend and stated that if there are any new cases another press release would be forthcoming. He recommended following the "moving forward" procedures with social distancing, personal hygiene, and mask use also notifying the Health Department of events over 100

people. He asked Sedgwick County for their numbers to keep track of their trending. Last week WHO made a statement that asymptomatic spreading is a rare occurrence, and now the WHO is trying to reclarify that statement. They said it is less likely that asymptomatic individuals could transmit COVID-19 and if they request it, should be tested at Prairie Star or Hutch Clinic. Mr. Baldetti spoke about contact within enclosed spaces versus outside events stating it would help for the exposure risk of COVID.

Commissioner Hirst asked about sickness around January and February, and if any testing was done. Mr. Baldetti stated that at that time upper respiratory was going around and stated that was from unknown origins but few published studies stating the SARS 2 virus may have been here earlier. He went into more of an explanation of the testing challenge and results.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar spoke about the Kansas Department of Emergency Management started allowing in fracture to request non-surgical PPE's through the state. We would be able to provide masks or face shields to any business/venues etc. inside the county.

There were no public comments.

There was one addition to the agenda: add item #8b. approving Jackson Swearer as representative for Reno County to the SCKEDD Board.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on June 26th, 2020 of \$225,869.76 as submitted and also appointing Start Up Hutch Jackson Swearer as Reno County representative to the SCKEDD Board to replace Jim Seitnater as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0.

Melissa Romme, Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, (ABBB) Chtd, Certified Public Accountants made a presentation via zoom of the 2019 Audit Report and Governance Letter. She discussed several highlights in the report and then briefly went over the Governance Letter which describes no problems or findings. The annual audit met the requirements of Kansas Statutes, K.S.A. 75-1122 and K.S.A. 75-1120a (c), various bond requirements, grant conditions and federal "Uniform Guidance" as a recipient of federal awards. Kansas Municipal Audit and Accounting Guide

"KMAAG" is a basis of cash receipts and disbursements as adjusted to show compliance with the cash basis and budget laws of the state of Kansas. Jami Benishek, Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball was on hand to answer questions for the Board. Ms. Romme said there were no recommendations for the 2019 Audit. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the 2019 Audit Report as presented by Melissa Romme, Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0.

Reno County Financial Specialist Leslie Roederer had drafted financials and put together the audit support, and she thanked all the department heads for their help. She appreciated the organization along with Ms. Romme and Ms. Benishek for their help with the audits. Chairman Sellers asked about the contract with ABBB. She explained the contract with ABBB was a three-year engagement letter, 2018 through 2020 with a three percent increase each year. She and the previous Administrator Gary Meagher negotiated a lower amount than previous contracts and she felt Reno County may have had a contract for nine years with ABBB.

The Board thanked Ms. Romme, Ms. Benishek, and Mrs. Roederer for all their professionalism and hard work on the audit. Mr. Partington said the main difference in the audits from his previous position to Reno County, is the reserve fund and encumbrances.

Mr. Partington updated on several items; 1) CARES Act money being distributed to all counties in the State of Kansas. Reno County will receive \$12.6 million with the Commission adopting a resolution by July 12th, 2020. This Friday the KAC is hosting a webinar for tracking the CARES Act money. They will go over the rules for what you can do and can not do with the funds and stated that the expenditures are between mid-March through December 2020. The funds are new COVID related expenses and not covered before by other monies. The first round is \$400 million dollars and noted that some of the counties are receiving their money now. The SPARK Committee would like the money to be distributed to cities, counties, and possible public schools and not private businesses. Mrs. Roederer and Mr. Partington will be on the Friday call for distributions. He went over what amount Reno County would receive stating the first part was \$194 per person tied to the amount that Johnson and Sedgwick County received directly. Second part was dollars per person based on COVID-19 numbers and unemployment rate. Reno County is receiving \$578,352 for the two combined. Reno County received

\$203.59 per person. This is a lower rate per person than other counties or cities.

Mr. Partington noted CDBG-CV Grant is still open for applications until July 2nd, 2020 and noted that we have received one application. They are waiting for businesses outside of the City of Hutchinson limits to come forward to apply. Individual businesses do not qualify because of employee status. Commissioner Hirst said the question was how much do businesses want to get involved with government. Mr. Partington thought the application may have been the problem and asking employees questions. He stated that you must be LOMI income and depends on the number of people in a household.

Mr. Partington also commented on Information Services working with audio for the Planning and Zoning meetings at this location and said that we may have to look at purchasing new equipment. It was recorded on You-Tube and you just type in "The Reno County" page to view the meeting. Commissioner Hirst appreciated and thanked the hard work that Mr. Partington and IT Director Mike Mathews, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, Planning and Zoning Russ Gertz, and County Planner Mark Vonachen, did and stated they all did a great job handling questions and situations very professionally.

County Administrator and Commissioners comments:

Commissioner Sellers asked about budget meetings on Thursday and Friday being attended by Commissioner Bush via zoom if he could not make the meeting on either of those days. He would like to go ahead and do the budgets in two days, meeting at 8:30 a.m. with Administrator comments first, then Department heads starting at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Hirst agreed to meet at 8:30 a.m. both days through electronic meetings and by phone.

Mr. Partington stated it will not be a recorded meeting but they are open meetings so the public could attend. There will be some minutes taken and he would supply the media with a hard copy via email. Commissioner Sellers recommended moving the meetings to the Veteran's Room for additional room.

Commissioner Sellers asked about the CIP plan being on next week's agenda. Mr. Partington said yes it was for discussion and approved for the 5-year plan and will ask the Department heads in the budget meetings.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan spoke about the appeal still pending in District Court on the status of the Pretty Prairie wind case. He was asked by one of the members of the Planning Commission if Judge Chambers' decision on the motion for partial summary judgement ended the case, and the answer was no. The motion challenged one status of the protest petition. Judge Chambers scheduled a status conference with legal counsel on July 2nd, 2020 to lay out how to proceed at this point. It is possible that Pretty Prairie Wind will seek an interlocutory appeal of Judge Chambers decision. Pretty Prairie would have to decide to file an appeal but is not required to make the appeal until the journal entry is filled with the court of the judge's decision made on May 21st, 2020. He was hoping the appeal would be filed by the end of this week or the next week. We will have to see what the court of appeals rules on Judge Chambers decision which could determine the outcome of the case. He gave some what ifs and said it could take a long time to resolve. Commissioner Sellers asked for clarification on the appeal. Mr. O'Sullivan explained further that the appeal could go forward or before the Court of Appeals.

Mr. O'Sullivan also spoke about the tax foreclosure cases filed on May 15th which is late this year. That timing effects the ability to obtain title searches for the properties we are foreclosing on. The title company was able to complete an additional 14 more after the case was filed along with the 134 originally filed on. He said if notices can not be personally served, they would be published in the official newspaper for Reno County, then the people would have 41 days after the first publication to respond.

Commissioner Hirst thanked Mr. O'Sullivan and his secretary Dorothy Brunk for all their hard work on the foreclosure case for Reno County.

At 10:35 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 30, 2020.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date