

June 25, 2019
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in agenda session with, Chairman Bob Bush, Commissioner Ron Hirst and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Gary Meagher, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Commissioner Hirst.

Reno County staff comments:

Road and Bridge Superintendent Don Brittain met with the Board to give an update on the 43rd Avenue bridge off Old Highway 61 over the railroad tracks. He stated the wooden bridge was 76-years old and a new deck had been installed in 2012 lowering the weight limit to 3-ton. Mr. Brittain had an engineer from WSB inspect the stringers under the bridge and he deemed the bridge unsafe for traffic to continue driving over and the bridge was closed until replaced which could take a year to a year and a half to complete and reopen. Mr. Brittain went over the scheduled dates; final plans were scheduled for August 2019, November 2019 would be bid letting, and December 2019 the bid would be awarded with construction starting after that. He said they have been working on this project for 2-years, stating it takes four months for anything to be approved by the railroad. He stated that they will try to expedite where they can.

He went over several roads and bridges that were now open or opening tomorrow. He said two bridges were completely out one at McNew Road and the other on Fountain Green Road stating they would move to the top of the list for repairs.

Commissioner Sellers brought up a gentleman out by Wilson Road that inquired about the drainage problem that he thought was caused by K-96 Hwy. Mr. Brittain replied that he spoke with the man also explaining that there were two 4 and half inch drainage pipes installed by KDOT. He explained to him that the state did not cause the problem the amount of rain did.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti explained the mosquito report. He stated the Culex species was found in their traps and this type carries the West Nile disease. He said if a

company comes in spraying two to three times it would be very expensive. He stated that the cost would be between \$250,000 to \$300,000. Commissioner Sellers asked if they sprayed for mosquitos when would they start. Mr. Baldetti replied it would have to be okayed through KDHE and he had no definite dates. He had a concern with the number of mosquitos getting worse with all the moisture not being absorbed or evaporated. A Nebraska lab was handling the testing on whether the mosquitos had West Nile stating it could take up to 4-weeks to get the results back. Mr. Baldetti said the season for mosquitos ran from May to November when it was warm and wet. The Board had a brief discussion on spraying for mosquitos being effective or not and the expense.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar met with the Board to give an update on the flooding. He stated President Trump signed a major disaster declaration on Friday that included Reno County. He said we would have to qualify at a threshold of \$243,000 for a 75 percent reimbursement with a cost to the county of 15 to 25 percent. April 28th started the disaster event and as of today it had not been closed. The mosquito problem would add cost to the estimated total package as well as road and bridge repairs and noted that as of today, we had not met the threshold. He discussed Cow Creek cresting at 12'5" making more flooding possible in an already saturated area. They were trying to keep the website updated, however it changed so often it was hard to keep up with road closures on county and township roads. He stated that the Sheriff's Department and 9-1-1 were helping with reports of high water and road damage.

Public comments:

Marsha McConnell, 3616 E. 43rd Avenue, was concerned with the unsafe situation for walkers and students caused on Lucille Drive by closing the 43rd Avenue bridge. She asked if the bid letting date could be moved up and not wait. Mr. Brittain replied that the schedule was August 29th for approval of final plans then the letting. He noted that those dates were estimated by the engineering schedule, however they could be expedited as soon as possible. He reminded the Board the slow process of the railroad, stating that they have a four-week turn around for any railroad review.

Bob Hickman, 806 Loch Lommond Drive, is a member of the Health Department Advisory Board and stated he was in favor of a review on the new types of proposed wastewater systems in the

county for approval. He stated he was a party to the original codes and spoke in favor of plans for the mosquitos and looking at ways for prevention.

Commissioner comments:

Commissioner Sellers asked for confirmation on not having a meeting the fourth week in July. Mr. Meagher confirmed no meeting on July 23rd, 2019.

Commissioner Sellers mentioned Budgets were scheduled on July 9th and July 16th and asked fellow commissioners to bring numbers for outside agencies. He was going to speak to Senator Berger today about the 4-week lead time on the mosquito lab testing since he was not satisfied with the report taking so long for public information.

There were no added agenda items.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on June 28th, 2019 of \$647,035.63 as submitted also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Order numbered 2019-162, 183 thru 191. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan gave a summary of resolution **2019-09; A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO AN APPLICATION BY PRETTY PRAIRIE WIND, LLC FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM ON VARIOUS PARCELS OF REAL ESTATE IN RENO COUNTY, KANSAS, CASE 2019-01.** He stated this resolution was the journalized details of the June 13th decision made by the Commission that may be subject to review by a District Court judge. The review would include this resolution, audio and visual recordings that were made, County Clerk minutes taken and a Court reporter's transcript. Commissioner Sellers agreed with Mr. O'Sullivan on the dialog in the resolution being the best to his knowledge and summarizing in general. Commissioner Bush stated it was a fair representation. **Mr. Hirst agreed with all forms of documentation then moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the resolution #2019-09 as outlined by Mr. O'Sullivan. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Bush thanked all involved from staff to Planning Board members.

Youth Services Director Bill Hermes met with the Board to recommend approval for the Annual Program Agreement and Youth Service's Procurement Plan with the Kansas State Department of Education for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs at Youth Services for State Fiscal Year 2020.

He stated that they get reimbursed on the breakfast and lunch programs. Commissioner Hirst appreciated all that Youth Services did for all the children. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the Annual Program Agreement and Procurement Plan as outlined by Mr. Hermes and requesting the Chairman's signature. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Human Resources Director Renee Harris met with the Board to recommend approval for a revised Reno County Employee Assistance Program Agreement (EAP). She gave a brief history of the program and stated that since 1988 the assistance program was part of the drug and alcohol testing and noted that at some point the county was paying \$1 per employee per month. She stated that in 2008 the agreement was renegotiated with one (1) face to face visit included in the county's agreement with zero cost. She said the Sheriff's Department asked for six visits. This revised version has six (6) face to face visits and unlimited phone assistance if they are referred to counseling instead of one visit that was of no benefit. ComplianceOne quoted a price per employee per month equaling \$4,500 annually, however it doesn't include supervisor training. Additional training would be about \$1,000. The billing is based on a pool of employees, 375 is the average number in the pool, but it could fluctuate. Three visits were \$.75 per employee or six visits was \$1.25 per employee. That would equal \$56.25 plus training and noted that one employee at a time for training would be \$25.00 for an individual or \$250 a day for a group. This agreement is an annual renewal and the county could cancel with a 60-day notice. We had the option of three or six consulting sessions and anything more than six would be on the employee to pay. She spoke about the Sheriff's Department "Fit for Duty".

Commissioner Bush summarized the EAP agreement with \$5,625.00 plus a \$1,000 for training for all employees to have the opportunity for six sessions and anyone in the household could have six. This included unlimited phone calls and employees could use their medical insurance for treatments over the six.

Mr. Meagher stated after the first-year contract they would monitor the EAP and in about a year and a half the staff would modify the agreement if needed from utilization numbers.

Commissioner Bush asked Sheriff Henderson to speak about the situations the officers are involved with and explain "Fit for Duty". Sheriff Henderson explained they were losing three times more officers to suicide than from violence in their normal job. "Fit for Duty" means an officer who has been through a traumatic event is psychologically, physically, mentally, and emotionally ready to go back and do their job with an evaluation from a psychologist. He stated there were certain criteria the officer must meet to be fit for duty.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded Mr. Hirst, to approve a revised agreement with ComplianceOne to provide services for Reno County's Employee Assistance Program as discussed. The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 3-0.

Sheriff Henderson also updated the Board on the shooting last Friday at 3:00 a.m. on West 8th Avenue. Hutchinson Police Department worked the shooting and found that the suspect was supposed to be in a home at 304 W. 16th Avenue. The Emergency Management Response Team was activated at 7:00 a.m. when the shooter would not come out when contacted by HPD. The Team members are from the Hutchinson Police Department and Reno County Sheriff Officers consisting of (20) on the entry and sniper team and (8) on the negotiation team. Sheriff's Department Captain Darrian Campbell works the perimeter for the city and if the event is in the county one of the HPD Captains works the perimeter. They negotiated a hostage release and thought the shooter was coming out peacefully, but he came out guns a blazing. Ten officers fired, injuring the suspect, none of the officers were harmed. He said two officers came from Harvey County and had trained with Reno County officers. He said the Sheriff's Department used the Bear Cat three different times in the last few months.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti met with the Board to give them an update on the Environmental Health Engineer Evaluation Policy. He stated in February he came with a proposal to use engineering services for wastewater/wastewater components and site evaluations. In March cost share was discussed, then a meeting took place on March 15th with three local contractors, a local distributor, two pier county representatives, one engineer, one manufacturer, one manufacturer via phone, along with county staff and Health

Department personnel. A suggestion was made to develop a checklist for the new wastewater evaluation. A few more topics were discussed, and then to put a wastewater advisory board together for assessment of new products and sites. He stated page 4 of the report had a summary of the two processes. The Health Departments recommendation was to have a checklist, an application, initial product review, and possible engineering consultation.

Ron Vincent, Carl Vincent Service, 420 S. Main, Hutchinson, was concerned because they had not seen the minutes, or this presentation report and he did not see the reason for and engineer expense. The Board will put this issue on the agenda for action on July 16th.

Appraiser Brad Wright met with the Board for his regularly schedule update. He discussed various issues not requiring action by the Board.

At 10:52 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 2, 2019.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date