

July 14, 2020
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar met with the Board updating them on a COVID-19 dateline. The declaration is set to expire on July 17th, 2020 and noted County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan drafted another declaration to expire on December 31, 2020 and may last after that date. He explained the Reno County disaster declaration was to request supplies from the state and had received those supplies through the Health Department to be distributed to the community. He said in about a week's time they pushed out 150,000 masks so a high demand is out there. The state changed their procedures for requests because of long term care facilities and schools preparing to start. They are now asking for proof of purchase or attempt to purchase masks on their own.

Commissioner Hirst asked about Pretty Prairie Rodeo regarding masks. Mr. Weishaar stated that they had 5,000 to assist them and another 5,000 if needed.

Commissioner Bush asked about PPE supplied to the community and asked about who gets first choice of supplies. Mr. Weishaar replied about his burn rate report stating he does not have 30 days supply of masks and spoke about 90-day supply of thinner gowns that fill the need. He said health care facilities were first.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti met with the Board and gave COVID statistics on the U.S., surrounding states, Kansas, and Reno County. Reno County has 39 active cases and the positive test rate is 7.76 percent and he went back five weeks with percentages.

Hutchinson Regional Medical Hospital, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rex Degner talked about their COVID-19 O.P.S. daily report with statistics from the hospital given to the health community.

He discussed about patients, medicines and they have a plan to adjust staffing as needed. They have supplies on hand in house about a 50 to 60-day supply and forty ventilators if needed.

Commissioner Hirst asked about a Wichita positive COVID patient handing a prescription off. Dr. Degner said this would be an exception not the normal because there are steps for discharge.

Hutchinson Clinic, Dr. Scott Pauly Upper Respiratory Lead Physician at the response clinic gave an overview of pandemic and taking on patients from the regional area. He recommended using the masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing to keep numbers down. He handed a graph to the Board and briefly went over those numbers.

Prairie Star Health Center, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Regina Johnson brought percentages from Prairie Star starting at the beginning of the pandemic. She spoke about COVID and long-term health problems. She also spoke about infected people and how it can affect our community. She said to follow the safety procedures and recommended masks and hand washing with social distancing.

Mr. Baldetti spoke about Sedgwick County and testing at Hutchinson Correctional Facility along with long-term care facilities that have staff infecting the residents. He was very concerned with the trending going in the wrong direction and would like a discussion to mandate masks for the county.

Mr. Sellers moved, Mr. Hirst clarified for discussion purposes that he would second the motion, to change the agenda to discuss an action to proposed resolution and order repealing and rescinding county resolution and order 2020-17 concerning the voluntary wearing of masks or other face coverings. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Hirst asked about particles on masks. Mr. Baldetti stated that it can last forty-five minutes to an hour depending on various factors.

Mr. Baldetti struggles with what to do about how the community is not taking this pandemic seriously. Everyone must do their part and every single person has a responsibility and accountability to their fellow constituents to insure everyone can be safe and healthy where they live, eat, work, pray and play. He felt the appropriate step to communicate the severity

and move forward. Not enough people are taking the message as seriously as we need them for wearing masks.

Commissioner Hirst believes the scientific evidence to support wearing masks to slow down the spread of the virus.

Commissioner Sellers limited to two issues; the doctors today were concerned about going the wrong way and the virus is not under control. This week Admiral Brett Giroir member of the White House COVID Task Force called for mask wearing in public which has been met with resistance in some US states. He said it was essential or we will not get control of the virus. School starts in four weeks and he believes the students need to be in school.

Mr. Baldetti stated the bullet point of the Governor's order was that everyone wears masks with exceptions of five-years and under. He read the point to the Board about wearing a mask in public with exceptions for medical conditions and other conditions. All businesses would fall under the "wear the mask". Outdoor athletes advocate the social distances and teams are classified as a cluster, so that is acceptable. Private industry or businesses have been mandating masks and he spoke about private versus public, doing so with private industry.

Jade Piros de Carvalho Northeastern Council District currently serving as Mayor of Hutchinson spoke to the Board about mandating masks at businesses. We need to do what we can to make people feel safe to go out to small businesses. Parents want their children in school making it safe for them. She advocated for local control.

Brock Wells, Chiropractor thanked all involved for keeping the community informed. There was evidence that the children are not being affected by the virus based on data from other countries. Science of wearing masks to help spread virus and noted that asymptomatic is rare to pass the virus along. Supreme Court case upheld the right of individuals to make their own medical decision without the influence of the state, so he did not recommend mandated masks.

John Whitesel, candidate for House District 102 and member of a local school board, gave percentages for taking risks on a daily basis, saying it is very low. He thought it was each person's right to decide to wear masks.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to adopt resolution #2020-18; A RESOLUTION ENTITLED "AN ORDER REPEALING AND RESCIINDING COUNTY RESOLUTION #2020-17, AN ORDER RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH THAT INCLUDES PROVISIONS THAT ARE LESS STRINGENT THAN THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-52 ISSUED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS". Commissioner Hirst questioned how that would affect the Pretty Prairie Rodeo. Commissioner Sellers said it would say the County Commission is saying the people need to try to social distance and if they cannot social distance they should be wearing a mask, and the same thing for the big race at the fairgrounds this weekend. Mr. Hirst also mentioned the Third Thursday outdoor event. Commissioner Bush commented hopefully they make a good faith effort to acquire a mask for people in their group, you may have people who choose not to wear the mask and that is their choice. Reno County does not have the legal forces to arrest everyone who violates the order. County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan stated it was not subject to arrest but was a Civil enforcement by the Governors Order. Mr. Bush said it was just sending a message. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-1 with Mr. Hirst opposed.

At 10:30 Mr. Sellers recessed the meeting for ten minutes.

Mr. Bush left the meeting for KU Medical Center and the meeting reconvened with Commissioners Sellers and Hirst, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on July 17th, 2020 of \$928,415.00 as submitted and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2020-256, 260, 261, 281, 282, and 294. **Resolution #2020-19; A RESOLUTION RENEWING A PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR RENO COUNTY, KANSAS.** Next item was to appoint Shelly Bredemeier as the Youth Service's authorized representative for the Kansas State Department of Education's National School Lunch Program at Youth Services. Last item on the consent agenda was a Letter of Understanding between the Reno and Rice County Health Department's for WIC Dietitian Services effective 10/1/2020 to 9/3/2021 as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0.

Youth Services Director Bill Hermes met with the Board to recommend approval for Youth Service's Procurement Plan with the Kansas State Department of Education for the National School Lunch Program at Youth Services for the fiscal year 2021. Mr. Hermes explained this was reimbursement for lunches served since they fell under the micro purchases, not like the large school systems. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to approve the procurement plan for fiscal year 2021 as outlined by Mr. Hermes. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0.

County Administrator Randy Partington gave a presentation overview of the 2021 Budget. He went over the date timeline for the budget process until adopted in August after the public hearing.

Option #1 maximum levy with State of Kansas tax lid, bringing in \$25,814,261 with mill levy rate of 42.031 which represents increases in revenue expectations and limited cuts in expenditure requests.

Option #2 keeps the mill levy flat at 41.687, bringing in \$25,601,671 stating that is below the state lid by \$212,618. To get to 41.687 mills the EMS budget had a \$211,000 increase. Reno County pays the difference between losses from expenditures and revenue, and 2020 was a bigger loss. The District Attorney agreed to remove a \$15,000 vehicle, Sheriff had \$100,000 reduced from the Capital line item that would have replaced half of the vehicles scheduled for next year, Health Department transfer for \$40,000 in their Capital Outlay Fund which equals two vehicles, and added money from grant money from the transportation budget. New Beginnings requested \$50,000 to approve or not. He discussed the area Chamber request and Horizons. Mr. Partington today wanted to set the maximum. He explained the mill levy for every \$100,000 in appraised value for a home, and that a taxpayer would pay \$39.95 a month. He also went over services that benefits Reno County from this amount. Mr. Partington recommends approval for Option #2.

The Board discussed more on the budgets. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to approve the recommendation from County Administrator Randy Partington setting the maximum as discussed for the 2021 Budget choosing Option #2 to maintain a flat mill levy of 41.687 bringing in \$25,601,671, and also setting Tuesday, August 4th for a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. in the Commission Chambers. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0.

Mr. Partington gave an update for the Coronavirus Relief Fund discussion. There will be a public meeting in the Veterans Room today with the Task Force. The resolution approved last week accepted the money and he will have County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan review it.

Mr. Partington also clarified the two positive cases of COVID-19 were with the state prison, Hutchinson Correctional Facility not the Reno County Jail. The CDBG-CV grant has received five applications with SCKEDD working on details before presenting them to the committee. The Sheriff received CARES Act grant money to purchase a thermal metal detector for the security entrance of the courthouse along with five mobile sensors that registered over 100-degree temperature. He passed out literature that the KAC changes in the legislative policy deadline is August 2nd. Mr. Sellers wanted an email with suggestions from Mr. Partington for any changes. Mr. Hirst stated the KAC was working on a constitutional amendment that would include home rule.

County Administrator and Commissioners comments:

Mr. Hirst will be voting on legislative ideas on MACCO bylaws changes and would like to have Mr. Partington look at them. Even though he voted no, it does not mean he did not support resolution #2020-18. He wants everyone to do what they need to support and respect one another.

Mr. Sellers was concerned with positive tests going up for school starting soon. He would like to see kids in school but was concerned it could cause problems with the children in the future. He was thinking to hire a Communication Director next year, but his opinion now was to start looking to hire this position now.

The Board agreed by consensus to look for a candidate and move money around for a salary to pay for the Communication Director leaving it up to Mr. Partington for financing next year.

At 11:20 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date