

July 19th, 2022
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held an agenda session 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 Pastor Mike Rose South Hutchinson United Methodist Church.

Reno County Extension 4-H Fair Board Treasurer Meghan Miller invited the Commissioners to the 4-H Fair being held at the Kansas State Fairgrounds this week. She gave a brief overview of the events and extended citizens to enter into open class from over 18 to 99 years old and children under 18.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A through 6E, including the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on July 8th, 2022, totaling \$118,637.87, claims payable on July 15th, 2022, totaling \$601,886.04; approve a change in Medical Insurance Third Party Administrator from BML to Allied Benefits, approval of the revised Travel, Meeting and Related Expenses Policy effective July 19, 2022. Mr. Partington explained 6C allowed Reno County to follow the IRS guidelines for reimbursement of mileage which could reflect either direction, up or down, to follow the price of fuel. Approve a contract between Reno County and PCiRoads for an unexpected emergency repair of the West abutment backwall and expansion device on the 4th Avenue Bridge over the Cow Creek drainage, contract total is \$218,468.50; approval to send out bids for construction of Cell 8 at the Reno County Solid Waste Landfill. The consent agenda motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Administrator Randy Partington introduced and turned the presentation over to Adams Brown Auditors partner Melissa Romme, and manager Jami Benyshek for the 2021 Audit Report via zoom. Ms. Romme reviewed several funds as well as pages to note certain points of interest. Page 119 had a Summary of Audit results which were the nuts and bolts of the audit. She stated there were no budget violations and no findings all the way

around given in the unmodified report. She thanked the staff for all their assistance in answering their requests in a timely manner. Mr. Partington thanked Financial Specialist Leslie Roederer and the staff of Adams Brown.

Mr. Friesen questioned the employee benefits fund amount and the K-14 Funds. He wondered why there needed to be so much. Mr. Partington said that the balance in the employee benefits fund was needed as a good cushion for self-insurance and needing enough for tax rates making sure Reno County had funds available for 100 percent employment. Mr. Partington and Mr. Hirst explained that the state closed highway that was donated back to the county, approximately 20 miles of the K-14 highway, giving the county money to keep maintenance up on that road only.

The Board discussed briefly reserves and bond issues.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to except the audit report authorizing the Chairman Daniel Friesen and County Administrator Randy Partington to sign the Management Representation Letter for the 2021 Audit. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Maintenance/Purchasing Director Harlen Depew gave background for a discussion of the Façade Anchoring of the Courthouse. Brent England with Engineering Consultants, a local engineering firm, recommends re-anchoring the limestone façade on the tower. WJE Firm recommended to do nothing regarding additional anchoring. GLBR Architect Brad Doden spoke about anchoring through the mortar joints. There was a brief discussion on the need for anchors to bring back to the original conditions, a majority consensus was to look at 2023 capital item for anchors onto long term maintenance. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to deny change order #2 for Pishny Restoration Services anchor amount for approximately \$698,401.20. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. Mr. Partington was requested to put a discussion on insurance on a future agenda. Mr. Hoffman was to follow up with the insurance company before the agenda meeting.

Board of Commissioners approved the KU Public Management Center to facilitate a three-day workshop designed to introduce the concepts, philosophies, and practices necessary in Building a Culture for Higher Performance Synopsis and Lessons Learned training. Health Department Director Karla Nichols went over a presentation on lessons learned and a couple of Department Heads briefly present lessons they learned. The Board thanked Mr.

Partington for his leadership and working to bring these lessons into reality.

At 10:33 a.m. the meeting recessed until 10:40 a.m.

The meeting reconvened and returned to open session with all three Commissioners, Mr. Partington, Mr. Hoffman, and Mrs. Martin present.

Mr. Partington presented the 2023 County Budget. He stated that notification had to be given to the Reno County Clerk by tomorrow, July 20th, that the 2023 County Budget will exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR). 39.475 mills is the maximum in place with further discussion and to set a Budget Hearing date of August 30, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. for the County 2023 Budget. **Mr. Hurst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the Board of Commissioners to notify the Reno County Clerk of interest to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate of 39.475 mills and set the Budget Hearing date of August 30, 2022, for the County 2023 Budget. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. The Board gave direction to Mr. Partington for further discussions on agendas with certain departments on budget discussions with the Reno County staff as needed.

Mr. Partington gave explanation to the Board for the 2023 Special Districts Budget. Notification to Reno, Harvey, and Kingman County clerks that the Special District Budgets will exceed their Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) and set the RNR Public Hearing for August 30, 2022. To set a Budget Hearing date of August 30, 2022, for the Special Districts Budget. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the Board of Commissioners hear by notifies the Reno County Clerk of interest to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate as stated and set the Public Hearing for August 30, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. There are three signature pages to be signed. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Partington was also giving explanation for a discussion of Legislative items. Included on the legislative platform Official Notices/Publications costs for official newspaper, costing more than what a summary would cost. The Statutes need to be modified to allow counties to publish summaries, similar to cities. Noxious Weeds K.S.A. 2-1322 to charge 100 percent of the costs for chemicals to the public to eradicate weeds.

Staff will draft a letter to the Legislative Assembly and invite them to meet with the Board. Mr. Hirst spoke about Constitutional Home Rule Authority.

Mr. Partington also discussed an Interfaith Housing project partnering with Reno County, putting the county on the deed, with Interfaith to demolish St. Elizabeth Hospital on 20th and North Monroe. Interfaith Representative Clint Nelson spoke about the EPA Brownfield \$5 million dollar grant award that would assist in the demolition of the property. He outlined the project, giving a brief background and redevelopment master plan and stated that the building is a health and safety issue for the community. Timing was critical since the EPA grant application opens mid-September and closes mid-November and awarded in January. He said prior to accepting the deed to St. Elizabeth in 2016, Interfaith did not perform a Phase 1 Environmental Review, therefore Interfaith was not approved as applicants for this EPA Cleanup grant. A joint partner agreement was needed so the title could be transferred to the County and could act as the applicant. Interfaith would be responsible for all costs and the county would not use any funds just a paper partnership. Mr. Nelson said the drop-dead date would be the end of August for KDHE Phase 1, but the county could apply today. County Attorney Patrick Hoffman said he would work on the contractual agreements to protect the county with stipulations and look into an insurance writer for special projects. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to direct county staff to negotiate a draft agreement between Reno County and Interfaith Housing to protect the county's interest bringing the draft back next week. Mr. Friesen suggested leaving the decision of when to apply for the KDHE Phase 1 application date up to the County Attorney and County Administrator. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. Mr. Hirst asked if the City of Hutchinson would be interested. Mr. Nelson stated they were approached and denied interest.

Mr. Partington asked the Board if there were any questions on the monthly reports or financial reports in the packets. He stated that there is a townhall meeting for Yoder residents of Watershed District #101 for Thursday, August 11th, 2022, at Journey Church Activity Center at 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. to discuss the high nitrates problem.

Commissioner Comments:

Mr. Sellers thanked Leslie Roederer for her audit work all year. He questioned when Mr. Hoffman might have the ARPA draft agreements. Mr. Hoffman replied they were drafted and would double check them with the County Administrator before mailing them out in the next few weeks. Mr. Sellers was informed by the

County Administrator that the County Counselor's view regarding delinquent taxes was for the residents to pay all delinquent taxes up to date not letting the residents have three-years to make it up to keep the property off the tax sale. Mr. Hoffman explained the process of the tax sale.

Mr. Friesen requested Mr. Hoffman to provide a report for the tax sale compared to previous years.

Mr. Hirst stated to take your time with the tax report since people may have paid since the date is not set yet in October. Mr. Hoffman said the tax sale should be early October. Mr. Hirst wanted to set a work session for the next five to ten years with the County Administrator to plan buildings for EMS and different departments. Mr. Hirst mentioned the treatment of noxious weeds along the 580 miles of roadways. He said the Legislative Farm Bureau meeting would benefit people for county roadways.

Mr. Friesen put long term discussion in the fall for housing/buildings Mr. Hirst mentioned. Laurie Moody put in her resignation, could her position be part-time or contracted out in the future. \$3,600 NRAP as a legislative item and he believed it was a total waste of tax-payers funds. There is a Stepping Up Council meeting on Thursday at 11:30 a.m. with local legislatures lead by United Way to help people (inmates) in that system find a way-out.

At 11:45 a.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 19th, 2022.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date

