

July 28, 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 attended via phone.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Randy Hendrickson, USD 311 Pretty Prairie Superintendent, 308 E. Pretty Prairie Road, stated that he is looking to the Commission for guidance regarding the Governor's executive order on having a strong plan for reopening schools. He asked what a protocol would look like for moving forward.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan said Mr. Hendrickson was correct that there is a lot of disagreement at the state level concerning the authority of the Governor's Executive Order #20-16 local or county authority to override her order #20-59 regarding school districts. The Attorney General issued his opinion that county government does have authority under House Order #20-16 to issue a less restrictive order than the Governor. Any order issued by Reno County to be enforceable by the District Attorney, states the county government does have the authority to issue less restrictive order. After speaking with District Attorney Tom Stanton, he indicated that he could put together an order for all USD school district plans for a less restrictive measure and noted that there was not a one plan for all schools.

Commissioner Hirst stated that he would like the school districts to present a plan for reopening to Mr. Baldetti for review and approval by the Board. We should get children back in school since the CDC recommended getting kids back into school, but we need to have a plan before the end of the week. He said Mr. O'Sullivan covered the issue very well.

Darrick Zonker, USD 310 Board President, 2104 S. Langdon Road, Plevna is concerned with a cookie cutter mandate. They would like to make a plan that fits better with each school district since they are all different.

Commissioner Sellers asked Mr. O'Sullivan if the information he had would point to each school district presenting their best plan to Mr. Baldetti for his review and recommendations. If the Health Department approves, each school district could have their own plan.

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that after speaking with District Attorney Tom Stanton, they need to find out what the plans contain, and address the Governor's restrictions not the whole plan, just the legal end.

Randy Hendrickson stated that our plans are flexible, and he is working with Nick Baldetti. There have been changes all along and presently the district has three options for USD 311. Commissioner Sellers asked Mr. Hendrickson to pick his best option for his district to be reviewed by Mr. Baldetti.

Betsy McKinney, Fairfield USD 310 Superintendent, 34308 West Arlington Road, Sylvania, stated that a group of individuals had been working all summer on their plan which mimics the Governor's plan.

Commissioner Sellers told all school representatives in the audience to get their plans for keeping the children safe to Mr. Baldetti for review and then to Mr. O'Sullivan to look over as soon as they could.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti briefly went over statistics for the United States, surrounding states, Kansas, and Reno County. He used a new tool from Georgia Technology University giving more percentages on people in gatherings; 25 or less 26 percent chance, 50 or less 47 percent chance, or 100 or less 69 percent chance that someone could test positive for COVID that may have been in attendance.

Mr. Baldetti discussed with the Board positive testing results that show a plateau. He stated there they would watch data to show if the trend was going downward.

Commissioner Bush asked about mask wearing if the numbers plateaued. Mr. Baldetti stated some of his concerns regarding wearing masks with schools starting in the fall. He wanted to make sure the children were protected so they could remain in schools as long as possible. Last evening, he met with the USD 308 Board stating there was nothing from National, State or Regional trending that we would have a full fall with children in schools. He expects at some point to have full term learning

and to do that we need to get them in school to make a connection with educators and one way is to have the community wide mask use. The USD 308 Hutchinson School Board had an extensive plan and reviewing it took three to four hours and it was the same for the Buhler school district. He had concerns about the authority of the County Health Officer over school boards. He said he will be seeking advice from legal counsel not rubber stamping from me for the School Boards. It is such a mess at the state level to open us up for a legal issue. The only recommendation was given all the uncertainty around the Board of Health and Education for changes in the Governor's #20-59. It was very important that school boards discuss in depth and really agree on moving forward if they divert from order #20-59 because there probably will not be a clear answer on liability until it reaches the Supreme Court.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar met with the Board and gave an overview of the timeline since the beginning of COVID-19. He spoke about KDHE tracking cases and the National Guard helping with meals and PPE vendor supplies. The state said to prepare for the next eighteen months for supplies. The schools must get their own PPE supplies and if they exhaust avenues, and have proof they tried on their own, the state will fill a portion of their request.

Consultants Gary Meagher and John Deardoff gave a report to the Commissioners on the \$12.6 million for public entities to be reimbursed for expenses from COVID-19. Mr. Meagher stated the documentation had to be filed for the first round with the state by August 15th, 2020. We have been working with public agencies to see what amount they are requesting for reimbursements. We need to schedule a work session next week to come up with a final report to be submitted to the state. They believe some monies may be left over for private schools, health care facilities or businesses. Under the CARES Act the county could give aid directly or create a program to best utilize the funds.

The Board discussed more on the CARES Act agreeing to meet on Monday afternoon for more discussion. Mr. Meagher was looking for clarification on where the Board would like to go.

John Deardoff briefly commented on how they were to manage the next round for the small business category. The Recovery Task Force was focused on Reno County to manage that part, helping to spearhead due to the responsibility the county has delegating these funds. That could be a tool when they submit the direct aid as a program working on one lump sum with

categories that were mentioned by Mr. Meagher, then a group to oversee those funds were allocated on the behalf of the county.

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on July 31st, 2020 of \$1,338,872.34 as submitted. Community Corrections Adult Supervision year-end report for FY20. Community Corrections FY20 year-end budget adjustment report for Adult Supervision. Community Corrections FY20 year-end budget adjustment report for Juvenile Supervision and Intake and Assessment. Community Corrections FY21 Amended Behavioral Health Grant budget. Community Corrections Criminal Justice Information Systems Security Policy and Criminal Record check policy updates. Community Corrections FY21 Adult Carryover reimbursement budget. Community Corrections FY21 Juvenile Carryover reimbursement budget. Solid Waste's purchase of a used 2020 CAT 950M loader from Foley Equipment at a cost of \$229,893.44. Solid Waste's purchase of a used 2016 CAT CP56B Vibratory Compactor from Foley Equipment at a cost of \$162,000 after trade. Last on the consent agenda was to declare certain miscellaneous property as surplus to be sold on PurpleWave Auction as submitted by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

The Board and Community Corrections Director Randy Regehr spoke about staff issues. He talked about carry over budget and using non-grant money and using client fees for a rainy-day fund.

County Administrator Randy Partington briefly gave an overview of the proposals from QueenBee Marketing and BowerComm to provide a plan to communicate fundamental public health mitigation strategies in response to COVID-19. Instead of using staff time to communicate, we would use a local marketing company to inform the community on basic mitigation strategies. CARES Act would pay for the cost of the marketing.

First bid was QueenBee for management of social platforms at 16 hours a month for \$75.00 per hour with additional services of website development, photography, videography, graphic design, printed materials, ad placement, etc. at 10 hours per month for \$100.00 per hour also adding \$50 a month for ads; making their agreement \$2,200 a month. They have a sixty-day cancelation date.

Second bid from BowerComm for their scope of work with an initial cost of \$15,200 which included campaign planning and concept development for \$5400, tools/graphics development for \$6,000, tool printing for \$1,800, and video storytelling/initial videos for \$2,000. Also, a monthly fee of \$5,340 for social media, social influencer, and digital advertising management. The total starting in July through October 31st would be \$31,220 or through December 31, 2020 was \$41,900. The monthly fee would be waived if canceled by the 15th of the prior month.

The Board discussed the use of a marketing company and also about the communication person being hired.

Mr. Baldetti would like to recommend BowerComm. **Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve with Mr. Baldetti to update the date as August and address the travel expense line with BowerComm. Mr. Partington stated County Counselor Mr. O'Sullivan would like to review the documents and then the Commissioners sign as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote 3-0.

Mr. Bush had to leave the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Mr. Partington stated this resolution was setting the process in motion. He presented a petition pertaining to the vacation of a portion of Mohawk Road; and **Resolution #2020-22: A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED VACATION OF A PORTION OF MOHAWK ROAD IN RENO COUNTY, KANSAS** and setting dates for a road viewing and public hearing by County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan.

Solid Waste Director Megan Davidson addressed the Board on the new scale house moving across the road after vacating our property line of the Clark and Mohawk Road intersection and stated they would be moving large equipment across the road frequently. With the new scale house, flow would be different. There would be only one way in and one way out, going over the scale for safety reasons when exiting. Option 1 was rerouting around the landfill with a cost of \$92,000 to \$100,000 and Option 2 with the landfill doing most of the work was estimated at \$8,000 to \$10,000.

The Board briefly discussed traffic counts and trains blocking the roads.

Reno Township Trustee R.J. Wenzel, 601 Hendricks addressed the Board with his concerns. He stated that Clark Road does not have a turnaround or cul-de-sac to be able to turn the grader

which proves to be very inconvenient. Another concern was drainage because it does run toward the landfill. He asked if the county was going to compensate the township for them having to go out of the way to maintain a half mile section of road. He said as a township they were opposed to the closure of Mohawk Road and wanted to stick with the original road, noting the dead end being a dump for people.

Ms. Davidson spoke about the original drawing with a three way stop.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve the resolution #2020-22 setting the road viewing on August 18th, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and the public hearing on August 25th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. by County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0.

Mr. Partington went over the 2021 Special Districts Budget Overview. All mill levies stayed flat except Fire District #9 which had a small increase and Fire District #2 had an increase in valuation. He went over percentages whether up or down and gave an overview of valuations, mill levies, reserve funds and water district user fees to cover costs. He set the public hearing for August 11th, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Partington asked if moving the meeting to Wednesday would work for the commission since Financial Specialist Leslie Roederer would not be able to have numbers together on Monday and he would check with others for Wednesday.

Mr. Partington spoke about:

Sales tax receipts in July for the month of May were \$416,482.00 compared to last year at the same time of \$373,365.00. We are year to date 100.8 percent on schedule from last year's receipts. He said the budget usually underestimated for sales tax, so they were running on schedule in 2020.

Information Services is looking into teleworking using Sitrix a new software. The license agreement for one year is \$260,000 with future costs unknown at this time, allowing 100 employees to work from home. It is a COVID related expense to be paid for by CARES Act money.

A fiber project at an estimated cost of \$600,000, would connect the Courthouse to the Public Works Building for those employees to be able to work from home and connect the new scale

house at Solid Waste. A portion of the cost is being paid by CARES Act.

Per Emergency Director Adam Weishaar, it would cost \$50,000 to upgrade a maintenance building not currently climate controlled to store COVID-19 PPE's that need the climate control.

The Health Department has a non-competing grant opportunity for \$155,354.76. If the application is sent in by Friday, the grant money is guaranteed. He said Mr. Baldetti just needs to show categories of how the money will be spent and had provided an email with the breakdown. The Board by consensus agreed to have Mr. Baldetti send the application in.

Commissioner Hirst noted that the Board has general conversations in the chamber.

Commissioner Sellers did not understand that the county and health department had so much to do with the school districts. He asked Mr. Partington along with Mr. O'Sullivan, to assist Mr. Baldetti with the school plans.

Mr. O'Sullivan noted that any potential order would have to be signed by the Commission and working with the Health Officer, as the previous order was. He noted to the school superintendents that we would address a very limited restriction, like to lift the age of mandatory requirements for children wearing masks. They will make a concentrated effort on where the school districts are different then the Governors order.

At 11:15 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date