

August 4, 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.

Commissioner Sellers encouraged residents of Reno County to go vote today.

There were no public comments.

There were two additions to the agenda: executive sessions for non-elected personnel and a privileged legal matter.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush,** to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on August 7th, 2020 of \$176,855.97 and a **resolution 2020-23; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS TO WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF K.S.A. 75-1120a.** Mr. Partington explained the resolution was a waiver of requirements annually done stating the county followed the GAAP cash basis accounting style. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti briefly went over statistics for the Country, surrounding states, Kansas, and Reno County. He spoke about the number of cases trending down toward the normal to low tab. People were having seasonal health issues with breathing but were not testing positive for COVID. He stated the goal was to keep the children in school as long as possible using the safety procedures. If they follow wearing the mask and hand sanitizer along with social distancing it plays a huge part if they stay through the end of the year in classes.

Commissioner Sellers asked what Reno County was doing differently than Sedgwick County with COVID. Mr. Baldetti replied that the community of Reno County was spread out more and seemed to be more responsible taking the safety procedures seriously. There were hubs within Wichita, like bars and restaurants that had extreme exposure. The Board briefly

discussed outdoor activities versus indoor events with COVID exposure.

Commissioner Bush inquired if Mr. Baldetti had reviewed the schools reopening plans. Mr. Baldetti stated that he had reviewed Nickerson, Pretty Prairie, Fairfield, Hutchinson, and Buhler however, he had not seen Haven's reopening plan yet. He gave each district terms with feedback as the overall Health Officer trying to work together with all the school districts.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar briefly went over the timeline for COVID and KDHE's numbers and procedures. He spoke about PPE supplies and how businesses could order those supplies online.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to open the public hearing for objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax for the Reno County 2021 budget. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

There was no discussion on the budget.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to close the public hearing. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Partington presented his recommendations for the adoption of the Reno County 2021 Budget. He stated the total budget authority for expenditures of \$75,116,774 with \$25,601,671 ad valorem tax which is a flat mill levy of 41.687 which is the same as the current year's budget. He explained for every \$100,000 in a residential property, a taxpayer would pay \$39.95 per month for individuals. He said the budget had an increase of \$210,000 for EMS from the original budget and they had removed the District Attorney's \$15,000 vehicle purchase and a \$40,000 Health Department transfer along with various revenues and expenditures to keep the budget flat and adding in a 3 percent salary increase and slight increase for health insurance.

Commissioner Hirst requested taking the \$50,000 proposed for the New Beginnings Detox Facility line item and put it back into the Courthouse General Fund since they had no details and no plans for that line item request. The Board discussed the request and by consensus agreed to move the one line item for \$50,000 to the General Fund.

The Board also discussed the increased amount from the Chamber for Economic Development funding deciding by consensus to look at it next year. Mr. Partington explained the increased amount.

Commissioner Sellers added for discussion that he felt the tax lid imposed by the Kansas Legislature hurt Reno County. He thought if there was no tax lid, if they did lower the budget, it could be used for next year's budget. He said we can only raise the budget by the cost of living over a five-year average of CPI. In his opinion, without the tax lid mandated by the State of Kansas, we could have decreased the budget. He told the Board it would be inappropriate for him to vote for a decrease because it would hurt Reno County in the future for the citizens. The public should be talking to their Legislators to let Commissioners make the budget for Reno County and have the state stay out of the process.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush,** approve to adopt the 2021 Budget as presented with the change to the one line item for \$50,000 from New Beginnings Detox to the Courthouse General line. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Human Relations Director Renee Harris met with the Board to recommend approval for the 2020-2021 Group Health Plan Insurance rates. She said the aggregate increase is 4.96 percent which she said was very good compared to other counties that ranged from 2.2 percent up to 20 percent. She explained how they arrived at the 4.96 percent. She said the pool is doing good for stop loss and have gone down every year. The plan increased 5.9 percent higher for the employee contribution from last year. Mr. Sellers wanted to see what percentage we are moving toward, like 15 percent in health insurance on the employee's part. She gave an overview of the two plans and the three tiers for 2020-2021 for Reno County and the employees. The plans went up the same amount and it will take a share of the salary increase. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush,** to approve the 2020-2021 Group Health Plan insurance rates as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Partington spoke about the \$12.6 million CARES Act money that would be discussed tomorrow in a special meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Veterans Room. He said all the local entities, the cities/county/school districts, had numbers in and Financial Specialist Leslie Roederer was compiling a spread sheet for the meeting. The task force would be looking for direction from the

Commissioners to refine the numbers and if the Commission wanted a pot of money set aside with a certain amount.

Mr. Partington also spoke with the Chairman about purchasing and installing audio/visual upgrades at the Public Works Facility for \$30,500 before the next Planning and Zoning meeting. Mr. Sellers gave his okay to move forward so it would be installed using COVID funds using part of the \$12.6 million.

Commissioner Hirst received an email congratulating General Manager Kevin Jenks, Tournament Director for the National Congress World Series Baseball. He offered the public to come out tonight and support the local Monarch Team and others from around the state and surrounding states.

Commissioner Sellers also attended the games and appreciated the ball players for being here. He thanked Hutchinson Recreation for their sponsorship.

At 10:10 the Board took a five-minute break before the executive session.

**At 10:15 Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** for this Board to recess into executive session for 15 minutes for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel of the Health Department. No formal decision is expected following the conclusion of the session, at which time the Board will reconvene in regular session. He asked that the County Administrator Mr. Partington and County Counselor Mr. O'Sullivan remain for the Executive Session. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

**At 10:30 Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** for this Board to recess into executive session for thirty minutes for the purpose of conferring with the County's legal counsel on a privileged legal matter concerning this Board's authority under House Bill 20-16 to address the Governor's Executive Order 20-59. No formal decision will be made following the conclusion of the session, at which time the Board will reconvene in regular session and adjourn for the day. He asked that the County Administrator and the County Counselor remain for the Executive Session. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:02 the meeting returned to regular open session with no binding action to be taken as a result of the executive session and the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
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Date