

August 5, 2020
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held a special CARES funding work session with, Chairman Ron Sellers, Commissioner Ron Hirst, County Administrator Randy Partington, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, also present was Consultant Gary Meagher and via phone was Commissioner Bob Bush along with Consultant John Deardorf.

Commissioner Ron Sellers opened the meeting.

County Administrator Randy Partington gave an overview of the Coronavirus Relief Fund of \$12,622,084.00 accepting applications for \$13,451,961.64 making an estimated overage of \$829,877.64.

Consultant Gary Meagher went over the CARES Act state funds available and who would qualify for reimbursements. He stated the State of Kansas opened up two weeks ago to non-profits and private businesses instead of the initial Phase 1 being for public entities. Phase 2 would be businesses, sending applications to the State of Kansas on a statewide basis. Phase 3 would be more competitive so if a non-profit or small business wanted to try to receive reimbursement funds, they were encouraged to apply through Phase 1 at the county level.

Mr. Partington stated that Reno County's amount of \$4,291,724.96 had unknowns in it and could be dropped by \$1.1 million.

The Board briefly discussed small businesses and non-profits then moved on to the three school district representatives in the audience. Mr. Sellers asked the Haven, Buhler, and HCC representatives to speak candidly about their number and reimbursement amounts.

Haven Superintendent Clark Wedel stated their numbers were 95 percent good amounts. The supplies needed to start school on August 27th were already ordered.

Buhler Superintendent Cindy Couchman spoke about three different levels of children starting school or not being able to attend classes and guess items or added personnel plus ten percent for shipping expenses.

Hutchinson Community College Finance Director Julie Blanton echoed the other two superintendents' sentiments for students being in school and not sent home if possible. She was planning for the long term.

Commissioner Sellers spoke about how important education was and for the students to be in school. He thought Mr. Meagher and Mr. Deardorf along with Mr. Partington would be able to make decisions to present to the Board next week from the schools and Reno County's list getting the amount to the \$12.6 million. He was disappointed that USD 308 and the City of Hutchinson was not represented at the meeting. Mr. Sellers said the first priority was for the funds to be given to the schools then the businesses since there was other money available for business.

Mr. Meagher stated businesses could apply in Phase 2 and he was not sure about the process for Phase 3 regarding businesses.

Mr. Partington stated two or three private schools requesting to be able to apply. Mr. Meagher explained round one was for public schools or entities leaving it up to the county to fund if they wanted to. The private schools have the same concerns as the public schools however were not included in the numbers. They could review and have the private schools make application. Mr. Hirst agreed to help public schools and wanted to look at private schools since the public schools were also funded by taxpayers.

Consensus of the Board of Commissioners was to concentrate on the public schools and to look at helping day care facilities to some extent. They asked Mr. Meagher, Mr. Deardorf and the task force members to come up with solid numbers making it work giving recommendations on next Tuesday, August 11th, so documents could be submitted to the state by August 15th, 2020.

At 9:35 the meeting adjourned.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk

Date

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