

August 31, 2021  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Ron Kyker, Countryside Baptist Church.

There were no public comments or additions to the agenda.

**Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A which consisted of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on September 3rd, 2021, totaling \$289,317.19 as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Fire District #3 Interim Chief Bobby White met with the Board along with Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar to recommend approval for the purchase of a new brush truck for a total not to exceed cost of \$130,000 and declare the used 1996 fire brush truck as surplus to be sold to another Reno County fire district. The new cab and chassis will be purchased from Allen Samuels at a cost of \$44,950, and contracting with Emergency Fire Equipment, a small operation in Eureka, KS that they have used in the past, to build and outfit the truck at a cost of \$83,175.28. He stated vehicles were on a replacement plan and they like to keep them for at least twenty-five years. He said this new truck has a similar layout and he said they would use their Capital Equipment Fund for the purchase. Interim Chief Bobby White recommended approval for the purchase of a used 2000 Central States pumper truck from Rice County for Reno County Fire District No.6 at a not to exceed cost of \$45,000 and declare the 1985 Peirce Pumper truck as surplus to be sold on PurpleWave Auction. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve both purchases and surplus outlined by Interim Chief White. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

**Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to approve the nomination of Ron Hirst as a voting delegate to the Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties (KWORCC) annual meeting to

be held in conjunction with the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) annual conference on October 18, 2021. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

**Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the nomination of Daniel Friesen as a voting alternate to the Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties (KWORCC) annual meeting to be held in conjunction with the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) annual conference on October 18, 2021. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Next item was to consider nominating members to serve on the KWORCC Board of Trustees. By consensus, the Board deferred to South Central District's Cowley County representative Wayne Wilt.

County Administrator Randy Partington addressed the Board stating that he, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, United Way Executive Director Lisa Gleason, and Hutchinson Community Foundation President and CEO Aubrey Patterson, who are all part of the ARPA Task Force, are working on a possible joint resolution between the City of Hutchinson and Reno County regarding the distribution of the American Rescue Plan Act fiscal recovery funds. He would be presenting a draft of a resolution next week. The county will be receiving a one-time amount of \$12,042.00.

Mr. Sellers clarified that the document suggests no final decisions with the funds will be made until the ARPA group makes their final presentation to the Commission and stated that The County Commission has the final say on how any monies are expended. Mr. Partington said that was correct, and the Task Force is collecting community input which was strongly recommended by the US Treasury. The Task Force was planning sixty meetings before September 30, 2021 and said they will make a presentation to the Board by late October or early November.

Community Foundation President and CEO Aubrey Patterson was in the audience and spoke about gathering the ideas from the meetings then Leadcom consultants will take the data and look for patterns to show what the priorities are. Rallyreno.org wanted to get involved with a facilitator to host a meeting. There were many partners, organizations and people working together on this project.

The Board made some suggestions on how to reach out and get more people involved with the ARPA's Task Force meetings. They were in support of the drafted resolution efforts.

Mr. Friesen requested the County Administrator make changes to the agenda to include the process of department approvals for agenda items.

County Commission reports:

Commissioner Friesen gave clarification on Mr. Sellers question of Economic growth in the community when the population was declining. Mr. Friesen sees positives with economic growth and gave a few examples. He spoke about his hospital visit commenting on the new ICU wing along with finding fully equipped areas of the hospital that were dark from no available staff to run them. He appreciated speaking with the administrators on difficult issues and appreciated their view on the pandemic and he noted that the hospital did not mandate staff take vaccines.

Commissioner Sellers was concerned with stabilizing the population since there was a 4 percent loss and stating that we could not afford to continue to go in that direction because population was a critical factor for the future. He would also like to see the process agenda changes suggested by Mr. Friesen implemented. He commented the hospital staffing was a nationwide issue and thought it may be a long-term problem from COVID burnout for those nurse positions. He mentioned speaking with the sound coordinator regarding Channel 7 not being able to understand the presenters. Last was thanking Public Works Director Don Brittain for being ahead of schedule on the opening tomorrow of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue bridge.

Commissioner Hirst mentioned housing that created opportunity for people to come to Reno County. He suggested looking at other areas such as H.A.B.I.T. for manufacturing businesses to attract those people and giving other areas consideration for housing. He was very concerned with childcare facilities especially one that closed recently stating he felt the legislature was overregulating at the state level causing the closures. He commented on the hospital and their dedicated staff.

At 9:50 the meeting recessed for five minutes.

The meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

**At 9:55 Mr. Hirst** requested a motion for the Board to recess into executive session for 20 minutes for the purpose of a discussion with the County Administrator Randy Partington on a matter concerning non-elected personnel for which the employees have an expectation of privacy. Mr. Friesen requested the time not to exceed 30 minutes. This is an informational discussion which will not require a decision by the Board. **Mr. Sellers seconded the motion.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 10:20 a.m. the meeting returned to regular session and adjourned for the day until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 14th, 2021.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reno County Clerk  
cm

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date