

October 8, 2019  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in agenda session with, Chairman Bob Bush, Commissioner Ron Hirst and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Gary Meagher, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Darryl Peterson, Grace Christian Church.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner comments:

Commissioner Bush spoke about scheduling an evening meeting with Nickerson residents to discuss Public Works projects, introduce the interim Sheriff and other issues in their area.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on October 11, 2019 of \$399,783.60 as submitted. Next item on the consent agenda was tabled from 9/24/19: **resolution 2019-18; A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 79-2801 DIRECTING THE FILING OF A REAL ESTATE TAX FORECLOSURE ACTION. Resolution 2019-19; A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SOUTH CENTRAL (REGION G) MULTI-HAZARD MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN,** adopting the 2019 Kansas Homeland Security Region G Mitigation Plan as submitted by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Public Works Superintendent met with the Board to give them an update on bid lettings for three (3) Bridge Rehabilitations and three (3) Bridge Replacements. He said the three bridge rehabilitation projects would be advertised for bid on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, with bid letting on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and construction to begin the spring of 2020. The three bridge replacements are:

Nickerson Blvd bridge 28.50 over the Diversion anal just west of the Hutchinson City limits.

82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue 42.93 over Blaze Fork just west of the Harvey/Reno County line.

Medora Road 30.25 just north of 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue over the Little Arkansas River.

The rehabilitation of these bridges will be funded from the County's special Bridge fund 006. The engineering construction estimate for these three projects is \$1,885,000.00.

The three (3) pending bridge replacements are:

Nickerson Road bridge 27.99 over the Arkansas River south of the City of Nickerson.

43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Bridge 33.80 over the Union Pacific Railroad. They are still waiting for the Union Pacific Railroad's response of the final plan submittal and receipt of the draft "Real Estate Agreement".

These bridge replacements are to be funded with Bond financing. The engineering construction estimate for these two projects was \$5,503,410.00. He stated once they have the final approval from Union Pacific, the bond procurement process can begin and a bid letting date can be set for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Nickerson Road bridge replacements. The Wilson Road bridge 25.90 at the Willowbrook entrance was moved and is now scheduled for bid letting in 2024. The Board discussed several issues with the bridge on 43<sup>rd</sup> and the railroad, then a drafted resolution changing to the new amount for the bond. Mr. McComb spoke about the million-dollar application with a local match of 25 percent and how we agreed to match 50 percent with our application process for a better chance for award from the Kansas Cost Share Program discussed in the last agenda meeting. Notification of the award should be given in November which could change the bond amount. Mr. Brittain stated WSP gave Reno County a good chance to be awarded with the 50% match and Letters of Support. Mr. Bush was glad the Board decided to go with the 50 percent match. Mr. Hirst stated that the price of the 43<sup>rd</sup> bridge had doubled because of the railroads demands and the Federal government was on their side.

Maintenance Director Harlen Depew met with the Board to update them with an engineering report on earthquake damage to the courthouse. He started with background of the building and how in 1999 it was placed on the Historical Registry which allowed grant dollars to assist with a major exterior restoration. In 2010 another of the same type of exterior project addressed any deterioration with re-inspections on a

ten-year cycle and this year being the third round. He said they hired Landmark Architects last spring to spec out bids for us, then the first part of August earthquakes hit, so he wanted to have any damage included in the scope of the bid.

Mr. Depew contacted local structural engineer Mr. Brent Engelland, Engineering Consultants, to do a visual inspection of the building and assess the damage noting that he was looking for safety issues and cosmetic or structural cracks. Mr. Engelland stated all cracks inside the courthouse were cosmetic. They decided to do some seismic reinforcement between the transition from the square concrete tower into a steel truss work frame which holds the dome up. At the transition between those two areas was the greatest concentration of cracking on the outside. He noted this was the only area of concern, not for safety issues, he did not want to have the contractors repair the exterior cracks only to be compromised with another earthquake in the future. The tower held up well from the earthquakes but the connection between it and the dome along with about four to five feet of stone-work steps has most of the cracking. He said it needs reinforced between the truss work and the concrete box to prevent leaks. One of the benefits of having exterior work was that the contractors were here taking pictures of the exterior to prepare their bids for submission before the earthquake, then when they returned after the earthquake they could see where things had changed, so both before and after were documented. He said there is access from the inside of the dome to be able to make repairs. They are currently in the middle of the structural design stage. He noted they were looking at a temporary cover over the dome during the winter to keep out the weather until spring when the repairs can be completed.

Commissioner Bush questioned the dome cover in winter.

Mr. Engelland stated the concept was to have a tinsel fabric stretched over the dome using the gutter to tie it down. It may still have some vertical cracks, but the horizontal cracks would be covered from the freeze/thaw cycle that usually ends late March early April. The seismic reinforcing is between cosmetic and structural because of the heavy weight of the dome and seismic could start after the design phase since it is all inside work. He said the repairs would be in two independent phases.

Commissioner Sellers asked if the cracks were from earthquakes. Mr. Engelland stated the only way they could tell

was from contractors' pictures of before the quake and after, comparing them tells the story. Mr. Sellers thought the water being pumped into the earth was causing the quakes. He wondered why the state legislation did not want to acknowledge that fact and do something to help stop it so taxpayers would not have to pay for damage to county buildings. Commissioner Hirst agreed along the same line about water being a possible cause of the quakes.

The Board by consensus agreed to move forward with the refurbishing bid. Mr. Sellers asked Mr. Depew to bring outlined details of the bid before it was sent out.

Mr. Depew stated originally the project would have been for an exterior winterization project. He said there could be three phases going out for individual bids: 1) large project next spring, 2) seismic reinforcement, 3) temporary seal over the dome for winter. Mr. Meagher noted this was for information on damages. Mr. Depew stated they would be coming back with additional costs by the end of October or early November.

Sheriff Henderson met with the Board for his regularly scheduled meeting. The Sheriff discussed various current issues not requiring action by the Board.

At 10:10 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
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Date