

October 15, 2019
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in agenda session with, Commissioner Ron Hirst and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Gary Meagher, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present. Chairman Bob Bush was not available.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Henry Blickhahn, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Public comments:

Max Elder, Little River speaking on behalf of Elmdale Senior Center in Hutchinson was concerned about the change in funding for the senior dance program and other activities. Mr. Sellers informed Mr. Elder the decision to change the funding came from the Director Tony Finlay, Hutchinson Recreation Commission and their Board. Mr. Sellers suggested Mr. Elder make his requests tomorrow in the 11:30 a.m. meeting at the Recreation Facility, 17 E. 1st Avenue, and voice his concerns since the county did not provide funding for Elmdale.

Edna Keeler, 1312 E. 28th Avenue, Hutchinson also was in the audience to support Elmdale Senior Center funding. She thought the county funded money to the City of Hutchinson for the Recreation Commission. Mr. Sellers stated the Recreation Commission is funded through a mill levy approved by the Recreation Board, who receives money from city taxes.

There were no Commissioner comments.

There was one addition to the agenda; Mr. O'Sullivan wanted to update the Board on the current and FY2020 tax foreclosures sale.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on October 18, 2019 of \$503,094.95 as submitted. Next item on the consent agenda was a Letter of Verification of Funding for Department of Public Transportation to be used as match for U.S.C. 49-5411 grant funding for State FY2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021). Last item on the consent agenda was a

Letter of Authorization of Barbara Lilyhorn, Director of Public Transportation Department, as signatory for documents and certifications regarding U.S.C. 49-5411 grant funding for State FY2021 and administered by Kansas Department of Transportation (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021). The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0.

Maintenance Director Harlen Depew met with the Board to recommend approval for a proposal from Circle C Paving and Construction to mill, overlay and restripe the parking lots at the courthouse, Health Department, and the staff parking lot west of Youth Services for \$85,000. He stated this was on the five-year CIP plan.

Mr. Meagher noted the funds were coming from the Capital Improvement Fund for weatherization and that project would now be moved to next year. He said it would free up funds to go ahead with the paving project at this time. Sealing the parking lots would be a short-term fix.

Mr. Depew stated that after speaking with Public Works, who recommended doing a mill and overlay, the bids from paving companies included mill and overlay with also taking up the bumper strips and putting them back. There was a map from Landmark Architects in the packet showing the north lot with a few stalls reserved for the Sheriff Department eliminating the handicap parking behind the courthouse and changing the spacing in the lot to 9-foot stalls making it more uniform.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve the proposal from Circle C Paving and Construction for milling, overlay and restripe the parking lots at the courthouse, Health Department, and the staff parking lot west of Youth Services for \$85,000. The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 2-0.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan updated the Board on the upcoming tax foreclosure case filed on May 17, 2019. It is coming to a closure next Wednesday, October 23, 2019 with a Sheriff's sale conducted at Memorial Hall using R.E.I.B. Auctioneers as we have for the last 35 years. He stated up to today there have been 57 redemptions totaling \$284,860 with two properties of larger value that he believes will be paid, bringing in another \$86,000 between those two properties. There are 86 properties to be sold at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday with bidders registered in advance. He stated he will be filing on the FY2020 sale in March or April of 2020. He stated that each property requires a title search through the Register of Deeds

or the District Court, so every party with a claim or interest of record, have to be named in a lawsuit as defendants that is filed in District Court for each parcel. He spoke about 75 properties not filed on that should have been on the 2019 list but will be on the 2020 listing. He said the delinquent dates are set by state statute and the properties become eligible for foreclosure for the first-time on September 1st, 2018. Mr. O'Sullivan stated a number of residents know how the system works for keeping their property off the sale list for one more year. He spoke about how difficult it was for the low-income people to have quality housing when they could not afford to pay taxes or maintain their properties. He talked about if the Homestead owner of a property doesn't have the means to pay, he will work with them to get them on a payment plan for the future. This program does not get offered to commercial businesses.

Commissioner Sellers asked what involvement the Sheriff's Department had in the tax sale process. Mr. O'Sullivan stated the officers help with two types of taxes. They collect property tax and have a small role in real estate. If taxes are unpaid by December 20 of the current year, the Treasurer issues a tax warrant to the Sheriff for unpaid taxes. The Sheriff then goes out door to door to collect from the taxpayer. The uncollected tax warrants are filed in District Court and become a judgement against the taxpayer. For the real estate tax foreclosure cases the Sheriff's Department serves all the summons in the community.

Aging/Transportation Director Barbara Lilyhorn met with the Board for her regularly scheduled meeting. Mrs. Lilyhorn discussed various current issues not requiring action by the Board.

At 9:45 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 22, 2019.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date

