

November 23, 2021
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the agenda session at the Annex Conference Room with Chairman Ron Hirst, Commissioner Daniel Friesen and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and County Clerk Donna Patton, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Gary Getting with Elliott Mortuary Inc.

Commissioner Hirst welcomed Michael Ables, Executive Director of Strataca and Katie Broker Operations Manager with the Reno County Museum. Ms. Broker invited everyone to Christmas in the Courtyard on December 16th from 5:30pm - 7:30pm at the Reno County Museum. Mr. Ables invited everyone to come out and enjoy the Shine Underground light display at Strataca. This will run from today through January 9th. Strataca also earned a Trip Advisor award for being in the top 10% of reviews worldwide.

District Attorney Thomas Stanton introduced Brian Koch and Jamie Karasek, two new attorneys in his office. Mr. Stanton also stated that their 21st Toys for Tots toy drive will be December 6th through December 11th. There will be several boxes set up around the County facilities and will have a drive-up toy drive in front of the Courthouse on Saturday December 11th from 10am - Noon.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to add a discussion about COVID-19 under Item 7C, instead of talking about it during his commissioner comments. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen, to move Item 6B to a separate item and approve the Consent Agenda. It consisted of items 6A including the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on November 12th, 2021, totaling \$875,082.78 and claims payable on November 19th, 2021, totaling \$507,486.02 as submitted; approval of BOCC minutes for November 3rd, 9th Canvass of City/School General Election, and Final Canvass November 10th, 2021, as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Friesen stated that he had a conflict of interest with Item 6B, the Highlands Tower Lease with Idea Tek. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to counter offer back to Idea Tek with a 4% price increase. This would be an increase of \$144 and a total of \$3744 for the year. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0 with Mr. Friesen abstaining.

County Clerk Donna Patton met with the Board to give her annual department update. She discussed various items with the Board.

Deputy County Treasurer Elizabeth Belliveau met with the Board to give her annual department update. She discussed various items with the Board. Mr. Friesen would like to see an increase in the facility fee so more people would be willing to renew online. The Motor Vehicle portion of the Treasurer's Office is a function of the State of Kansas and any changes other than the facility fee were under the authority of the State of Kansas.

The Board had a lengthy discussion on the COVID-19 Policy and some concerns that Mr. Friesen had. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to ask Karla Nichols, Reno County Health Director, to address some of his concerns. County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and County Administrator will collaborate with Ms. Nichols on this request. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-1 with Mr. Hirst voting no.

County Administrator report:

Mr. Partington mentioned the monthly department reports and reviewed the Financial Report. Mr. Sellers asked if it would be better to have the reports every other month. Mr. Partington is going to visit with Department Heads. Mr. Friesen commented on the HVAC issues in the Emergency Management Offices. Mr. Partington said this will be remedied by the end of December. Mr. Friesen commented on the 17 open positions and asked if they all needed to be filled.

County Commission reports:

Commissioner Friesen said he received a request to occasionally have evening meetings. He commended Mr. Partington on the budget information he includes in their packets. He would also like to be involved in the hiring process for the County

Counselor position. He commented on the cell service dead spots in the county. He noticed that there was over \$55,000 spent on crime related expenses in October. He noticed that we pay rent to the Kansas State Fair for election voting and commented about the septic system policies and how they take so long to get approved.

Commissioner Sellers asked if they three could share their evaluation comments on Mr. Partington with each other. Mr. O'Sullivan stated that there could be one way communication. Mr. Sellers suggested sending all the comments to Mr. O'Sullivan and he would distribute them to everyone.

Commissioner Hirst agreed with Mr. Friesen about the septic system issues. He also noted that he attended Stepping Up Council of Reno County where they discussed several issues. Their next meeting will be January 27, 2022. He said he and Mr. Partington attended the EMS meeting and he attended the Planning/Zoning meeting and the SCKEED meeting. He commended Mr. Friesen on his comments explaining the commitments of a commissioner.

Mr. Friesen was concerned about the Planning Commission meeting. The BOCC directed staff to draft and provide notice of a public hearing for a separate zoning regulation text agreement prohibiting industrial CWECS in the present zoned area for Board of Commissioners consideration. Mr. Friesen was upset because staff recommended against the draft and public notice. Planning staff recommended to keep the due process for land use rights that go through the CUP process in place. The Planning Commission approved the text that prohibited industrial CWECS in the presently zoned area. Mr. Partington stated that staff gave all options and a professional recommendation on the conditional use permit to the Planning Commission and then they vote on the recommendation.

At 10:58 a.m. the Board adjourned until 11:00 a.m. today, for a work session.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
dp

Date