

October 12, 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 Commissioner Ron Hirst.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Friesen requested an amendment to the agenda by the addition of an executive session for non-elected personnel placing it after item 9. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to approve the amendment to the agenda. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote.

The Chairman called for consideration of approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of items on the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on October 8th, 2021, totaling \$341,984.84 and October 15th, 2021, totaling \$847,145.38 consisting of the following items; Planning Case #2021-09 approving **Resolution (No. 2021-22) APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE AXIS TRACKING SOLAR SYSTEM (SOLAR FARM) A PARCEL LOCATED IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 5 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M. IN RENO COUNTY, KANSAS** by E & E Legacy Farm, LLC presented by staff; appointments to the Reno County Council on Aging; approving a Letter to KDOT verifying matching U.S.C. 49-5311 funds; approving Signatory Authorization to Barbara Lilyhorn for KDOT Grant Operations; declaring Public Works' 2006 Chevy Silverado 1-ton 4X4, 1996 Landoll Tandem axle flat trailer and a Hewlett Packard laser jet 4050N printer as surplus property to be auctioned on PurpleWave; approving BOCC minutes for September final approval. Commissioner Hirst asked approval of the September 14th minutes be postponed until the next agenda session leaving only September 28th for approval at this time. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to approve the amendment to the consent agenda as proposed by Mr. Hirst. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** approve consent agenda as amended. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Planner Mark Vonachen met with the Board to recommend approval on Planning Case #2021-11 a proposed text amendment to Article 15-109(2)(A) and Article 17-104(3) of the Zoning Regulations. He explained in summary, any parcel of land two acres in size or less is still limited to 2,000 square feet of total accessory building square footage. Any parcel greater than two acres in size is now limited to 5,000 square feet of accessory building square footage. This is an increase of 3,000 square feet over the current zoning regulation requirements. The Planning Board voted 4-0 to approve. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to approve the proposed text amendments in Planning Case 2021-11 as outlined by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Vonachen appeared in order to recommend approval of a Conditional Use Permit in Planning Case #2021-10, a request by Reno County (Applicant: Reno County Sheriff's Department) to establish a firearms range and training facility on land zoned AG-Agricultural District. The parcel is approximately 20.66 acres of land located on the east side of S Mohawk Road, approximately one-half mile north of the intersection of S. Mohawk Road and W. Blanchard Avenue. The address is 1314 S. Mohawk Road. He gave explanation of the land owned by the county, describing the safety measures of the range and use for Sheriff Officials and Law Enforcement agencies not the public. The Planning Board and staff approved the request with nine factors and four conditions. The only concerns voiced at the hearing was about traffic and gas lines. Mr. Sellers was concerned about safety issues however he was satisfied by Sheriff Campbell's explanation on the professional training of the rifle marksmen. The Sheriff said the berm exceeded the Kansas Wildlife and Parks and the National Rifle Associations required guidelines. Mr. Hirst asked the Sheriff to inform residents when officers would be night shooting. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to approve the CUP in Planning Case #2021-10 as outlined by Mr. Vonachen. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-1 with Mr. Hirst abstaining due to ownership of property in the area.

Public Works Director Don Brittain met with the Board to recommend approval of a proposed resolution to expand the boundary of Rural Water District 101 (Yoder). He stated Mark and Rose Nissley owned a tract of land on East Red Rock Road approximately 860 feet East of South Yoder Road and were requesting to expand Water District 101 for the purpose of possibly constructing a new single-family dwelling. The Nissley's are responsible for all costs and expenses incidental

to the water main line expansion installation. Mr. Friesen questioned the high nitrate problem within Rural Water District 101 and stated that water rates could be increasing in the future. Mr. Brittain replied that a water study was underway and a determination of rates for residents in the district would come after public meetings. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the resolution 2021-23: **A RESOLUTION ENLARGING RENO COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO.101** as explained by Mr. Brittain. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Friesen stated that he, Mr. Brittain, and Mr. Partington had conversations regarding the 43rd Street Bridge.

Commissioner Sellers had requested a resolution to change the pay for newly elected and current commissioners if the voters approved five on the Board. The current salary for each commissioner was \$18,000 a year and the pay would decrease only if five commissioners are approved on the November 2, 2021, election. The pay would not change to \$10,800 a year until five members were installed in January 2023. He gave background of commission pay and compared the commissioners job to city council, school board positions. He spoke about the change in duties by the commission after hiring an Administrator in his opinion justified the reduction of pay. Mr. Hirst appreciated Mr. Sellers comments however he did not agree because of the time involved with the job. He believed the salary whether 3 or 5 commissioners should stay at \$18,000 because of the time it takes to do that job. There was a discussion on pay and how the new commissioners would be selected. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to approve the salary for newly elected commissioners, if voted in. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2 - 1 with Mr. Hirst opposed.

Mr. Partington noted:

- 1) Monthly reports
- 2) He went over the financial report stating instead of two different reports, cash balance and year end balances. He said they replaced two reports with one report highlighting the beginning fund balance and current ending balance and showing how standing is at each fund level.
- 3) The Planning Commission has two open spots, Lisa French in December, and Bruce Buchanan now. He said they have five applicants. The Board discussed the process for filling those open seats. He is working to get a GIS map to see what areas of county these applicants come from. Mr. Sellers stated these

are very important positions, the public does not understand the role of the Planning Board.

- 4) ARPA update: Reno County Communication Specialist Lori Moody created a page on our website with links. He reported ARPA was getting good responses from the community. They will be bringing back a report in November or early December.
- 5) Reminder October 26th commission meeting will be held at the Public Works facility.
- 6) Election dates clarified.
- 7) A Mayors meeting hosted by the Commission in late November or early December 2021, by consensus possible December 6th evening meeting.

County Commission reports:

Commissioner Friesen passed appreciation along from the Buhler School Board on the 43rd bridge.

Commissioner Sellers was pleased with more items on consent agenda. He applauded Public Works for their swift action on solving issues on projects. He was glad the gun range was resolved but disappointed the City and County could not work together on the current range. Pitched the 3 to 5 commissioners in Reno County to conduct public business. He encouraged the community to vote in the City/County election on November 2nd, 2021, in previous election had poor turnout.

Commissioner Hirst discussed increase of commissioners which the public will decide in the upcoming election. He said to get out and vote inform yourself, 12 percent of people to make your counties decisions was not good.

At 10:50 the meeting recessed for ten minutes.

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

At 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Friesen made a motion to recess into executive session to discuss a matter pertaining to non-elected personnel for a period not to exceed 30 minutes. The executive session is necessary to protect the privacy of the employee. At the conclusion of the executive session the Board will resume its regular session and adjourn for the day. No formal decision by the Board is expected and the County Administrator is requested to remain for the executive session.

Mr. Sellers seconded that motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:30 a.m. the meeting returned to regular session and adjourned for the day until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 26th, 2021.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date