

November 1, 2022
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held an agenda session with Chairman Daniel Friesen, Commissioner Ron Hirst, and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pulpit Minister Wayne DeWindt, Eastwood Church of Christ.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar gave a presentation of an appreciation award for ONEOK recognizing their assistance during the potential gas plant explosion in April. Mr. Friesen spoke about the emergency actions and presented Nathan from ONEOK an award and plaque.

Mr. Weishaar was also present to present an appreciation award for Gambino's Pizza, recognizing their assistance during the gas plant explosion in April not expecting any payment for their help for that community. He said would drop off the award and plaque. Mr. Hirst extended his thanks to the Gambino's owner and crew.

Chairman Friesen asked the new Communication Specialist Sandra Milburn to introduce herself and give a brief background. She spoke about working for The Hutchinson News. The Board welcomed her to Reno County.

There were no public comments or additions to the agenda.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A through 6E includes the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on October 28th, 2022, totaling \$196,206.82; including claims payable on November 4th, 2022, totaling \$479,364.78; approval of resolution #2022-25; A RESOLUTION ON RENO COUNTY JOINING THE QUAD-COUNTY COORDINATING COMMITTEE; approve an agreement between the City of Hutchinson and Reno County regarding Information Technology; approval to purchase a 2023 Ram Promaster Van from Allen Samuels for \$50,662; as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Sellers questioned if item 6C was the same as past agreements between the City of Hutchinson and Reno County or were there any issues? Mr. Partington replied a few word changes were made in the agreement and the advisory committee already in past agreements would meet every quarter to speak about technology needs for law enforcement. The Board decided it was a bullet point to be brought up in their December meeting with the City Council regarding continued cooperation.

County Counselor Patrick Hoffman gave a summary to the Board explaining why **resolution #2022-26; A RESOLUTION TO PUT ISSUE ON THE BALLOT UNDER K.S.A. 41-2646(a)(3)** was before them today. The resolution would put on the ballot next year to permit the sale of alcoholic liquor by the drink in public places without the portion of gross receipts from the sale of food. If approved by the commission and the State of Kansas, the question would be put on the next state general election in November 2023. The proposition would read as such for all qualified voters to vote on:

"Shall sale of alcoholic liquor by the individual drink in Reno County be allowed in public places without a requirement that any portion of their gross receipts be from sales of food?" Voters would vote yes for support or no. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to approve resolution #2022-26 to put the liquor by the drink issue on the ballot under K.S.A. 41-2646(a)(3). The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

President/CEO of Reno County/City of Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Debra Teufel was in the audience in support of Sandhills Brewery. She said the brewery won "The Small Business of the Year" award and thanked the Board for their support.

Horizons Executive Director Vikki Mader gave the Board Horizons quarterly report. She said CEO Mike Garnett had retired. She reviewed the financials highlighting certain operating revenues and expenditures. She also spoke about the new Crisis Center opening; Mr. Sellers attended that opening. Ms. Mader explained the purpose of the Crisis Center for the community and how it would assist law enforcement with decreasing crisis situations. Mr. Hirst was concerned about the age groups needing services from the center. She had not looked at the numbers but thought middle aged between 20 and 40 years of age needed more services. The Board thanked her for meeting the people's needs and assistance with the Stepping Up program.

Community Corrections Director Randy Regehr gave an annual report presentation. He reviewed their mission statement, state funding requests, and spoke on presumptive prison cases versus non-presumptive cases. He also reviewed four current projects in his update stating red tape from the State of Kansas was an issue.

Mr. Partington mentioned the monthly department reports and asked if there were any questions from the Board. Mr. Sellers expressed his thanks for the Solid Waste Department opening early for the State Fair and appreciated the efforts from the county department.

Mr. Partington brought attention to the Board that Mr. Sellers would not be available for the Canvass on November 17th and asking Register of Deeds Michelle Updegrave to substitute for him on the Board. Mr. Friesen was concerned about the write-in process. Mr. Hoffman explained the state guidelines for the write-in if it is a close race, he spoke about intent by the voter.

Mr. Partington also explained the new process for all boards and committees having recommendations for hiring in December. The Planning and Zoning Board has two openings, one will be a re-elected member (Ken Jorns) and the other one is open to anyone within the county. Mr. Friesen suggested using Sandra Milburn for advertising the position.

Mr. Hoffman gave the Board an update on the tax sale from last month. He had 163 properties given to him and after letters were sent out, 28 were paid off, they filed lawsuits against 135 properties, and 89 were redeemed paying all past due taxes in full before the sale took place. 44 properties were sold for \$172,975 which covered taxes and off set sales. He said they generated \$550,255.18 with delinquent taxes plus \$30,925 in cost and fees for a total of \$581,181.18 after the sales. He thanked the Sheriff and Treasurer for their assistance.

Mr. Sellers appreciated the Pastor speaking about having unity for the community. He said the awards given today show how important groups in Reno County like Emergency Management are to citizens. He also commented that the Clerk's Office does a very efficient and complete job with the elections. He gave a bravo to The Public Works Department for the South Hutchinson bridge project which was a good show of how the county assisted a local city and possibly saving them hundreds of thousands of dollars. In his experience the county is privileged to have had

quality work by the personnel in departments. He explained his vote for Resolution #2022-26. He said constantly citizens say government puts roadblocks in businesses way. He was in favor of the vote going to the public to decide, not the commission since we do not put roadblocks in the way of businesses, and this is one for the public to decide what those roadblocks are or not.

Mr. Hirst commented on Josh and James White that entered the world championship obstacle course. The competition was 40 obstacles over 10 miles of mountainous terrain and in their age division they came in 5th and 6th. Greta Snell, long term nurse in the area, donated 320 acres to Pretty Prairie Sunset homes for older citizens. Recognizing people in their areas. Donation of a state certified commercial kitchen making it available to the community. Complaint on Union Pacific railroads long trains that run 2 plus miles long blocking the roads north and south on Whiteside Road. Ad Valorem Taxes percentage of mill levy information given. Fire District #2 sixteen percent of total taxes on Reno Township, how much more can the public continue to pay to support the fire protection in that area.

Mr. Friesen complimented the other two commissioners on their Commission comments. He suggested Ms. Milburn do a piece on the South Hutchinson bridge showing the cooperation between the two entities. He spoke about the railroad blocking roads for emergency vehicles and Mr. Hoffman said he would look into it. He spoke about the NextEra lawsuit appeal period expiring so judgement the is final. Mr. Hoffman stated it would go back to the District Court and NextEra reached out for a meeting with the county.

At 10:35 a.m. the meeting recessed for 10 minutes.

At 10:45 a.m. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers,** to recess into executive session until 11:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the subject of performance of one or more non-elected county personnel with the executive session justified by the need to discuss in confidence personnel matters of non-elected personnel, with the governing body and Human Resources Director Helen Foster and Elise McQuilliam Administration Assistant IV in attendance.

At 11:00 a.m. the meeting returned to open session with no action taken and adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 22nd, 2022.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date