

November 22, 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 Pastor Tim Kraft, First Church of Christ.

At 8:45 a.m. Deputy Clerk Jenna Fager was present to have the Commissioners draw one of three names out of a hat for the Grove Township Clerk tie. Register of Deeds Michelle Updegrove pulled Christine Hansen out of the hat. Ms. Fager would be notifying her of the position.

There were no public comments or additions to the agenda.

**Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to** approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A through 6F includes the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on November 11th, 2022, totaling \$963,332.62; including claims payable on November 18th, 2022, totaling \$365,591.51; approval of Planning Case #2022-07, a request by Wayne Kratzer (applicant Jon Lovett) for a conditional use permit to establish an RV and boat storage facility. The property is located at 25118 S. Willison Road which is at the northeast corner of South Willison Road and East Boundary Road; approval of Planning Case #2022-08, a request by Merle and Gail Kroeker for a conditional use permit to establish a music and special event venue. The property is located at 6311 Old K-61 Highway North. The property is further described as being located on the west side of Old K-61 Highway North, approximately one-half mile south of the intersection of Old K-61 Highway North and East 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue; approval for an MOU with Prairie Star Health Center and the Reno County Sheriff's Office for inmates' dental care; approval Reno County Health Department (RCHD) is seeking approval to apply for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) reducing overdose through Community Approaches (ROCA) Mentorship Program Grant; approve RCAT pilot program purchase of a 2016 Champion low floor transport bus with 5,736 miles from Mobility Service Advisors, LLC, 148 North 90<sup>th</sup> Road, Culver, Kansas for \$93,094.20; as

presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Sellers asked for clarification of item 6F on the transport bus being paid by the State of Kansas. County Administrator Randy Partington replied yes it would be 100 percent reimbursed.

Denice Gilliland Director of Community Impact for United Way of Reno County thanked the Board for allowing the presentation today of the market study. She thanked those on the Leadership Team who made it possible for the study and other people at other agencies.

At 9:05 a.m. Dr. Bradford Wiles, PhD, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist at Kansas State University and Kansas State Research & Extension gave a presentation outlining the market study for childcare needs in Reno County. He stated the report contains data collected from survey data, focus groups, and publicly available data information for an overall view of the childcare needs in Reno County. He stated in conclusion Reno County faces significant challenges for maximizing access to quality, affordable childcare. The report highlights three major threats to meeting the early care and education needs of Reno County; pay inequities for ECP (Early Care Providers), cost of quality care and honoring childcare as a service to the community and reaching underserved families. After a lengthy explanation, his recommendation for the county and partners; provide public presentations to advance the early child education (ECE), make plans to invest in the short-term and long term by providing funding to existing child care providers sustainability and incentivize their work in the community, recognize the benefit that licensed home providers bring to all communities especially in the rural areas, reassess existing use of public funding, meeting community demand and collaboration, tax advantages for employers and groups of employers, and ensure pay and compensation equity across all kinds of settings for care. He made a final note regarding KDHE enforcing regulations as the main barrier to entry in the childcare business.

County Clerk Donna Patton gave her annual report.

Register of Deeds Michelle Patton gave her annual report.

Treasurer Brenda Kowitz gave her annual report.

At 10:42 a.m. the meeting recessed for ten minutes until 10:52 a.m.

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

Public Works Director Don Brittain gave a brief history of King Construction. He recommended to approve the authority to award the contract to King Construction Inc., and the commitment of County Funds of \$216,000.00 for the construction of the 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge 26.70 over the Cow Creek, located 0.5 mile west and 2.0 north of Willowbrook. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the contract as described by Mr. Brittain. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Brittain was also available to recommend approval for an agreement for Preliminary Engineering (PE) design services by Consultant (Cost plus net fee agreement) for the High-Risk Rural Roads Program for FY2024 (Signage Project), Kansas Department of Transportation Agreement No. 270-22, Project No. 78C-5198-01. This agreement is between Reno County, Kirkham Michael, and the Kansas Department of Transportation for Kirkham Michael to provide preliminary engineering design services not to exceed \$123,681.71. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the agreement as described by Mr. Brittain. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Lastly Mr. Brittain recommended approval for an agreement between Reno County and JEO Consulting Group for Professional Services. JEO will prepare plans for the Woodie Seat Bridge Deck Repairs over the Arkansas River along with Construction Designer Services over the life of the project. The cost for services is \$69,450.00. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen**, to approve the agreement as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Administrator Randy Partington had monthly reports for half of the departments, there were no questions by the Board. He then reviewed the financial report stating there was more revenue than expenditures with no questions from the Board.

Mr. Hirst attended the EMS meeting with Mr. Partington and reviewed statistics on calls noting they were increasing. He said there were plans within the budget, they were doing better than expected. Mr. Partington commented what the county pays is under budget and should end the year that way and said they were

doing very well on collections. Mr. Hirst also attended HEAL (healthy eating active lifestyle) and stated that it is a program that runs with volunteers and should be ongoing. It has to do with grants for the Health Department and is no expense to the county. Yesterday afternoon he lost electricity which interfered with an informational seminar by NACO Entrepreneur and Small Business on how eight other counties were handling entrepreneur issues and development of small businesses.

Mr. Sellers congratulated the new commissioners that were in the audience today on winning their elections. He spoke about the digitizing starting and seems to be very effective. Mr. Partington replied that the employee in IT was doing a superb job with several departments' records. He thought the Chairman had a good idea on departments checking redundancy of the computer system.

Mr. Friesen inquired on streamlining the accounts payable approval process. He had spoken with Mr. Partington and Mr. Hoffman about the rules and said they will research them and get back to the Board. He thought it seemed a little cumbersome with five commissioners coming on in January. He attended the Stepping Up Council quarterly meeting which focuses on mental health and law enforcement picking up residents and people traveling through that end up in our jail system costing the county taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars or more. He believes it needs more attention and great people are working on a solution in the private and public sectors. We need to locate a place to house the mentally ill besides the jail. He said canvass on Thursday went without a hitch. He said the election department streamlined the process by creating an official agenda format with their recommendations that will be used in the future. He said this afternoon at the courthouse there will be an orientation for the three new commissioners. Mr. Hirst questioned if it was an open meeting. Mr. Hoffman said they will be doing an overview of procedures and policies, the Chairman would be in attendance, so it is not an open meeting.

**At 11:15 a.m. Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to recess into executive session until 11:30 a.m. with the governing body, county administrator, public works director, and county counselor, for preliminary discussions on the potential acquisition of land related to a sewer district or districts. The meeting returned to open session with no action taken. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Friesen proposed to recess into executive session until 11:45 a.m. after the first executive session related to employee matters from the childcare needs assessment. The motion would be to recess into executive session for discussion of performance of one or more county personnel. **Mr. Friesen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to go into executive session for 15 minutes. The motion failed by a roll call vote of 1 to 2 with Mr. Hirst and Mr. Sellers opposed.

There was a brief discussion and **Mr. Sellers motioned to go through proper channels seconded by Mr. Hirst** who amended the motion to add a time frame for the first meeting in December. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0. Mr. Friesen commented on the cooperation of the other members not wanting to speak for 15 minutes.

**Mr. Sellers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. and Mr. Friesen seconded,** and the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 29th, 2022.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
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Date