

April 11, 2023
Reno County Annex
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held an agenda session with Chairman Daniel Friesen, Commissioner Ron Hirst, Commissioner Randy Parks, Commissioner Don Bogner, and Commissioner John Whitesel, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, County Administrator Randy Partington, and County Clerk Donna Patton, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Darryl Peterson with Grace Christian Church.

District Attorney Tom Stanton met with the Board to discuss the Courthouse renovations. He gave some office background and explained that his offices are on two different floors and explained the needs of his staff.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Friesen asked to move item 8E, the Health Department Strategic Direction, to below the County Commission Reports. There was a consensus to move the item.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen, to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on April 7th, 2023, totaling \$261,757.43 and claims payable on April 14th, 2023, totaling \$442,135.93; approve **resolution #2023-08; A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 79-2801 DIRECTING THE FILING OF A REAL ESTATE TAX FORECLOSURE ACTION;** to approve BOCC minutes for February 28th and March 7th, 2023; approve Community Corrections purchase of a used small SUV or mid-size sedan for a maximum amount of grant funds of \$24,139 including the trade of a 2014 Chevrolet Malibu (VIN 1G11B5SL3EF223536) with 145,603 miles and authorize County Administrator Randy Partington to sign the title of the traded unit. The Automotive Department would obtain quotes from at least 3 dealers and make the decision on the best purchase for the county; approve Reno County Fire District #3 and Reno County Fire District #4 UTV Fire unit purchase for a total cost not to exceed \$32,000 for each fire district; approve ARPA agreement between Haven EMS and Reno County for the use of ARPA Funds in the amount of \$12,100; as provided by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Chaplain Haley met with the Board to request an additional \$2,000 for a total of \$4,000 for the Reno County Police/Sheriff Chaplaincy Program's 2024 Budget request. Chaplain Haley reviewed the request and explained their needs. He indicated the increase was for continued training needs.

Mr. Friesen asked the Board to give feedback to Mr. Partington on where they would like Reno County's overall budget to end up.

The Board thanked Chaplain Haley for his service.

David Reed with the Reno County Museum met with the Board to request an increase of \$47,000 over the 2023 budget for their 2024 budget. Mr. Reed explained what the Museum has to offer and that the increase was needed so they could hire an educator to continue the great work at the Museum.

Libertee Thompson with the Reno County Drug Court met with the Board to discuss their 2024 budget needs. She is requesting \$10,000 from the Special Alcohol Funds that the County receives back from the State of Kansas. Mr. Hirst urged the Board to attend a drug court session and the graduation in June.

County Counselor Patrick Hoffman met with the Board to explain Resolution 2023-09, providing for Temporary Moratorium on Commercial Solar Energy Project Development in the Unincorporated Area of Reno County, Kansas. Mr. Hoffman explained that this would put a temporary moratorium on solar energy so they could send it to the Planning Commission to set some guidelines and rules and regulations. Jim Sherry, Director of Operations with Ark Valley Electric Coop met with the Board to inquire about the moratorium. He said they already have a solar energy farm in Reno County and are in the process of setting up another one close to the City of The Highlands. The Board asked Mr. Sherry if this temporary moratorium would cause an interruption or set them back in any way. Mr. Sherry said it would set them back a little, but they could adjust their timeline. **Mr. Bogner moved, seconded by Mr. Parks,** to approve Resolution 2023-09, providing for Temporary Moratorium on Commercial Solar Energy Project Development in the Unincorporated Area of Reno County, Kansas. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Community Corrections Director Randy Regehr, met with the Board to seek approval for an Adult Comprehensive Grant Application to the Kansas Department of Corrections for \$1,172,390.26 for SFY'24, a Juvenile Reinvestment Grant

Application to the Kansas Department of Corrections for \$80,000 for Contractual Substance Abuse Treatment for Youth for SFY'24 and a KDOC Juvenile Grant Application. Mr. Regehr explained the grants and that they are from the State General Fund. **Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner**, to approve all three grants as explained. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Mr. Partington had half of the monthly department reports and asked if they had any questions. He reminded the Board that on Thursday there will be 153 6th graders visiting Reno County for Career Quest Day. He asked if some of the Board could meet with them to explain what it means to be a commissioner.

Mr. Partington also mentioned a joint meeting with the City of Hutchinson and said it was our turn to host. He will email some dates to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Friesen asked if they could take a field trip to the corner of 30th Avenue and Lucille Drive to discuss the Prairie Hills Middle School road issues. He realizes this isn't a county road but would like to take the lead to get the conversations started.

Mr. Parks has a lot of concerns about the budgeting process. He wants to be mindful of where we are and trying to save tax dollars and is concerned about the outside agencies seeking money from the County.

Mr. Hirst would like to send out Request For Proposal's to all county newspapers for our legals that we print. He reminded everyone about the fundraiser for the Honor Flight at Applebee's on Tuesday April 18th.

Mr. Friesen agreed that the RFP is a good idea.

Mr. Whitesel thanked the Health Department for the movie about drug addiction. He agrees that they need to look at the funding for outside agencies requesting money.

Mr. Friesen asked the Board to let Mr. Partington know where they would like Reno County's budget to end up so he can start making adjustments. He will put this on the agenda to give guidance.

Mr. Partington agreed that it would be a good idea to set time in a special study session to see where we want to be with the budget numbers.

At 11:05 a.m. Mr. Friesen asked to take a 5-minute break and then continue with the Health Department's Strategic Direction presentation.

Health Department Director Karla Nichols along with Karen Hammersmith, Darcy Basye and Megan Gottschalk met with the Board to explain their strategic direction for the Health Department. She briefly went over their plan and their goals.

Mr. Friesen wanted to make sure they had time to focus on this plan. Ms. Nichols explained that this plan helps them keep their heads above water.

Mr. Parks asked where we fit in with the other clinics in Reno County. Do we duplicate services?

Ms. Hammersmith said that there is no duplication of services, and that the Health Department is a safety net for those that don't have insurance or have State Insurance.

Mr. Bogner asked how the surveys for the plan were conducted. Ms. Nichols said that there were three surveys completed and one of the surveys was door to door.

Ms. Nichols said they balance what they provide and are in constant communication with all the clinics.

Mr. Whitesel asked if there was a way to determine if their goals are met and if the Childcare class could be offered free instead of the \$20 charge. Ms. Nichols said that after the CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan) is finalized, they will be able to determine if they have met their goals. She said there are ways for providers to recoup their money if they open a day care facility.

Ms. Nichols said the CHIP should be completed sometime in the Fall.

Mr. Friesen said he appreciated all their hard work and help us understand your priorities and how we can help you be successful.

Mr. Partington said Environmental health will come back for a discussion at the May 30th study session.

At 11:55 a.m. Mr. Friesen adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, April 25th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
dp

Date