

April 25, 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 Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Associate Pastor Henry Blickhahn, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Sheriff Darrian Campbell read a proclamation to dedicate the week of May 15th through May 21st, 2023, as "Police Week" and May 15th, 2023, as "Peace Officers' Memorial Day." He stated May 12th would be a ceremony presented by the Sheriff's Office. Chairman Friesen presented the proclamation and thanked the Sheriff.

District Attorney Thomas Stanton read a proclamation for "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" from April 23rd through April 29th, 2023. He invited the Board to join in on the candlelight service, Thursday April 27th at 6:30 p.m. South Hutchinson Community Building. Chairman Friesen presented the proclamation and thanked the District Attorney.

There were no public comments or additions to the agenda.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, consisting of items 6A through 6D which includes the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on April 21st, 2023, totaling \$454,983.18; for claims payable on April 28th, 2023, totaling \$636,749.22; approve purchase of a 2023 Ford F-450 Prairie Ranger Brush Truck for Fire District #8 for a cost not to exceed \$143,000, and declare the 2001 Dodge 3500 as surplus sold on Purple Wave approving Mr. Partington to sign the title upon sale; to approve declaring Public Works' 2004 JCB Excavator with 2 buckets and 3 2016 Land Pride 15-foot Flex wing mowers with miscellaneous parts, a 2000 HP design jet 500 plotter and office equipment as surplus sold on Purple Wave; approval to authorize Mr. Partington to sign the title for a 2011 Yamaha Kodiak ATV that was traded on April 11, 2023 to Agri

Center, Hutchinson, Kansas as provided by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7A. T.E.C.H. 2024 budget request by Kevin Hess asked for the FY2024 allocation to not fall below the FY2023 amount of \$510,000. He thanked Reno County Commission for their partnership celebrating 50 years of support and services to the developmental disability citizens in the community.

7B. Horizons 2024 budget request by CEO Vikki Mader was to maintain the funding for CY24 at \$452,025. She also gave their quarterly report reviewing financials and other updates.

7C. Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Debra Teufel requested FY24 continued support of Greater Hutch Economic Development at \$50,000 and Growth Inc. 501c6 Development Corporation at \$20,000. She spoke about a \$2 million dollar grant they were anticipating approval on from the state. Ms. Teufel stated the state approved a \$2 million dollar grant and she explained the layers of matching funds that she thought assisted in receiving the grant.

7D. StartUp Hutch Entrepreneur Navigator Jackson Swearer gave a presentation requesting an increase for FY24 of \$10,000 over last year's allocation of \$80,000. He stated this was the final increase that was planned as part of the 5-year Action Plan by Reno County Entrepreneurship Task Force from 2019. Several board members after the presentation suggested Mr. Swearer do more AG outreach and visit rural areas of the county.

Mr. Friesen asked the Board for their guidance on these budget request amounts. They discussed funding and programs that service the community. He thanked all agencies for their presentations today.

8A. County Counselor Patrick Hoffman lead the discussion for a request of proposals (RFP) to designate the Official Reno County newspaper which is currently The Hutchinson News for official county publications. He stated the return date would be 30 days from the point of sending the RFP and that any impact would be dependent on what newspaper they selected and their advertising rates. He explained the Kansas Statute for newspaper requirements under (K.S.A. 64-101). Mr. Hoffman stated they would bring back results for review in a future agenda meeting. **Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Parks,** to give approval for administration to distribute an RFP designating the official

newspaper for Reno County. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

9A. Mr. Partington had monthly department reports from several departments.

9B. Mr. Partington then reviewed the unaudited financial status for FY22 and year to date at the end of March FY23 fund reports. He highlighted the revenue and expense for several funds saying we are doing well. He mentioned the auditors were onsite at the Annex today and possibly tomorrow. City of Hutchinson joint May 23rd meeting will have time and location to be determined, however it will be after the agenda meeting.

Mr. Friesen started a brief discussion on viewing the township road they spoke about in the last agenda meeting. It was mentioned that the road near Prairie Hills may have city limits running through the middle of the road. He suggested meeting at Prairie Hills for a discussion after the joint meeting if the Board had any interest.

County Commission comments:

Mr. Bogner had citizens concerned about the burn season regulations.

Mr. Parks asked if fire pits in the City of Hutchinson were part of the burn resolution, Mr. Hoffman explained the city was not in the resolution. He will be attending the KCCA meeting. He spoke about the landfill tipping fee and how someone reported people were now dumping on county roads instead of paying the fees. Mr. Hoffman read the recreational burning allowed.

Mr. Hirst mentioned being on StartUp Hutch board when the 5-year plan was originally done. EMS power point statistics on population. He spoke about an article in the Rural Messenger highlighting Carolyn Dunn from the Stafford County Port Authority regarding new housing for under \$140,000, he thought maybe SCKEED and Interfaith Housing would be interested in the information.

Mr. Whitesel commented on Career Day being an excellent event. Pleased with the way the county is running and answering questions from citizens. He got on the Commission to try and reduce spending and taxes.

Mr. Friesen stated on Career Day the commissioners there were appreciated. He mentioned we are working with Hutchinson Regional Medical about the EMS in Arlington. He would like to discuss the Fire District facility, maybe putting them together. Mr. Partington stated they were getting quotes for EMS. He suggested a single location facility with EMS and wildfire equipment discussion by the Board for options. Asked Mr. Partington to speak with Emergency Management and report back for structural fire and EMS in western Reno County, where would it go if one building. Mr. Bogner explained Haven's facilities and how they couldn't be a joint building. He mentioned getting microphones because the sound system needs an amp to hear people at the podium and commissioners.

At 11:05 a.m. the meeting recessed for five minutes.

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

11A. **Mr. Friesen moved** for the Board to recess into executive session until 11:20 a.m., with the county administrator, county counselor joining the governing body in the executive session, the justification for the executive session is discussion of acquisition of real property and the subject matter is acquisition of real property by the county. **Mr. Parks seconded**, and the motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

The Board came back into regular session. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, approve the agreement for purchase and sale of real estate from Mid-Kansas Farming, Inc. to be owned by the H.A.B.I.T. sewer district, of approximately 42.94 acres located with Section twenty-nine (29), Township twenty-four (24), Range five (5) West of the 6th P.M. in Reno County, Kansas for \$350,000.00. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

11B. **Mr. Friesen moved** for the Board to recess into executive session until 11:45 a.m., with the county administrator and county counselor joining the governing body in the executive session, the justification for the executive session is discussion of job performance of non-elected personnel and the subject matter personnel matters of non-elected personnel. **Mr. Hirst seconded**, and the motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

At 12:15 p.m. Mr. Friesen adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date