

August 23, 2023
Reno County Courthouse
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 Pastor Charles Crumble Sr. at New Resurrection Baptist Church.

Seth Dewey, Substance Misuse Health Educator read the proclamation proclaiming September as "National Recovery Month". He briefly explained substance abuse and the Reno Recovery Collaborative services. Karla Nichols, Health Department Director; Megan Gottschalk, Assistant Director of Population Services; Tonya Culp, Health Educator; Thomas Simmons, Substance Misuse Health Educator; and Candace Davidson, Health Education Supervisor also attended the meeting for support. Mr. Friesen thanked the Health Department for their service to the state and our county. Mr. Hirst commented he heard a radio interview regarding the problems with drug and alcohol, it is important to know what it cost.

Human Resources Director Helen Foster invited the Board to the United Way workday this Saturday August 26th, at 8:15 a.m. Reno County has a team of 36 people to participate in the Brush It Up Hutch project painting a residence at 17th and Adams.

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner, to approve the consent agenda consisting of items 6A and 6B which includes the: **(6A)** Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on August 18th, 2023, totaling \$1,097,363.63; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on August 25th, 2023, totaling \$246,182.07; **(6B)** next item directs the Chairman to sign minutes for July 12th and 26th, 2023 as submitted. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7A. This item was tabled from 8/9/2023 regarding a resolution #2023-17 designating the official county newspaper. Mr. Hoffman organized relevant information regarding the three official newspaper options since they all met the statutory criteria. With the exception of The Rural Messenger who had a pending application from USPS for a U.S. Postal periodical certification as of today there is still no approval. He stated Reno County would be posting more legals on our website in the future. **Mr. Bogner moved, seconded by Mr. Parks,** to approve resolution #2023-17; **A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE NINNESCAH VALLEY NEWS AS THE OFFICIAL COUNTY NEWSPAPER.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7B. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner,** to approve planning case #2023-04 for a rezone. **Resolution #2023-22; A RESOLUTION APPROVING A ZONING AMENDMENT REQUEST FROM R-1 RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO AG-AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING A 40-ACRE PARCEL OF LAND ZONED AG IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M. IN RENO COUNTY, KANSAS.** A request by Pat Banman to rezone approximately 4.7 acres of land from R-1 Rural Residential District to AG - Agricultural District. The parcel is located at the southwest corner of E. Longview Road and S. Woodberry Road at 14813 E. Longview Road. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

8A. The appointment/reappointment of the Reno County Health Department Advisory Board pursuant to Resolution #2023-05.

Mr. Friesen motioned to approve the slate of 10 people as recommended by the Advisory Board Chair to include the noted person that he would abstain from voting for. The reason for abstaining was a conflict since he was related to a person on that board. He stated it was pretty hard roles to fill on the advisory board and thought the vetting of candidates was well done so the risks were pretty low.

Mr. Hirst seconded the motion, stating the advisory board's original content comes back to the Health Board and County Commissions. He thought they did a good job choosing people and their vetting process was without any political views.

Mr. Whitesel would like to interview all candidates in an executive session.

Mr. Parks stated the advisory board was a good mixture and the final authority would be up to the commission. He put faith in the staff and would support approval.

Mr. Bogner stated the advisory group was well rounded and enough of them have expertise in different areas so he would support approval also.

Mr. Hoffman explained the role of the advisory board. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to approve the appointment/reappointment of the Reno County Health Department Advisory Board as discussed. The motion was approved by a 4-1 vote with Mr. Whitesel opposed and Mr. Friesen noting his comments.

8B. Candance Davidson Health Education Supervisor and Facilitator of the Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Committee explained the Reno County/Hutchinson Fights Addiction Fund proposal. Spending litigation money on strategies to save lives from prescription opioid misuse and illicit opioid use is essential. To meet the best needs of the community a special Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Oversight Committee was formed to look at the data available for Reno County and after identifying goals and abatement strategies. This committee was tasked with making sure that the Reno County Fights Addiction Fund is spent in a way that saves lives from prescription opioid misuse and illicit opioid use, while also coming alongside efforts currently being used within Reno County. Mr. Hoffman stated they were working also with the City of Hutchinson so as not to duplicate services. Ms. Davidson said they were spending the Kansas Fights Addiction Funds in the way in which the settlement requires. Ms. Davidson's recommended approval of moving forward and sending out an RFP to the different entities helping them if they met the requirements with funding. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Parks,** to approve sending out the RFP as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

8C. Public Works Director Don Brittain opened the discussion on Sewer District 201 and 202 Joint Treatment Facilities Upgrade. He introduced Schwab Eaton representative Stuart Porter.

Mr. Porter gave background on the studies for improvements to bring back sewer districts into compliance with current standards. He gave options for grants and financing for the project. He proceeded to explain five reasons not to connect with the City of Hutchinson. He gave explanation for a scoring system from the financial agencies. He outlined a scenario for \$55.00 regular users a month same with 27 light commercial users, \$110.00 users with double load which is 3 times residential for heavy commercial with no surcharge not high strength user 17.4 percent. The loan, if approved could receive a 30 percent loan forgiveness that maxes at \$1 million. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel**, to approve directing item #1 staff to move forward with the joint lagoon system and engineering to go through with the application process as outlined in the information provided to us. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0. Mr. Hirst mentioned looking after the 9.6 percent engineering fee so there are no cost overruns or mistakes made since it is taxpayers money.

9A. County Administrator Randy Partington asked if the Board had questions on department reports, none were made.

9B. Mr. Partington explained the financial reports for July. He commented on the District Attorney and group meetings regarding the jail. He said the Sheriff commented clients are at high levels and may need to be farmed out. This is predicated on if more staff leave, and they don't have enough employees on a shift to house the number of inmates at the jail. He asked about another study session on September 13th regarding the space study overview. Mr. Partington met with the City Manager regarding the joint meeting in October having it on 1st or 3rd Tuesday or 2nd or 4th Wednesday since the county is hosting, the Board selected the meeting on October 25th.

Commissioner comments:

Mr. Parks commented on another state meeting in Wichita. He had complaints last week about trains covering intersections. He suggested the Emergency Management Director and railroad

personnel visit regarding blockages. Mr. Parks spoke about sanitation meetings for septic tank installation.

Mr. Bogner thought a spur would eliminate the problem of blockage. Mr. Hoffman stated trains were under federal regulated programs. The Board thought maybe the train representatives could come in and speak to them on this issue.

- 1) Mr. Bogner was still getting calls on the burn permits. If the residents don't take the paper to see published items or have internet, how do we communicate to rural areas? Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar replied they do press releases, radio interviews, and fliers.
- 2) He questioned what was happening with Cargill water well monitor, was it still in the works or not.
- 3) The last item was about the 30/30 cattle trail group trying to take peoples land rights. He stated some people were signing up for the money. He suggested a study on what they are trying to do. In the resolution it needed to state Reno County was not interested.
- 4) Regarding the water deal he mentioned referring questions and checking meetings on You Tube.

Mr. Parks requested the 30/30 topic be on the agenda or have staff study it and get it back to them.

Mr. Hirst had a couple of items:

- 1) Yesterday at the landfill two employees from the Maintenance Department helped out and he wanted to thank them.
- 2) Harvey County had solar/wind regulations maybe have Planning and Zoning look at theirs before doing ours to compare.

Mr. Whitesel commented that COVID was back, and he would not support limiting people's rights by the government.

Mr. Friesen said he had a call related to splitting acres for new construction on an existing homestead. The zoning regulations were creating complications and with the current workload of Planning and Zoning staff, they recognize this is worth studying, but it would have to wait until the first of

next year. The Planning docket had them working on solar regulations.

Don Brittain said the public hearing would be in September to finalize solar. The subject Mr. Friesen brought up was going to be addressed prior to the solar regulations. That issue was the next to be addressed by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

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.

11. At 11:10 a.m. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Parks,** to recess into executive session for 30 minutes until 11:40 a.m. with Dr. Scott Pauley M.D., County Administrator, County Counselor, Health Department Director, Health Officer, 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. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

At 11:40 a.m. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Parks,** to extend the executive session for 10 minutes until 11:50 a.m. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

At 11:50 a.m. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel,** to extend the executive session for 5 minutes until 11:55 a.m. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

At 11:55 a.m. Mr. Friesen adjourned the meeting until Wednesday, August 30th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk

Date

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