

February 14, 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 late with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor David Dubovich Park Place Christian Church.

There were no public comments, and one addition added to the agenda. **Mr. Whitesel moved**, to table Items 6B, 6C & 6D to give him more time to look these over. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Mr. Hirst suggested separating out the three items from the consent agenda for discussion. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel** to separate out items 6B, 6C & 6D for discussion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A and 6E through 6I which includes; **(6A)** the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on February 17th, 2023, totaling \$346,593.29; **(6E)** approve purchase of a 2022 Caterpillar 623K Scraper from Foley Equipment, Wichita, Kansas in the amount of \$998,000; **(6F)** approve items to be declared as surplus property; **(6G)** approve Leasing and Software Maintenance/Support Proposal from KNOWiNK for 70 iPads "Poll Pads" for the Elections Department at a first-year cost of \$17,894.10; **(6H)** approve ARPA Subrecipient Agreement with Haven EMS for \$12,100; **(6I)** approve resolution to Deputy Treasurer Richele Calvert on the State of Kansas Municipal Investment Pool (MIP) account as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Mr. Friesen explained that the consent items (6B) re-appointmnet of Shannon Hauschild, Ray Hemman, Erica Rivera, and Lacy Stauffacher to the Reno County Community Corrections Advisory Board for a two-year term effective 1/1/2023 through 12/31/2024; (6C) appointment of Carmen Booz and Hope Jordan to the Reno County Council on Aging Board for a three-year term effective 1/1/2023 through 12/31/2025; and (6D) appointment of Erica Rivera, Edward Bible, and Curtis Jefferis to the Reno County Public Transportation Commission for a three-year term effective 1/1/2023 through 12/31/2025 stating these appointments should have been approved in 2022 but he wanted to wait until the new Board Members had been sworn in. Mr. Friesen asked if the current members of these boards were staying until the new members could be sworn in? Mr. Partington said yes, they would be staying. **Mr. Whitsel moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to table Items 6B, 6C & 6D until the next Board meeting. The motion passed 3-2 with Mr. Hirst and Mr. Bogner voting no.

Information Technology Director Mike Mathews and Registrar of Deeds Michelle Updegrove met with the Board to request approval to purchase Tyler Technologies' Eagle Recording software. Mr. Bogner asked who can purchase the software to view the documents online. Mr. Mathews said that there is a 4-tiered subscription that can be purchased. He said they had started this process two years ago and now are getting it finished. Ms. Updegrove and Mr. Mathews both agreed that this is the best fit for Reno County. Mr. Friesen asked Ms. Updegrove to consider charging less if someone is researching a multitude of deeds or if everything they do is online and after the initial set up there is no cost to her office. She said would look into that. After a lengthy discussion, **Mr. Bogner moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel** to approve the purchase of the Eagle Recording software from Tyler Technologies for the Register of Deeds Office, paid by the ROD Tech Fund. The first-year cost will be \$85,769.00. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Department of Aging and Public Transportation Director Barbara Lilyhorn met with the Board for her annual update. She discussed several things with the Board not requiring any action.

Maintenance Director Harlen Depew met with the Board for his annual update. He discussed several things with the Board not requiring any action.

Public Works Director Don Britain met with the Board for an update on HABIT and Yoder Sewer District's Engineering Cost. Mr. Britain said the cost would not exceed \$10,000. After a lengthy discussion, **Mr. Bogner moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen** to approve the engineering cost study not to exceed \$10,000 for lagoon system upgrades near the HABIT facility as well as studying the option of pumping wastewater to The City of Hutchinson. The motion failed 2-3 with Mr. Hirst, Mr. Parks and Mr. Whitesel voting no.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel to approve option #2 as recommended by staff to deny the joint engineering study to study an option to connect to the City of Hutchinson WWTP and instead to only update the plans for the expanded lagoon system. **Mr. Friesen moved** to amend the motion to not exceed \$5,000 for the engineering study. It died for lack of a second. After some discussion **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Parks** to amend the motion to state that the study not to exceed \$5,000. The motion to amend that the study not exceed \$5,000 was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0. The motion to approve that the study not exceed \$5,000 was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Mr. Partington informed the Board that Reno County has one pass to attend an event for the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce. He said we could purchase more passes for \$200 each. Mr. Whitesel said he was not happy with the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce due to the way they handled the debate in November and changed the rules. Mr. Partington explained the financial reports and said they would still be making some transfers. On February 22nd, SJCF will be conducting space study needs with each department.

At 10:55 a.m. Mr. Friesen recessed for 10 minutes.

At 11:05 a.m. the Board reconvened with all five commissioners, Mr. Partington, Mr. Hoffman and Ms. Patton present.

Commissioner Comments:

Mr. Bogner asked where the county stands on Solar Farms and what regulations do we have? Mr. Partington said staff is working on these and should have something for review by the planning commission at their March meeting.

Mr. Hirst said there will be a local food documentary at the Fox Theater on Friday, March 3rd. He also said he has been informed that there are some sound difficulties toward the end of the meetings.

Mr. Whitesel said he had some positive comments about recording the work/study sessions. He would also like to find out about mill levies that were established in the 70's & 80's to see if those can get assigned a sunset date.

Mr. Parks said he attended The Highlands City meeting last night and said they are looking at moving from Ark Valley to Evergy and commented that some people are wanting solar.

Mr. Friesen said that if anyone had a Pastor for prayer time to let him know so they can be added to the list. He would like to discuss recording work/study sessions and to review the entire commission meeting guidelines/policy. He will be gone on March 14th, so he asked if anyone minded moving the meeting to March 7th? Mr. Partington will talk with staff and make sure this is ok to switch dates.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Parks to adjourn into executive session until 11:35 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 motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner to extend the executive session for 5 more minutes. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

At 11:40 a.m. the Board moved back into open session.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Parks to adjourn into executive session until 12:10 p.m. with the governing body, county administrator, and county counselor to discuss the subject of evaluation of performance of county employees and the executive session justified by the discussion of non-elected personnel. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Parks to extend the executive session for 5 minutes. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Parks to extend the executive session for 5 minutes. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

PLEASE NOTE THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN REPLACED AND AMENDED ON May 30th, 2023, TO INCLUDE THE LISTING FOR THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.

At 12:20 p.m. Mr. Friesen adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
dp

Date