

January 24, 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 Commissioner John Whitesel.

District Court Judge Position 1 Daniel Gilligan swore in the fifth Commissioner John Whitesel District 4 by reading the oath and having him agree then sign it. Mr. Friesen welcomed the new commissioner.

There were no public comments or additions added to the agenda.

Mr. Friesen requested to split the consent agenda into 7A - 7C and 8A - 8E since item 8 deals with all Public Works items.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel,** to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 7A through 7C includes the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on January 20th, 2023, totaling \$992,647.74; includes the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, totaling \$1,061,680.65. approval for increased costs associated from the prior approved purchase of a new engine for Reno County Fire District #3 projected cost of \$394,385.72 not to exceed \$395,000 the previously approved cost of not to exceed \$380,000 was on June 28, 2022; approval for a Caterpillar certified powertrain rebuild on #341 816 compactor from Foley Equipment in Wichita, Kansas in the amount of \$310,771.38. Mr. Whitesel questioned the bid of item 7C and was told Foley was the only place to do this type of work. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

8A. Public Works Director Mr. Don Brittain recommended approval and a signature for a contract for Federal Aid Construction Engineering (Construction Inspection) by LPA (Local Public Authority) Reno County (Force Account Agreement). The Kansas Department of Transportation will reimburse Reno County

up to 80 percent of the actual cost of Construction Inspection, with an estimated upper limit being \$98,800.22. The bridge replacement location being on West 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 0.5 miles west and 2.0 miles north of Willowbrook, Kansas, over the Cow Creek in Reno County, as part of the Off-System Bridge Program.

8B. Mr. Brittain recommended approval and signing the Kansas Department of Transportation Off-System Bridge Program, Project Programming request for the replacement of Victory Road Bridge 2.01 over the Little Arkansas River, which is 0.5 miles east and 2.0 miles south of Buhler. The maximum funding of this project is \$820,000 with KDOT awarding 100 percent of the cost. He stated this was the first time he had heard of KDOT paying 100 percent of a project.

8C. Mr. Brittain recommended approval and signature for an engineering design agreement for Professional Surveying and Engineering Services between Reno County and Schwab Eaton for the replacement of Victory Road Bridge 27.01 for the sum of \$58,900. He stated this was the only out of pocket expense on this bridge.

8D. Mr. Brittain recommended approval and signature for a contract between Reno County and L & M Contractors, Inc. for the construction of a new bridge on Sylvia Road 14.99 one mile south of Sylvia over the north fork of the Ninnescah River for the sum of \$1,034,309.75. He stated it was the low bid and the cost was budgeted in the bridge fund, and stated that it had come in under the engineers estimated cost. Mr. Hirst gave some history of the road and bridge.

8E. Planning Case 2022-11, a resolution #2023-04; **A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE EXPANSION OF AN ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION ON A PORTION OF TWO PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER AND SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 5 WEST OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> P.M. IN RENO COUNTY, KANSAS (Cargill Inc.).** Applicant was Evergy to expand the existing electrical substation. The area of land is on the west side of South Halstead Street, approximately ½ mile south of the intersection of South Halstead Street and East Avenue G.

**Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner,** to approve items 8A through 8E as outlined by Mr. Brittain. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

9A. Mr. Friesen stated the next two items were for the 2023 reorganization of the Board of County Commissioners, and would defer to the Roberts Rules of Order process. Mr. Friesen went over briefly the rules for a nomination for the Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. Bogner nominated Mr. Hirst and Mr. Parks nominated Mr. Friesen for Chair. Before the vote, Mr. Whitesel asked if an item would be placed on the agenda by the Chair if the issue was unfavorable. Mr. Hirst suggested going through Mr. Partington and stated the Chair did not have all the power to bring something before the Commission to make decisions. Mr. Friesen stated he was open for new ideas and welcomed feedback then the Board voted. The commission did a roll call vote, Mr. Hirst voted for himself, Mr. Parks voted for Mr. Friesen, Mr. Bogner voted for Mr. Hirst, Mr. Whitesel voted for Mr. Friesen, and Mr. Friesen voted for himself, so the Chair elect is Mr. Friesen by a 3 to 2 vote.

9B. Mr. Friesen asked for nominations for Vice-Chair 2023; Mr. Whitesel nominated Mr. Parks. **Mr. Hirst moved, Mr. Bogner seconded**, to close the nominations for Vice-Chair with Randy Parks as nominee. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0. The Board by consensus voted Mr. Randy Parks as Vice-Chair by a 5-0 vote.

10B Fire Administrator Travis Vogt recommended approval to purchase land at a cost of \$5,000 from Anthony and Lynn Perkins for the future site of Fire District #7, Turon, Kansas fire station. In 2019 the upgrade requested for Fire District #7 was denied. Mr. Vogt outlined the severe disrepair of the current fire station, stating the first step was to purchase the land to build a new fire station. He said there was not enough room at the current station to accommodate any larger apparatus that the district might purchase in the future. Mr. Perkins, a fire fighter, purchased the lot by the post office with the intentions of selling it to the fire district. The lot was large enough to allow for any expansion that may be needed from future equipment purchases. Mr. Vogt stated the ask today was for the fire district to use their funds to purchase the land. He said the major cost of the construction had been planned for and the construction quotes were estimated at \$330,000 to \$350,000 to build the new station. Mr. Vogt stated the building would be a post frame 60' X 100' metal building with four bays and an office. The Board had a large discussion on the construction costs and other smaller issues. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner**, to approve the purchase of land for Fire District #7. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

10A Vikki Mader, Chief Executive Officer with Horizons Mental Health Center reviewed a representation of the quarterly financials, center updates on mental health reform, services and programs, and state legislation updates. She explained about the Association of CMHCs of Kansas, Inc. the Kansas Mental Health Transformation: Advancing Integrated Care Through Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and their scope of services.

10C County Administrator Randy Partington explained the October 11, 2022, going out to bid for the courthouse interior renovations project. The staff worked with GLMV over the past year to develop specs on the project addressing the different work being proposed on all floors as follows:

- First Floor add additional office spaces on the north side of building where Human Resources and Administration are located will better utilize the space available. The additional offices would allow for workstations in the middle of the first floor to be in an office area for privacy and other uses in the common space. The county counselor and his legal assistant would move to the north side of the building to work in conjunction with the admin office and allow for Reno Conference Room to return as a conference room. Maybe move law library to another area.
- Second Floor/Mezzanine move the current Kansas Legal Services personnel to the fourth floor in the area being vacated by the DA's staff. Then modify the office area on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to allow for an office and conference room. A large expense of this renovation project is the proposed walkway to be built between the Kansas Legal Services area to the mezzanine on the north side of the courthouse that will meet ADA requirements and the use of an elevator to access the mezzanine. Make small changes to the mezzanine area for new flooring and outlets that will allow for workstations to be placed on the mezzanine, like the IT offices.
- Third Floor modify a room for court to allow for an additional witness/jury room.
- Fourth Floor create a stairway between the two floors as a second means of escape in case of a fire.
- Fifth Floor take space on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor currently used for storage in an area that was the original jail area and renovate it for office space and a conference room to allow for all the DA's staff to be on the same floor for convenience.

Mr. Partington explained there was only one bid. The architect's estimate for construction only was \$1.2 million and the lone bidder, Ward Davis Construction, bid the project for \$2.187 million. The staff recommended discussing the project in sections to see if there are cost saving measures. Maintenance Director Harlen Depew met with the contractor and architect to get a more thorough explanation of the costs. The majority of the cost was renovations to the 5th floor, stairway to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, and small jury room modifications on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Part of the project could be eliminated after the results of the space study by SJCF, first floor modifications and the walkway that would connect the mezzanine for elevator access.

Ward Davis Builders, Inc. gave a plans and specs breakdown which did not vary from the bid plans with addenda, 1A through 5A with 5F DA 5<sup>th</sup> floor DA only and 5DW 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> floor dumbwaiter, total cost was \$2,187,000. There were diagrams following the cost breakdowns per floor.

Mr. Partington stated today was to get direction for what the project should entail. We have money in reserves for the \$2 million but it might take away funds for other projects.

The Board discussed at length the renovations and costs. They spoke about what to take out and what to keep in. If the commission is fine with the whole package the staff will bring back a contract. If they don't want the entire package what does the commission want to drop. Mr. Partington suggested a committee consisting of Mr. Depew, Mr. Hirst, and another commissioner, and himself to come back with options in two weeks on February 14<sup>th</sup> with recommendations or contracts.

10 Mr. Partington explained the ARPA money of \$12,042,385 the county will receive and how it will be allocated including housing and childcare.

There were other agencies that received smaller amount of funds.

County Counselor Patrick Hoffman confirmed that the ARPA funds must all be spent by the end of 2024 or if an organization does not spend all the funds, those funds would revert back to Reno County. He explained these agreements were describing how the projects work with reimbursement of money. There are review processes throughout the projects. This would put the final piece so the organizations can move forward. September 2022

resolutions done by the previous commission are binding and the allocated funds cannot be changed without consequences.

10D ARPA subrecipient agreement with South Central Kansas Economic Development District (CE) for \$500,000. Mr. Marc Howell described the scope of work with his organization and how they will assist with housing using ARPA money.

10E ARPA subrecipient agreement with Interfaith Housing for \$4,000,000. Mr. Clint Nelson explained the scope of work his organization will be doing with weatherization, construction, demolition, and renovations in cities/rural communities within Reno County.

10F ARPA subrecipient agreement with United Way of Reno County for \$4,500,000. Denice Gilliland explained the childcare demands in Reno County and how the funds will be distributed.

**Mr. Hirst moved** to approve the ARPA subrecipient agreement with South Central Kansas Economic Development District for \$500,000. Motion failed for a second.

The Board had a large discussion on the ARPA agreements, budgets, and programs. Today is just to approve the following plans for SCKEDD, Interfaith Housing and United Way.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel,** to approve the ARPA subrecipient agreement for South Central Kansas Economic Development District for \$500,000. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

**Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to table the ARPA items 10E Interfaith Housing for \$4,000,000 and 10F United Way childcare for \$4,500,000 until the next agenda meeting to have changes made to agreements. Mr. Hirst suggested the Board give any proposed changes to Mr. Partington to present. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

At 11:40 a.m. Mr. Friesen recessed the meeting until 11:55 a.m.

The meeting reconvened with Commissioners Parks, Whitesel, Bogner and Hirst, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present. Commissioner Friesen had to leave the meeting.

Mr. Partington said in December 2022 the commission asked him to put some bullet items on a list of legislative priorities. He gave an overview of the listed items one by one. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner**, to approve the 2023 Legislative Platform as listed by Mr. Partington. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-1 with Mr. Whitesel opposed. Mr. Whitesel wanted to vote separately on home rule and publications.

Mr. Partington said the local legislative event is in Topeka tomorrow at the Capital with three commissioners attending. This monthly report was for all county departments and next month will be half and half. Mr. Partington said that at the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, Mr. Friesen will not be available and asked if you want to meet next week or move the meeting to February 7<sup>th</sup> when he is available. The Board voted by consensus to hold the agenda meeting for ARPA, Sheriff's shooting range, and the Public Works sewer district on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and go into a work session the rest of the morning.

Mr. Bogner spoke about the new county commissioners meeting and tours. The state had agreed at one time funds would be collected and shared with the counties, then the state decided they were not to share with counties and said each county should claim their funds. He will research into the changes.

Mr. Whitesel stated it was an honor to be on this Board. He suggested holding meetings later on in the day for citizens. He spoke about transparency for government business.

Mr. Hirst commented on the first quarter hosting of the Quad County meeting with Sedgwick, Harvey, Butler, and Reno County. These counties get together to talk about shared interests. Mr. Partington stated it lasts an hour to two hours with lunch served. Mr. Hirst read a letter he wrote addressing old and new commissioners and said that in past years we put together a list of goals.

Mr. Partington stated it was important to schedule a time, open to the public, to talk about goals and priorities for this year and next year so staff could properly prepare the 2024 budget and what you expect to see from staff this year.

Mr. Parks commented about a good meeting he attended in Topeka. He looked forward with the commission, and said there are lots of challenges. Great job of department heads and Mr. Partington does a good job also, he thanked them all.

Mr. Bogner mentioned about a list to discuss what is coming up and known projects worked on or working on or future work. Mr. Partington will resend to members of the commission.

At 12:30 p.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 7th, 2023.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reno County Clerk  
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Date