

January 9, 2023
Reno County Annex
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held an agenda session with Chairman Daniel Friesen, Commissioner Ron Hirst, and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Randy Partington, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present. County Counselor Patrick Hoffman was not available.

The meeting began late with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Jeff Arnold, South Hutchinson Christian Church.

County Planner Mr. Vonachen stated that Mr. Jorns was one of the founding members on the Planning Commission in the 1990's assisting on the current Planning Commission regulations. Mr. Jorns served two different terms and stated that his knowledge and expertise that will be missed by the Planning Commission and staff. The Board of County Commissioners thanked Mr. Jorns for his service on the Planning Commission and all appreciated what he had done for the Reno County community. Mr. Vonachen, Mr. Friesen, and Mr. Brittain presented Ken Jorns a plaque for serving nine years on the Planning Commission. Mr. Jorns thanked the County Commission and stated it was an honor to serve. He said he enjoyed being on the Planning Board then wished the Planning Board worked out for the best.

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

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A through 6L includes the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on December 23rd, 2022, totaling \$363,191.30; includes the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on December 30th, 2022, totaling \$196,951.89; includes the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on January 6th, 2023, totaling \$185,779.56; to approve BOCC minutes for November 22nd, November 29th, and December 13th, 2022; approve added, abated and escaped taxation change orders numbered 2022-768, 774, 785, 790, 798, 807, 810, 811, 813, 816, 817, 818, 840; approve appointment of the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief of Fire District #4 (Chief Brady Baker and Assistant Tyler Eash);

approval of Planning Case #2022-09 with a resolution #2023-01; **A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE VACATION OF A 20-FOOT-WIDE UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED IN HABIT #3 SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN PORTIONS OF SECTIONS 29 & 32 OF T24'S, R5W OF THE 6TH P.M., RENO COUNTY, KANSAS** (4J's Holding, LLC). The address to the property is 1816 E. Wasp Road; approval of Planning Case #2022-10 with a resolution #2023-02; **A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE VACATION OF A 16-FOOT WIDE UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED IN CEDARVIEW LODGE REPLAT SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER SECTION 19, T26S, R4W OF THE 6TH P.M., RENO COUNTY, KANSAS** (easement located between Lots 7 and 8, Block 1 of Cedarview Lodge Replat Subdivision). The address of the property is 25306 S. Cedarview Drive; approval of Planning Case #2022-11 a request by Cargill, Inc. (Applicant Evergy Jessica Keck) for a conditional use permit to expand an existing electrical substation on land zoned AG - Agricultural District. The property is located on the west side of S. Halstead Street, approximately ½ mile south of the intersection of S. Halstead Street and E. Avenue G; approval to declare equipment/property at the Solid Waste Department as surplus property to be sold on PurpleWave; authorize the County Administrator to sign the title for the 2000 Volvo WG64 Dump Truck with VIN 4V5JC2H8YN869631; approval and adopt a new burn resolution replacing resolution 2017-12. Resolution #2023-03; **A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO OPEN BURNING AND ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS, RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITED ACTS WITH RESPECT THERETO; AND RECINDING RESOLUTION NO. #2017-12**; approve K-61 Agreement with City of Hutchinson and KDOT (Kansas Department of Transportation); approval for \$50,000 fund transfer from Register of Deeds Technology Fund to Reno County Technology Fund per K.S.A. 25-115 (c)(g) as presented by staff.

Mr. Hirst commented that the burn resolution had been changed with regards to a modified kitchen/smoker/BBQ outfits taking away the 50-foot from a structure for recreational burning. He filled out the application and found it to be fairly easy.

Mr. Sellers clarified with Mr. Brittain that the K-61 agreement was cleaning up the language that had not been done in previous years, Mr. Brittain confirmed that was correct.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

7A. Mr. Partington stated authorization was given in October of 2022 for bids to be sent for the Reno County Courthouse roof replacement, and those bids came back in December with the lowest bid in excess of \$340,000. Mr. Partington stated that the architect had estimated the cost to be between \$110,000 and \$140,000. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers**, to do modifications to the specs and reject all bids and bring back at the January 24th agenda meeting. Mr. Hirst stated the water damage needs to be fixed, and said he was disappointed the architects estimate was so low. He hoped to get local bids to come in for fixing the issue and would like to look at specs as well as pricing. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

8. Commissioner Sellers commented to the Board and community members since this was his final day on the Reno County Commission. He had ten final topics from his four years on the Board. He stated in his time with the Commission he had taken his job very seriously and was very community service oriented. **First**, it was an honor to serve as an elected official with the county since 2019 and he learned a lot about county business in that time. **Second**, he thanked the people who were there when he was elected and gained a close working relationship with then Administrator Gary Meagher and existing County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan. Mr. Meagher was a seasoned government official that knew the county business very well and Mr. O'Sullivan was an interesting person to work with. Mr. Sellers admired Mr. O'Sullivan greatly stating he was fun to work with, he loved Reno County, he always made decisions that were for the betterment of the county and knew more history of Reno County than anyone Mr. Sellers knew that lived in the county. **Third**, in 2019 Mr. Meagher announced his retirement. The Board consisted of Mr. Bush, Mr. Hirst and Mr. Sellers and they decided to hire Randy Partington who started early 2020. One of Mr. Partington's strengths is working with budgets which he continues to improve the process each year. Mr. Partington is working on a digital budget book that would be available to anyone on an ongoing basis. Mr. Partington also worked with department heads to revise the mission statement for Reno County, has reviewed goals for departments, has been excellent in hiring new department heads, and stated that his communication between us was very good and it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Partington. **Fourth**, Commissioner Bob Bush passed away on October 12, 2020, and stated that it was a great loss for the county and our community. Mr. Sellers stated he would always have great respect for Mr. Bush and the fact that they got to work together both at the City of Hutchinson

and Reno County. He said Mr. Bush had a great understanding and wisdom of our community issues.

Five, Commissioner Ron Hirst was re-elected, and Commissioner Daniel Friesen was elected in November 2020 both taking office in January 2021. Mr. Sellers stated he appreciated their working relationship and had great respect for both of them and hoped that it was mutual. He stated Mr. Hirst brings a great history of the workings of Reno County and its rural economy which is important to the commission. He respected Mr. Friesen for many things but liked the fact he wanted departments to create goals and show how those goals are being produced, that was one thing he brought to department discussions. Mr. Sellers said he enjoyed working with both Commissioners. **Six,** during his term as commissioner, he and Mr. Bush worked to decrease commission meetings from weekly to bi-weekly giving the administrator the ability to run the daily business of the county and the commissions job is to provide him oversight for issues he may need looked into. He thought going from weekly to bi-weekly meetings was a great improvement in government, helping department heads and administrator with better time management. **Seven,** in November 2022 voters in Reno County voted to go from three to five commissioners which he believes is a positive change and will be a big service to the county administrator and this county's citizens. He has served on three boards all with more than three members. He believes with more members you have more ideas coming from the commission which makes better decisions in the process. **Eight,** congratulations to Randy Parks and Don Bogner on their election to the Commission, he thought they would serve the citizens of Reno County well. He acknowledged the appointment by the Republican Party of John Whitesel to the Commission replacing commissioner elected Mark Reese. While he is leaving the commission his love and respect for the community will continue. He told the new members if they wanted to ask his advice they would just have to ask. **Nine,** with newly elected/appointed commissioners the county should have a better chance of having our state elected officials show some concern for our county legislative policy. In the past the Kansas legislative representatives have showed little if no interest in local Reno County concerns controlled at the state level. **Ten,** he thanked the Reno County department heads and employees for their assistance that they had provided in the last four years. He did not realize that Reno County had such an excellent management group and a great group of employees that serve the citizens very well. He mentioned two departments in particular, the County Clerk's staff that had been most helpful to him. Another thing he appreciated about that department was they

seemed to have a really good time while accomplishing their duties. It has been fun to work with them and thanked the staff for helping our meetings run smoothly. He thanked Shonda Arpin Administrative Associate to the County Administrator for her assistance. He said he would have been lost many times dealing with computer issues. Thank you so much Shonda for your help. He thanked the Board for the atmosphere that you have given the county the last few years. We did not always agree but we left the table appreciating the others view on an issue. He hoped the county was better off with their last four years of effort. Thank you and all the best for Reno County in the years to come.

Mr. Hirst appreciated all the time and effort Mr. Sellers put into this job. He said it was an important one that he fulfilled admirably. We have had our differences but respected each other. He really appreciated working with him.

Mr. Friesen appreciated the time Mr. Sellers put into the commission and noted that he was always very well read on all the issues. Mr. Friesen stated Mr. Sellers always had the community's best interest at heart even if we did not always agree on what that was. He totally agreed that Mr. Sellers put all his heart into it and cared about the community. He thanked and honored Mr. Sellers time and service with the commission. He appreciated what he had done for the community.

Mr. Partington appreciated that he was one of the three who hired him. Mr. Partington stated he loves Reno County and knows that you, Mr. Sellers, care a lot about the City of Hutchinson and Reno County and everyone involved with the community. It has been an honor working with him for the last three years. We will definitely miss you.

District Court Judge Trish Rose did the swearing in of the new commissioners. She started with reading the oath for Randall Parks having him agree and sign the oath. She then read the oath for Don Bogner having him agree and sign his oath.

Mr. Friesen recessed the meeting at 9:42 a.m. for 20 minutes until 10:02 a.m. when he welcomed the new members of the commission.

The meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present. Commissioner Friesen welcomed both new commissioners.

10A & 10B. **Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner,** to table the reorganization of the Board of County Commissioners for Chairman and Vice-Chairman until January 24th, 2023, agenda meeting when the fifth member, appointee John Whitesel, would be sworn in.

Mr. Partington stated that we have 30 days to select the chair and vice-chair positions and the current chair would stay in place until the reorganization. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

Mr. Partington spoke about final agreements for approval from the ARPA money.

Mr. Partington asked the Board if they had any questions on the financial reports briefly discussing the thirteenth month and he explained the general fund. He went over the cash reserves stating we have four to six months in reserve in the general fund which was for department shortages. Reno County had a very good bond rating for the county. He asked about questions regarding the department reports stating half of the department's report than the other half. He explained that each department comes annually to report in person to the commission. He briefly discussed the Opioid settlement funds of \$140,000 and organizing a committee to decide the limited way to spend the funds when received. At the agenda meeting on January 24th followed with a January 31st agenda/work session possibly having discussions and conversations on the shooting range, environmental health or major projects. We also need to speak about a strategic planning session with goals and objectives with the priority focus as the projects for 2023 and 2024.

Mr. Bogner commented this was a good meeting and he looked forward to working with all of the Board.

Mr. Hirst mentioned notes from the recent tour last Thursday from the Kansas Department of Agriculture. They had manufacturing, technology, and production showing the overall ag business in Reno County. He welcomed the new commissioners and commented about January 25th and getting to speak to representatives.

Mr. Parks thanked the Board for their help and the Wednesday, Thursday meetings and Friday for orientation for new commissioners.

Mr. Bogner stated on the Ag tour it was amazing. What a large role Reno County has, and their ranking Reno County has 17 percent of Ag jobs.

Mr. Friesen welcomed all new and appointed commissioners.

Mr. Partington stated appointee Mr. Whitesel will be the 5th member of the commission where the plan was to swear him in at the January 24th, 2023, agenda meeting.

At 10:25 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Monday, January 24th, 2023.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date