

July 12, 2023
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held an agenda session with 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. Chairman Daniel Friesen was not available.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Richard Haley from Riverside Baptist Church.

Reno County 4H Ambassadors Noah Miller and Brayden Blubaugh gave an invitation to the Reno County 4H fair. They thanked the Commission for their continued support.

Health Department Director Karla Nichols mentioned an invitation to the Board of an upcoming visit by Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Sonara Health to look at options for medically assisted treatment for substance misuse event on Monday and Tuesday with a dinner Monday evening.

There was a revision to the agenda, moving item 8A FY2024 funding for the Reno County Conservation District, community, and economic impact before 7A executive session for privileged legal matters after approval of the consent agenda.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner, to approve the Consent Agenda as modified, consisting of items 6A through 6D which includes the: **(6A)** Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on July 7th, 2023, totaling \$417,744.55; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on July 14th, 2023, totaling \$1,029,992.67; **(6B)** approval for an agreement between the Kansas Department of Transportation and Reno County. This County Special Maintenance Agreement upon completion of tied projects KS 1007-02 and KS 1007-03. The anticipated completion date of tied projects KA 1007-02 and KA 1007-03. The anticipated completion date of these projects is June 6, 2023.

The Secretary will provide the County with written notice of the Transfer Date through the issuance of D.O.T. Form No. 375 "Transferring Route maintenance" fourteen (14) days in advance of the transfer; **(6C)** approval of Planning Case #2023-03 a **resolution #2023-14; A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WAREHOUSE LAND USE ON A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 24 SOUTH, RANGE 5 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M. IN RENO COUNTY, KANSAS** for Lawrence Street Properties, LLC (Mark & Kendra Horst) for a conditional use permit to establish a warehouse/office land use on a parcel of land located at the southwest corner of Switzer Road and South Halstead Street; **(6D)** approval to declare Public Works' 2008 Ford F650 2T truck and autocrine VIN#3FRWF65F78V688349 with 339,615 miles as of July 3, 2023, as surplus to be auctioned on Purple Wave and authorize County Administrator Randy Partington to sign the title once the truck is sold, as provided by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

8A. Elizabeth Lutz Conservation District Manager, Andrew Lyon Kansas Department of Agriculture Executive Director of Conservation, and Chloe Gehring Cheney Lake Watershed Project Manager and USDA NRCA Representative were in the audience to answer questions from the Board. Ms. Lutz gave an in-depth presentation to the Board on services provided by the conservation district and reviewed their financial report. Ms. Lutz explained cost share with landowners.

Ms. Gehring gave explanation on benefits to the county as a whole with conservation services, the watershed funds giving examples of private monies and grants. They were doing a demo on crops Friday, July 14th at 7305 W. Morgan from 8am until approximately 10 am.

Mr. Lyon spoke about the AG impact Reno County has. He said Reno County was a model for AG across the nation and gave statistics and said he was very proud to be associated with Reno County.

Mr. Bogner stated his family has used the conservation services for generations. He spoke about the value of conservation and how their assistance with farming helped his family. He said how important it was to take care of cedar trees while they were small.

Mr. Parks read an email from Mr. Friesen who supported the farmers and agriculture stating the value of conservation services to the community and how he would put the requested \$50,000 in the budget.

Mr. Robert Wimer NRCS partner spoke about the close ties with the Conservation using them for admin support and a local voice counting on them for financial support. Their outreach was a huge help to NRCS.

County Administrator Randy Partington recommended the cash forward line item in the General Fund that would not change the fund's budget. It was changing where the money came from in the same department.

Mr. Hirst moved to put the \$50,000 back into the budget for Conservation giving them time to look at other options for next year's budget. Mr. Bogner stated a motion was not needed. Reno County Attorney Patrick Hoffman stated they were not passing the budget today but in the budget hearing so no motion would be needed today. Mr. Hirst withdrew the motion and recommended putting the funds back, the other commissioners agreed giving Mr. Partington direction to put the requested funds back for Conservation.

7A. At 10 a.m. **Mr. Parks moved** for the Board to recess to executive session for 30 minutes with the county administrator, county counselor, and emergency management director, to discuss subjects protected by attorney-client privilege, with the executive session justified by the need to discuss legal matters privately, and to resume regular session at 10:30 am. **Mr. Hirst seconded**. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

At 10:35 a.m. the meeting recessed for five minutes.

At 10:40 a.m. the meeting reconvened with Commissioners Parks, Hirst, Bogner, and Whitesel, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

8B. Mr. Partington recommended to sign a Letter of Intent to exceed the RNR rate for Special Districts setting the RNR

budget hearing for September 13, 2023. The Commission asked for another option for budgets which would have them all at the RNR.

He stated the alternative includes removing all property taxes from the sewer districts, so their budget would automatically be under the RNR. There were proposed cuts to some of the fire districts:

Fire District #2: \$187,213 impacts the agreement with City Of Hutchinson
Fire District #3: \$25,581
Fire District #4: \$43,237
Fire District #7: \$6,980
Fire District #8: \$30,167
Fire District Joint #1: \$33,779
Fire District Joint #2: \$34,732

The City of Hutchinson Director of Finance Angela Richard, Hutchinson Interim City Manager Mary Grace Clements, and Fire District Battalion Chief Jeremy Unruh each addressed the Board. Ms. Richard explained their budgeted increase in pay and benefits to Fire District #2. Ms. Clements explained why it was important to maintain service as it would create an undo strain on Fire District #2. Chief Unruh explained the old main street station was not owned by the City of Hutchinson. It had been updated three times since 1950 and noted that they did a risk assessment which was why the new station was constructed, he said it was the busiest station.

Mr. Hirst suggested meeting with residents of H.A.B.I.T. to see what they think of the tax roll or fees. Mr. Bogner agreed they needed a townhall meeting. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel**, to approve the Special District Fund notice to exceed RNR for FY24 and set a September 13th, 2023, date for the proposed budget hearing. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

8C. Presentation of 2022 Audit Report by AdamsBrown, LLC Melissa Romme and Manager Jami Benyshek. Ms. Benyshek reviewed the Governance Letter describing no problems or findings. Ms. Romme reviewed several pages in the audit and stated Reno County had an unmodified clean audit report with no material findings noted. They both stated it was fabulous to work with Reno County

staff. **Mr. Bogner moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel**, to approve and sign the Management Representation Letter approving the 2022 Audit Report as presented by AdamsBrown staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

8D. Gilmore and Bell Bond Counsel Kevin Cowan reviewed the resolutions for approval. **Resolution #2023-15; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAKING OF CERTAIN SEWER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVE SEWER DISTRICT NOS. 201 (YODER) AND 202 (H.A.B.I.T.), RENO COUNTY, KANSAS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF** this is for payment of a land purchase in H.A.B.I.T. for a joint sewer project. **Resolution #2023-16; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF TAXABLE GENERAL OBLIGATION TEMPORARY NOTES, SERIES 2023, OF RENO COUNTY, KANSAS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF AN ANNUAL TAX, IF NECESSARY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID NOTES AS THEY BECOME DUE; MAKING CERTAIN COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT AND SECURITY THEREOF; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS CONNECTED THEREWITH** for \$355,000 to pay a portion of the costs of the sanitary sewer improvements. In the last commission meeting they discussed financing options for the purchase of land for the Yoder/H.A.B.I.T. sewer district project. The option chosen by the commission was to issue temporary notes with county funds that will be repaid by the sewer districts when financing for the project is in place.

County Counselor Patrick Hoffman stated if the resolutions were approved today, the documents would need to be signed and we would close on July 27th which lined up with the seller to finish the sale. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Parks**, to approve both resolutions #2023-15 and #2023-16 as described by Mr. Cowan. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

8E. Mr. Partington recommended approval to sign the RNR Intent to Not Exceed for FY24; and set a budget hearing date of August 9th, 2023. He explained that at the last commission meeting, it was determined the Board wanted to budget at or below the RNR (Revenue Neutral Rate). The commission made multi-million-dollar cuts to come in at the RNR. Since the commission was not exceeding the RNR, the timeline of budget hearings and adoption moves up to the month of August. He said there would be no changes to the budget just switch items in

funds. **Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner**, to approve the RNR intent to not exceed for FY24 as discussed. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

9A. County Administrator Randy Partington asked if there were any questions on the monthly department reports from the Board.

10. Mr. Hirst spoke about getting a commissioner involved with upcoming energy rates. He reminded the public about the Pretty Prairie Rodeo and 4-H Fair. He talked about a 30-30 (personal property rights taking 30 percent land and 30 percent water rights by the federal government) and Trail programs (old cattle trails) and an email asking where Reno County's role was especially with the 30-30. Mr. Bogner commented that the government was trying to take individuals land, and that's a very hot topic. Mr. Hoffman stated in his legal opinion the commission did not need a resolution for separation of power from federal and county but could make a proclamation "we feel this way" making it a policy issue.

Mr. Whitesel toured a solar facility that was well run and clean. After the tour he did not see any problem with solar energy.

Mr. Parks spoke with Fire Chief Beer regarding the changed policy for 4th of July fireworks. The Chief stated they freed up resources and had only small incidents. Mr. Parks thought the change was better for everyone.

Mr. Hirst mentioned to the Board not to meet individually with wind or solar companies. Mr. Hoffman said there should be no direct contact with these individuals and that they should be referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

At 11:40 a.m. Mr. Parks adjourned the meeting until Wednesday, July 26th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date