

June 13, 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 Shepherd Bryson Wiens, Grace Bible Church.

Chairman Friesen read the token plaque presented to Mr. Eberly with the Department of Aging/Transportation and thanked him for his service. Aging/Reno County Public Transportation Director Barbara Lilyhorn thanked Mr. Eberly for his 11 years of service and wished him good luck with his new adventure. Mr. Eberly thanked the Board and Ms. Lilyhorn.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Friesen requested an addition to the business agenda, #7B scheduling a general information budget meeting.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, consisting of items 6A through 6E which includes the: **(6A)** Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on June 9th, 2023, totaling \$518,543.63; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on June 16th, 2023, totaling \$932,764.96; **(6B)** approval of the Annual Update for the South Central Solid Waste Management Plan (Reno, Rice, and Kingman Counties) **(6C)** approval to renew application for a Cereal Malt Beverage License for O'Brien's Marina LLC for Off-premises sales in the amount of \$75.00; **(6D)** approval to renew application for a Cereal Malt Beverage License for O'Brien's Marina LLC for On-premises sales in the amount of \$125.00 **(6E)** approve K-14 re-alignment project, as provided by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7A. Public Works Director Don Brittain gave his annual update to the Board asking if they had any questions. The Board had questions about the Yoder Water District's best option, which was to connect to the City of Hutchinson. They discussed at length the Yoder #201 and H.A.B.I.T. sewer #202 districts rehabilitation speaking about the purchase of property for \$350,000.00 within the H.A.B.I.T. area to create a joint sewer system. The bid came in twice as much as the original bid in 2018 for the sewer system upgrade and is now \$6 million plus so Mr. Brittain would be applying for grants and loans to bring that substantially down. Mr. Partington was to put on the next agenda meeting, June 27th, 2023, his recommendation for where funding would come from to purchase the land mentioned above. The options were an internal loan, (which may not be feasible), using ARPA funds allocated for Health/Emergency Management, or a temporary note with interest.

Mr. Hirst stated after the discussion the following points:

1. Finalize city water for Yoder Water District
2. Approve where the funds would come from in the next agenda session for the Yoder/H.A.B.I.T. sewer district
3. Final applications for loans and grants regarding the sewer district
4. Mr. Brittain to question the state on flexibility of timeline pertaining to grants
5. The Board said to pursue applying for grants regardless

Mr. Friesen and Mr. Partington were to meet with the City of Hutchinson and the Chamber to discuss water rates for Yoder Water District on July 25th, 2023.

7B. Mr. Partington requested the Board check their calendars for a date to discuss the annual budget. He will have an overview of the 140-page proposed document at the next agenda meeting. He would like the Board's feedback by next Tuesday, June 20th, on outside agencies' funding and departments' Capital Outlay requests to be able to make informed cuts. The Board decided to make a full day on June 27th, 2023, to discuss the budget and make a motion if the county thought they may exceed the RNR (Revenue Neutral Rate). Mr. Partington explained the RNR and asked if the Board would motion for intent to exceed RNR rate in the next meeting. The last day to have amounts to the County Clerk was by July 20th, 2023.

Mr. Friesen reviewed the plan for the next agenda meeting; have an all-day meeting on June 27th, 2023, bringing in lunch, drafted a RNR resolution, deciding on funding for outside agencies, and Capital budget possible cuts. The Board agreed to this plan. Mr. Friesen asked the Board to give Mr. Partington direction feedback with their options regarding RNR, budgets, and outside agency feedback.

8A. At 9:20 a.m. County Administrator Randy Partington asked the Board if they had questions on the monthly department reports.

Commissioner comments:

Mr. Whitesel invited the public to bring their children to Lift Up Jesus this weekend.

Mr. Hirst spoke about the Quad County upcoming meeting on Thursday for SCKEED, looking at reserve funds being safe at four months in reserve, and he mentioned three items' governments do regarding taxes.

Mr. Parks mentioned the ribbon cutting ceremony for plans to Stringer Fine Arts and changing the fireworks regulation restriction along with the City of Hutchinson attorney Paul Brown by doing away with the six-foot restrictions leaving the times and dates the same. The Board by consensus made a request of Mr. Hoffman to draft a resolution with changes to match the cities for the next agenda meeting.

Mr. Parks inquired about St. Elizabeth's ownership of the building for broken windows. Mr. Hoffman replied the ownership was with the county as they made an agreement with Interfaith Housing. Interfaith wanted to acquire a grant that did not get approved so the ownership was to return from the county to Interfaith, however they will be trying for that grant again this next year. Interfaith was responsible for upkeep on the St. Elizabeth property since their intention was to demo the building. Mr. Friesen requested the discussion be put on the agenda in four weeks after staff speaks with Interfaith about security and intention for the building.

Mr. Bogner spoke about the new burn application stating the public needs to cooperate with filling out the application. He said the liability would be on the person if they did not comply. He suggested getting assistance from the extension office or the conservation office or emergency management.

Mr. Friesen said tomorrow was the ribbon cutting for K-14 and he would be speaking at 10:30 a.m. at the Nickerson Interchange along with other dignitaries. He mentioned a NextEra update after the staff spoke with county planning regarding a moratorium.

At 11:40 a.m. Mr. Friesen adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, June 27th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date