

June 27, 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 Pastor Tim Adrian Westside Baptist Church.

Information Technology Director Mike Mathews updated the Board on the new microphones installed to enhance the sound in the Veteran's Room during the agenda sessions.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Whitesel motioned, Mr. Parks seconded, to revise consent agenda items #6C declare surplus equipment to be sold on Purple Wave and #6F approve resolution to cancel county warrants to the business section of the agenda for discussion 7E and 7F. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner, to approve the Consent Agenda as modified, consisting of items 6A through 6G except for 6C and 6F which includes the: **(6A)** Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on June 23rd, 2023, totaling \$590,181.32; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on June 30th, 2023, totaling \$236,428.50; **(6B)** approval of BOCC minutes for May 23rd, May 23rd Canvass, May 23rd Joint Meeting, and May 30, 2023; **(6D)** approval of Planning Case #2023-03 a request by Lawrence Street Properties, LLC (Mark & Kendra Horst) for a conditional use permit to establish a warehouse/office land use on a residentially zoned property. The parcel is located at the southwest corner of East Switzer Road and South Halstead Street; **(6E)** approval to set a date and time for County Canvass following the August 1st, 2023, Primary City/School Election on Wednesday, August 9th at 8:00 a.m.; **(6G)** approval to destroy 2020 Primary Election material; as provided by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7F. Mr. Whitesel addressed consent agenda item **(6F)** to approve a resolution to cancel certain county warrants. He requested the cancelled warrants be sent to the unclaimed property at the state for citizens to collect.

County Clerk Donna Patton and Treasurer Brenda Kowitz both gave explanation of the unclaimed warrant procedure. Ms. Kowitz reviewed the current method for people with unclaimed funds. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner**, to approve the resolution **#2023-13; A RESOLUTION TO CANCEL CERTAIN COUNTY WARRANTS** as described by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-1 with Mr. Whitesel opposed.

7A. County Attorney Patrick Hoffman recommended approval for a revised fireworks resolution **#2023-12; A RESOLUTION REGULATING THE SALE, HANDLING, USE, OR STORAGE OF FIREWORKS WITHIN RENO COUNTY, KANSAS, AND REPEALING RENO COUNTY RESOLUTION 2012-30**. He stated at a joint meeting with the City of Hutchinson the suggestion was made for both agencies to review the current policies. Mr. Hoffman said the city removed restrictions and now allowed residents to fire off consumer fireworks from June 30th to July 4th until 11:00 p.m. The resolution would adopt the same policy for the unincorporated areas of Reno County and keep in place other county fireworks policies. Mr. Whitesel requested a change in verbiage to strike two items on page 2 in section 2 and 3, to remove "possess/possession of these items".

Mr. Parks commented that it was unlawful to discharge bottle rockets or lanterns by regulations in the State of Kansas. He quoted Chief Beer who said they would not be issuing warnings this year, if residents did not follow the 11:00 p.m. firing cut off they would receive a citation. He asked how they would be prosecuted. Mr. Hoffman explained the process.

Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Parks, to amend the fireworks resolution by striking possess/possession portion on page 2 section 2 and 3 and approve the adoption of the new resolution mirroring the City of Hutchinson fireworks policy. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7B. Solid Waste Director Megan Davidson stated through social media and a press release from Reno County Communication Sandra Milburn they would instruct the proper way to dispose of fireworks to prevent a possible fire at the landfill.

Ms. Davidson discussed installation/construction of a gas collection control system improvement project at the Solid Waste facility performed by SCS Engineers Inc. She explained there were 119 methane wells at the landfill that were contracted to SCS for monitoring. Well #63 and #78 were reported to have three exceedances in one quarter so a notification went to the EPA and KDHE making them out of compliance. She noted to correct the problem the proposal was to redrill six new wells to pass the regulations taking six weeks to complete at a cost not to exceed \$532,077.

SCS Engineering Project Manager Christina Holt explained redrilling and installing new pumps. There was a question of lifespan for wells and Ms. Holt replied there was not a measurement since trash varied. There were a select few wells with water issues that would be corrected with lateral lines. **Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, selected option #1 to approve the construction of the 2023 GCCS Improvement Project as presented as recommended by staff in the amount of not to exceed at \$532,077. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7C. Automotive Director Kyle Berg gave his departments annual report. He stated no new RCAT buses have been delivered and no parts can be found which could create problems. He spoke about vehicles for the Sheriff's Office and did not recommend the hybrid vehicles because of battery issues when hot and then shutting down the vehicle. He spoke about flex fuel and ethanol prices.

7E. Mr. Berg addressed item **(6C)** from the consent agenda to declare a Grasshopper mower and three magnetometers as surplus equipment to be sold on Purple Wave or donated to the Kansas State Fair. He stated the Grasshopper mower needed an engine cost was \$2,600.

Patrol Captain Steve Lutz spoke about donating the magnetometers to assist security at the Kansas State Fair Grandstand before performances. He said the value of brand-new equipment would be \$5,000 to \$6,000 with warranty and Mr. Berg researched used at \$400 each. **Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve selling the mower on Purple Wave and donating the magnetometers to the Kansas State Fair as described by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7D. County Administrator Randy Partington briefly discussed the two payment options for H.A.B.I.T./Yoder Sewer District land

purchase for the \$350,000. Option one was to use a temporary note for the most recent estimate of the project of \$6,133,000 that included the \$350,000 purchase of land. Option two was to begin the process needed to change ARPA programs that allowed for the use of these funds. He said by using temporary notes an additional cost would be added to the overall project through interest fees collected by Reno County. The use of ARPA funds would reduce the overall cost of the project by \$350,000 that would not be repaid. If ARPA funds were used, there would be \$350,000 less that could go toward building needs of Emergency Management and Health Department.

Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to adopt option 2 to direct staff to begin the process needed to change ARPA programs that allows for the use of these funds that will not be repaid. The motion was denied by roll call vote of 2 to 3 with Mr. Bogner, Mr. Whitesel, and Mr. Friesen opposed.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner, to adopt option #1 to direct staff to begin the temporary note process as discussed. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-1 with Mr. Parks opposed.

Mr. Partington stated there would be multiple publications and resolutions in the future agenda sessions with the funds for the land purchase being completed by August or September 2023.

Public Works Director Don Brittain was instructed to get preliminary cost estimates to connect with the City of Hutchinson waste plant. The cost to get this information would be \$1,000. Mr. Friesen requested Mr. Brittain to see if there were alternative options available to spending \$6 million dollars on the H.A.B.I.T./Yoder project. He estimated it could cost \$4 million to run lines, equipment, and including the purchase of the land, to Hutchinson. He stated we would have to pay Hutchinson to take the sewage from now on. Mr. Brittain stated he had been turned down by the City of Hutchinson twice so far on his request to hook up a line from residents. The Board by consensus approved the \$1,000 cost and had him proceed.

9A. County Administrator Randy Partington asked the Board if they had questions on the monthly department reports or the financial report. He stated the next meeting in July would be on Wednesday's. Information Technology furniture purchase was estimated at \$58,000 (wall panels, cubicles, and desks for moving to mezzanine) from the state contract for Hahn Furniture

that would be received in a month or so. The Board approved the cost for furniture by consensus.

Commissioner comments:

Mr. Bogner stated citizens commented to him about problems with inflation and waste of funds. He attended the Quad County Meeting and came away with good ideas for appropriating funds to non-government agencies. He mentioned four counties working on budgets and solar regulations.

Mr. Parks spoke about the new state-of-the-art fire station on north main street. He spoke to Mr. Partington about recruiting for Sheriff Office. He said Chief Beer will be promoting from high school a two-year fire program. The new fire station makes runs in Fire District #2 which is Reno County's.

Mr. Whitesel went to a presentation of the new fire station and found they could go within Reno County in four minutes for a fire. He wanted the residents to have a safe 4th and enjoy the parade.

Mr. Hirst and Mr. Friesen no comments.

Mr. Partington stated the budget work session is a different meeting that would not be recorded, directions were given but no decisions made. When we return to this meeting #8A needs a decision today for the RNR rate.

At 10:30 a.m. the meeting recessed for fifteen minutes.

At 10:45 a.m. the meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

Mr. Partington mentioned Mr. Bogner questioned the memorial expense of \$500. Administrative Associate Ms. Shonda Arpin found it in the District Attorney's accounts payable batch. This was not using a property tax levied fund for the memorial but a special prosecutor's trust fund.

8A. Mr. Partington mentioned to the commission that the direction needed today was whether the county was going to exceed the RNR. If not, the schedule of public hearings and notices will change. It was suggested after the study session, the commission would need to reconvene to make the decision on RNR for both the county and special districts budget. Mr.

Friesen suggested #8A be voted on after the budget study session. Mr. Friesen moved to table until after the study session it was not seconded.

At 11:05 a.m. Mr. Friesen recessed the meeting for the study session.

At 4:15 p.m. the agenda meeting reconvened to decide on the RNR issue.

Mr. Partington stated the RNR was a 5.4 percent mill levy reduction. Lengthy budget discussions kept the RNR under by cutting \$1.3 million from the budget therefore no publications or resolutions were required to be adopted.

Special Districts are as one budget. Mr. Partington was directed by the commission to bring back all the Special Districts budgets to be at RNR, plus remove the property tax portion for all water and sewer districts. They wanted the RNR budget as an alternative to the one presented today in the agenda meeting by Mr. Partington. The meeting next week will have both options.

At 4:35 p.m. Mr. Friesen adjourned the meeting until Wednesday, July 12th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date