

March 28th, 2023
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held an agenda session in the Veteran's Room 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.

Vice Chair Randy Parks organized a special dedication of the newly remodeled Veteran's Room by Sheriff's Department Honor Guard, Detectives Shelby Shull and Matthew Franklin before the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Senior Associate Pastor Sean Faulkner, The Father's House.

Ms. Erica Laudick Family Engagement Coordinator with KCSL (Kansas Children's Service League) read the proclamations for "National Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation" and "Week of the Young Child Proclamation". She thanked the Board when Mr. Friesen presented the proclamations to her.

There were no public comments or additions to the agenda.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items 6A through 6G which includes the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on March 17th, 2023, totaling \$448,250.48. Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on March 24th, 2023, totaling \$568,087.67; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on March 31st, 2023, totaling \$565,500.16; temporary construction easement between Reno County and Union Pacific Railroad; approve the appointment of Ethan Ketchum as Fire Chief and Jerry Belton as Assistant Fire Chief for Reno County Fire District #6; approve the appointment of Gerald Weins as Fire Chief for Reno County Fire District #3; Signature on the application for updating the Household Hazardous Waste Plan #607 at the Reno County Landfill; Set County Canvass dates and times following April 4th, 2023 USD 313 Special Bond Election, and the May 16th Special Bond Elections for USD 309 and USD 311; approval of a corrected copy of July 26th, 2022 minutes correcting a purchase for a used CAT loader amount was \$2,241,915.43 and should have been \$241,915.43 as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7A County Appraiser Michael Plank explained the statue driven process for property valuations from market sales in the last three years. He answered questions from the public and the Board.

At 9:20 a.m. Mr. Friesen opened the floor to public comments.

Jack McMillian, Jr., 12919 East 4th Avenue, Hutchinson was concerned with the increased valuations over the past twenty years from when he purchased the property. He asked to have the value lowered.

Theron Salyer, 5710 Highland Drive, Hutchinson commented that he has owned his home for 51 years. He was concerned with the increased percentage from 3 to 21.2 percent on values and comparable properties in his area.

At 9:35 a.m. Mr. Friesen closed the public comment. He asked Mr. Plank to answer questions from the Board.

7B Maintenance Director Harlen Depew explained the courthouse roofing bids stating this was for all the fifth floor and over the 2nd floor level front entrance. The last bids of over \$350,000 were rejected by the Board for being too costly. The specs were modified with added alternatives. Mr. Depew stated that there were three bidders, and all had better pricing than before. He recommended awarding the base bid from Wray Roofing for \$276,296 with a 20-year warranty and stated that CIP funds would be used to pay for the project. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel**, to approve the local bidder Wray Roofing's base bid of \$276,296 as recommended by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7C Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar recommended approval of a Tyler Technologies Fire Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software contract for rural fire with a total cost not to exceed \$72,957.00. The cost was negotiated from a quoted price of \$90,000 by IT. It would allow fire districts to view their calls for service and get real-time updated call notes from dispatch like other emergency agencies. Mr. Weishaar stated that \$66,987 of the cost would be paid with the county's ARPA funds. He said the software would allow fire districts to submit their required fire reports to the state in a timely manner. This contract will have an annual maintenance fee. He believed the cost would not be a hardship on the small fire districts. **Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Parks**, to approve the Tyler

Technologies contract as outlined by Mr. Weishaar for \$72,957 and authorizing County Administrator Randy Partington to sign the contract. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7D Public Works Director Don Brittain recommended approval for a Cost Share Program Agreement between the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), the City of Hutchinson and Reno County. The City of Hutchinson and Reno County applied as a joint venture for the 2022 Fall Cost Share Grant, for improvements to the Woodie Seat Freeway. The Project was selected in October of 2022. Agreement No. 009-23, Project No. U-2457-01 states that Reno County will pay \$600,000 of the Woodie Seat Bridge improvements and the City of Hutchinson will pay \$900,000 with the maximum Cost Share Award being \$1.5 million. The project would be funded from the Special Bridge Fund. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to approve the agreement as recommended by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7E Mr. Brittain also requested approval for a contractual agreement between Reno County and the City of Hutchinson for Improvements to the Woodie Seat Freeway. This agreement clearly defines each entity's project limits and responsibilities during the course of the respective projects. **Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner,** to approve the contract agreement defining responsibilities of Reno County and City of Hutchinson on Woodie Seat Freeway project and authorize the Chair to sign. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7F Mr. Partington recommended approval of changing the Reno County agenda meeting day from Tuesdays to Wednesdays beginning in July, to accommodate the shared contract for County Counselor Patrick Hoffman with the Barton County Commission. The schedule for creating an agenda item would remain the same and give the Board an extra day to review the agenda items. Barton County previously had their meetings on Tuesday but had changed their day to Wednesday at Mr. Hoffman's request. Mr. Hoffman was neutral on the request to change days but stated Barton County would appreciate this Boards consideration to move to Wednesdays. The Board would vote in next week's agenda session but there was consensus it would be approved.

7G **Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner,** to approve an RFQ (request for qualification) be submitted to Reno County for a Medical Consultant pertaining to K.S.A. 65-201. Mr. Hoffman explained K.S.A. 65-201 appointment of a health officer and the

medical consultant for the health officer if they are not a medical doctor. It was recommended by the Chair to review doctors that might be interested in being the medical consultant for the health officer. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Mr. Partington reviewed the unaudited financial reports for FY2022 and FY2023. He explained revenues, expenses, and cash reserves. He asked if the Board had questions on the monthly department reports. He spoke about the April 11th agenda meeting and having outside agencies speak about their budget requests for 2024. He also informed the Board that the next agenda meeting on April 11th would have a discussion on a solar farm moratorium and a strategic plan discussion by The Health Department.

Commissioner Comments:

Mr. Bogner had a few concerns, one was about the fire application, and another was on solar farms. He said the public want solid information on where the county stands on solar farms.

Mr. Hirst stated that he had attended the SCKEDD meeting. He will also be attending a childcare task force information meeting tomorrow and will bring that information to the next agenda meeting. There is a Community Leadership meeting Wednesday evening and an open-door pregnancy event on Thursday evening at the state fair building. He encouraged the public to get involved in your rural fire departments. He had a complaint about the Union Pacific trains blocking Whiteside Road for extended hours. He thought the state legislature could help with this problem since it could be a safety issue for emergency vehicles.

Mr. Friesen requested Mr. Hoffman to research possible fines for Union Pacific for blocking roads. The Board discussed laws about the time a train sits on tracks blocking traffic.

Mr. Whitesel and Mr. Parks had no comments.

Mr. Friesen appreciated how well the staff did on the remodeled Veteran's Room for less than \$50,000. He thanked The Appraiser, Mr. Plank for his explanation today. The discussion on the Solar Farm moratorium will be in two weeks. He suggested putting the warrant list on the website. We put less on the

consent agenda this week, looking for a balance between the consent agenda and business items.

At 10:40a.m. the meeting recessed until 10:55 a.m.

The meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

10A Solid Waste Director Megan Davidson, SCS Project Managers Christina Holt, Kellyn Modlin and Vice President/Senior Project Director Steve Lineham had a presentation on a plan to resolve Gas Well issues at the Solid Waste Department to remain in compliance with Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The Board was open to a proposal on an RFQ to stay in compliance with the state's requirements. They also had a discussion on tipping fees/user fees giving information on the financial plan regarding rates for 2024. By consensus the Board requested an RFP be drafted pertaining to the landfill's methane gas that might interest private businesses. Ms. Davidson would be clarifying fees and submitting a request on the agenda for option 1 to increase tipping fees by \$2.00 that would take effect in 2024.

At 12:40 p.m. Mr. Friesen adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date