

March 7, 2023  
Reno County Annex  
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 Accounts Payable Clerk to take minutes Valorie Garcia, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Ryan Raigoza, Soul Winter's Mission Church.

Jeff Stroberg, 1200 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Hutchinson addressed the Board concerning the non-importance of the political affiliation of Reno County citizens applying for advisory board positions. These people are members of our community that make the community a better place for all of us to live no matter what their political party.

Arlington's Mayor Douglas Smith had concerns for retaining the ambulance service in Arlington. He spoke about having available housing to continue growing in their small community. Their emergency system received a lightning strike. Mr. Friesen suggested getting with Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar about damage to the emergency system siren.

**Mr. Whitesel moved** to take consent items #6B discussion of a resolution to cancel certain county warrant checks and #6D request by Cheney Lake Storage, LLC off the consent agenda adding them to the bottom of business section as #7E and #7F for more discussion. **Mr. Friesen seconded** for discussion on the motion.

County Counselor Patrick Hoffman explained the consent agenda and how it worked for the item to be moved for discussion and voted on.

Mr. Whitesel proposed for item #6B turning the warrants over to the state as unclaimed property instead of canceling them.

Mr. Partington replied that was an option to turn the warrants over to the state as long as they met all the

guidelines. He said the Clerk's Office tries to notify all citizens and publishes a list giving them ample time to claim their monies. He said she would bring a resolution on March 28, 2023, to adopt.

Mr. Whitesel thought on item #6D a request by Cheney Lake Storage, LLC to modify a condition of approval associated with Case #2020-07 there was a piece in the agreement that he believes was unconstitutional and he would like to strike it from the agreement. Mr. Hoffman stated he would advise not including one of the provisions from the Planning & Zoning Board if this item was approved in the business section.

The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 5-0.

**Mr. Whitesel moved** to add on the business agenda item #7G for Health Department Seth Dewey to discuss HB2390. **Mr. Bogner seconded**, to approve the addition. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

**Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel**, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, consisting of items which include: (6A) the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on March 10th, 2023, totaling \$831,248.64; (6C) approve BOCC minutes for February 7<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023; (6E) approve Public Works Noxious Weed Department purchase of a 2023 Can-Am Defender HD10 Limited Cab from AgriCenter, South Hutchinson, Kansas, for the cost of \$14,100 after trade of a 2006 Kubota RTV 900 with 658.5 hours and trade of a 2011 Yamaha Grizzly 550 EPS with 152 hours and 968 miles; (6F) approve renewing application for a Cereal Malt Beverage License for Hutchinson Recreation Commission DBA Fun Valley Sports Complex for ON PREMISES sales in the amount of \$125.00; as provided by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar and Hutchinson Fire/District #2 Chief Beer met with the Board to discuss the mitigation plan. Mr. Weishaar was directed in May 2021 by the Board to devise a mitigation and coordination of a Wildfire Risk Plan. He discussed the wildfire risk areas in Reno County and the prohibitive cost of mitigation.

Chief Beer stated that we are doing what we can to educate citizens on mitigation and help prevent fires. Until changes are implemented, we are one day away from another disaster. The true wildfire season is from October to spring. Cost is a major expense to someone.

The Board had a large discussion on the cost for removal of cedar trees, new burn resolution guidelines, and fires that potentially destroy housing additions. Mr. Friesen suggested instructing Planning and Zoning to review the plan for fires and stated that we need more funds in the budget to help fight fires and educate citizens.

7B **Mr. Hirst moved, Mr. Whitesel seconded**, to approve the ARPA agreement with the City of Hutchinson regarding the reimbursement of \$440,000 for a brush truck and equipment. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7G Mr. Whitesel had a concern about HB-2390 stating it is more than fentanyl strips. Seth Dewey with the Health Department was giving testimony seeking clarification on data driven information regarding fentanyl. He explained about fentanyl studies, treatment, and education. He also spoke briefly about HB-2398, a law enforcement criminal justice approach increasing the penalties for individuals selling fentanyl. He stated if those strips would have been available half the people who lost their lives last year may not have died.

County Administrator Randy Partington gave an overview of the courthouse interior renovation project. He stated last year the bid was \$1.2 million but came in at \$2 million Ward Davis Construction was low bidder. There were cuts made for about \$320,000 in savings. The contract with Ward Davis was for approximately \$1,807,025. The summary was \$1,867,025 (\$60,000 includes a chair lift) to be ADA compliant for the mezzanine that is separate from the contract.

7C The Board had a discussion on the renovation project. **Mr. Hirst moved, Mr. Bogner seconded**, to approve the courthouse interior renovation project as discussed. The motion was approved by a roll call vote 3 to 2 with Mr. Parks and Mr. Whitesel opposed.

7D Youth Services Assistant Director Joe Hammeke gave Youth Services annual report.

7E was consent item #6B for discussion of a resolution to cancel certain county warrant checks. Mr. Partington stated it is a request to cancel uncashed warrant checks from the last two years.

Mr. Hoffman added normal businesses do not have the option to keep the money, so they send it to unclaimed property at the state. Statue K.S.A. 10-815 allows a special option for counties to deal with the issue of small check amounts from jury duty, keeping those uncashed funds in the pool for the next juror.

Accounts Payable Clerk Valorie Garcia explained about the cancellation of checks.

A discussion about the resolution to cancel certain county warrant checks. **Mr. Hirst moved, Mr. Parks seconded**, to approve the County Clerk's recommendation for resolution **#2023-07; A RESOLUTION TO CANCEL CERTAIN COUNTY WARRANTS** as discussed by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4 to 1 with Mr. Whitesel opposed.

7F Mr. Hoffman explained about a request that was consent item #6D A request by Cheney Lake Storage, LLC (Jason Robben) to modify a condition of approval associated with Case #2020-07. The address of the property is 25311 S. Willison Road. If approved today, he would recommend removing the sentence pertaining to what their cameras can or cannot record off the property.

Mark Vonachen with Planning/Zoning stated it was an oversight on staffs and the Planning Commissions part and he said the sentence should have been removed.

**Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner**, to approve the Case #2020-07 for Cheney Lake Storage, LLC removing the second sentence in item two struck. The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 5-0.

Mr. Partington had half of the monthly department reports. He asked about the holiday dinner giving notice by May with an estimated cost of \$3,700 this year. The Board by consensus agreed to continue with the dinner. He is a member of International City/County Association he explained a partnership based on the number of subscriptions for Cope Notes a Mental Health assistance with uplifting messages to citizen phones. Horizons might be in favor of partnering with us. He asked the Board if they would consider a partnership depending on cost. The Cope Notes was open to anyone in the county not just county employees. The Board was open to the idea and wanted the county administrator to come back with a partnership proposal.

Mr. Bogner was concerned about an article regarding purchases outside of Reno County. He stated we try to get bids from local vendors, if possible, then select bids within the state of Kansas.

Mr. Parks gained new incite from the Quad County meeting.

Mr. Hirst attended the K-96 Corridor Association with Mr. Partington. The Friday night film documentary gave an idea of a different concept on food. The Senate Bill was about exempting business' property taxes if their business was in competition with a like business that was tax exempt.

Mr. Whitesel was concerned about rural emergency services out in rural areas. He spoke with the Sheriff regarding clarification of the Sheriff's request with the shooting range. He stated that training was important.

Mr. Friesen discussed consolidating EMS services. He spoke about the best format for the consent agenda and a brief discussion followed. The Board has received an email about meeting times, concerning a time or date change to Monday or Wednesday regarding Mr. Hoffman's obligations with Barton County Commission. The Board discussed both Monday or Wednesday, deciding possible the best option was Wednesday. Mr. Friesen requested Mr. Partington speak with the Barton County Commission.

Mr. Partington stated the next meeting was on March 28<sup>th</sup> in the Courthouse Veteran's Room.

**PLEASE NOTE THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN REPLACED AND AMENDED ON May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, TO INCLUDE THE LISTING FOR THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.**

At 12:15 p.m. Mr. Friesen adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, March 28th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

cm/vg