

November 8, 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 Henry Blickhahn Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

There were no additions to the agenda. Mr. Whitesel requested to move consent item #6B for the Juvenile Corrections Board Education Representative Appointee Replacement to business item #7D for discussion.

**Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner,** to approve the consent agenda consisting of item 6A which includes the: **(6A)** Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on November 3rd, 2023, totaling \$559,360.73; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on November 10, 2023, totaling \$705,466.42 presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

7A. Phil Auxier Pastor for Crestview Bible Church a member of the Opioid Settlements Funds Advisory Oversight Committee, explained the needs of the community and how the committee identified the abatement strategies that should be prioritized. The committee was tasked with making sure the Reno County/City of Hutchinson Fights Addiction Fund was spent in a way to save lives from prescription opioid misuse and illicit opioid use, while also assisting efforts currently happening within Reno County. Eight applications were received in response to an RFP sent out and only four met the requirements outlined in that RFP. Funds Grant Program Cycle 1 Recipients would use settlement funds for a total of \$50,000. The committee recommended giving \$25,000 to Reno County First Time Drug Felony Diversion Program, Reno County District Attorney and Community Corrections giving assistance in funding a newly created program. Another \$25,000 given for Medication Assisted Treatment for Reno County, with Prairie Star Health Center providing an evidence-based Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program in Reno County.

Those funds would be used to pay for Narcan and Suboxone (opioid overdose prevention and treatment medications) for

uninsured and underserved patients who cannot afford the cost of these medications. Mr. Whitesel was concerned with giving medications out using taxpayers' money. Health Department Educator Seth Dewey explained the funds were from a pharmaceutical settlement not from taxpayers. Mr. Parks asked about the pharmaceutical funds use. Mr. Auxier replied that the funds current balance was \$166,924.77 with \$155,368.43 of that being received in 2023. For short term to get the ball rolling on the front lines, the City of Hutchinson would fund the first and second options, Teen Intervene early education prevention for \$19,251 and Reno Connections, United Way of Reno County for appropriate resources of \$25,000. Mr. Hirst would like to see the data collected sent to the state. Mr. Auxier replied that data from Prairie Star was hard wired into the program and reports collected would be sent to the state. Mr. Whitesel motioned to approve the \$25,000 funds in separate motions for the diversion program. The motion failed with no second. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner**, to approve the recommendation from the Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Oversight Committee's to fund the Reno County First Time Drug Felony Diversion Program and the Medication Assisted Treatment by Prairie Star in the amount of \$25,000 each for a total of \$50,000 from the Municipalities Fights Addiction fund. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-1 with Mr. Whitesel opposed however he would have voted to fund the diversion program had he been given the opportunity to vote on it separately.

7B. Vikki Mader CEO of Horizons Mental Health Center briefly went over the purpose of Horizons mentioning programs and Crisis Center services and helping patients with at home services or wherever they feel comfortable after leaving the hospital. She had provided the financials prior to the agenda meeting and asked the Board if they had any questions, none did. Mr. Hirst mentioned the Crisis Center made a big difference in keeping individuals out of jail which would save the county money.

7C. County Administrator Randy Partington requested the Board designate a voting delegate and alternate for the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) annual conference effective November 24, 2023, until the 2024 KAC Annual conference. Each KAC member county shall be allowed one vote, which would be cast by a chosen delegate designated for the county. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner**, to elect Mr. Parks as the delegate candidate for KAC. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

**Mr. Bogner moved, seconded by Mr. Parks,** to elect Mr. Hirst as the alternate candidate for KAC. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

7D. Jessica Susee, Youth Services Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board (JCAB) Coordinator/KDOC-JS Administrative Contact, outlined the Juvenile Corrections Board Education Representative Appointee Replacement. She stated that the Advisory Board was comprised of members in accordance with the Statute of the State of Kansas #75-7044. According to the statute some of the Juvenile Board representatives shall be appointed. Education Representative David Patterson no longer was employed or residing in any Reno County school district and needed to be replaced and a new representative would be appointed for a 3-year term of 11/1/2023 to 11/1/2026. The JCAB recommended the applicant USD 308 Jenny Wilson for this position. Mr. Whitesel requested an interview to find out about the person being appointed. The Board recommended following the Advisory Boards recommendation since they vetted the applicant. Ms. Susee reviewed what the Advisory Boards purpose was for the appointee. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner,** to approve the recommendation of Jenny Wilson to JCAB as outlined in option one. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-1 with Mr. Whitesel opposed.

8A. Mr. Partington asked the Board if they had any questions.

Mr. Whitesel mentioned signing up for Medicare Part D stating residents needed to go to a licensed professional not the Department of Aging and asked to meet with Aging Director Barbara Lilyhorn.

Mr. Partington reminded the Board of the Quad County meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Newton Airport, 11:45 a.m. and asked how many were going to attend, only 2 have stated they were attending. He said the Youth Services Director was retiring and there were qualified candidates internally. Tomorrow evening Reno County Tonya Culp Health Department and Sandra Milburn County Communications Specialist will be graduating.

Commissioner comments:

Mr. Bogner thanked everyone for the prayers and kindness given when his mother passed away. He attended two fire district meetings that went very smoothly, people were concerned about personal services. He thought there was a good consensus for putting it all together with discussions making a good

package for all. Emergency Management handled the fog which kept them very busy since it was such a dangerous thick fog, luckily none of the Reno County employees were involved with the four accidents in the Haven area.

Mr. Hirst also attended fire district meetings and stated Sandra was doing a great job and people appreciated the information. He attended a SCKEDD meeting where they looked positive and spoke about grant potentials also looking to find any housing assistance that was needed. He went to the Pretty Prairie City Council meeting where they spoke about the EMS program and the addition of five new EMT's to the staff roster. At 5:00 p.m. Thursday evening at the Public Works building in South Hutchinson there will be a solar panel meeting. He stated the Mayor's Forum needed to be started back up in 2024. Friday will be a special day for celebrating Veteran's Day. They deserve everything we can give them. Please take time to thank a Veteran since there are no loud booms like other countries around the world because of our Veterans.

Mr. Whitesel spoke about election day telling people to go vote, we had low numbers so get out and vote, votes matter. Slow down in the fog and drive safely by turning on your lights in the fog. Hutchinson schools postponed school for 2-hours for the fog excusing students for being late. He encouraged people to go meet neighbors and make a better community during the holidays.

Mr. Parks spoke about a wreck that resulted in a death. He was at the scene and appreciated the response from multiple emergency personnel and gave high praise for a job well done. He asked Mr. Partington if he could look into installing microphones or take the glass down on the tag line, because he observed people not being able to hear the girls behind the glass when speaking with customers. Mr. Bogner agreed that he had complaints also. At the joint meeting with The City of Hutchinson they talked about vagrancy, asking what can be done with street people? Would it take a resolution? He suggested asking the City of Hutchinson Police Chief and the Sheriff to get together to work on a solution.

Mr. Partington, Mr. Hirst, and Mr. Bogner attended an EMS quarterly meeting to go over reports and financials. Dave Johnson, the EMS Chief stated the main issue in the financials was receiving grants so the funds that Reno County give were well under budget this year, so maybe encumbered funds could go toward purchasing an ambulance or equipment replacements. EMS was working on the Arlington EMS station project getting quotes. Mr. Bogner appreciated the transparency of information.

At 10:05 a.m. the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, November 22nd, 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  
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Date