

October 11, 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 following people attended the public agenda meeting:

Rose Mary Saunders with Ranson Financial, Reno County Planner Mark Vonachen, Ron Vincent with Carl Vincent Services, Reno County Information Services Andrew Hudson, Mike Mathews and Timothy McClatchey, Casey Swarts, Nicole Nease, Sabin Nease, Public Works Director Don Brittain, Communications Specialist Sandra Milburn.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Commissioner Parks.

Mr. Parks commented there would be a public meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., Public Works Department at 600 Scott Blvd., South Hutchinson regarding solar power.

Casey Swarts, 207 Buckskin Road, made comments regarding the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Health Consultant interview. He was very concerned that one candidate spent most of their interview time answering questions about past issues and he did not feel that was relevant to the interview process. Mr. Swarts complimented the outstanding job the Health Department does. He then spoke about political funding.

There were no revisions to the agenda.

**Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner,** to approve the consent agenda consisting of items 6A through 6D which includes the: **(6A)** Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on October 6th, 2023, totaling \$900,774.45; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on October 13th, 2023, totaling \$629,311.01; **(6B)** approve Letter of Verification of Local Match for U.S.C. 49-5311 grant application; **(6C)** approve declaring a 2007 Mercury Grand Marquee (Chaplain vehicle) VIN#2MEFM75V97X634722 with 146,458 miles and 2018 Ford E450 (RCAT #12) VIN#1FD4E4FS4HDC72076 with 162,504 miles as surplus to be auctioned on Purple Wave and authorize County Administrator Randy Partington to sign the titles; **(6D)** approve a date and time for County Canvass following the November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 General City School Election for Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. as presented by staff with recommended canvass date and time. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

7A. At 9:10 a.m. Mr. Parks opened the public hearing regarding the wastewater system improvement project for Sewer Districts #201 (Yoder) and #202 Hutchinson Air Base Industrial Tract (H.A.B.I.T.). Improvements will be funded under the low interest State Revolving Loan Fund Program through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Ms. Saunders briefly explained financing applications for the \$6,123,100.00 dollar project from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment with a loan forgiveness built in of \$1 million dollars and possible additional funding from USDA. She said the Board's signature was needed on **Resolution #2023-27; A RESOLUTION OF GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT.**

Mr. Parks read recommendations 1 through 4.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner,** to approve resolution #2023-27 for the application process as presented by staff for compliance. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0. Mr. Bogner clarified this was just the first step with the application, there was no loan approved yet.

At 9:15 a.m. Mr. Parks closed the public hearing.

8A. Mr. Parks read the business item for Planning Case #2023-09 a request by Nicole Nease to vacate a 60-foot-wide ingress egress easement and future roadway. The 60-foot-wide easement is

located on Lot 5, Block A of Morgan Heights Subdivision. The address of the property is 1403 N. Mayfield Road.

County Planner Mark Vonachen gave a brief overview of the request stating the easement was totally on Nease's property and was approved by the Planning and Zoning Board by a 6 to 0 vote. He said no one protested and they would not be able to put a building on the easement. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel,** to approve Planning Case #2023-09. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

8B. Horizons quarterly report was postponed for another day.

8C. Information Technology Director Mike Mathews gave his information technology annual report.

9A. Mr. Partington asked if there were any questions on the monthly department reports, there were none.

9B. Mr. Partington gave an overview of the financial report.

9C. Mr. Partington and Public Works Director Don Brittain explained the revocation of the environmental health trip charge policy. Mr. Brittain said the \$50 dollar charge was no longer in effect and they had lots of permits to complete. He and the Health Department Environmental Health Supervisor Darcy Basye are going to go through them and get them closed out.

Mr. Partington mentioned the 2023 and 2024 digital budget book through ClearGov are available with a link on the county's webpage. Mr. Whitesel questioned if the legals would be posted on the Reno County website. Mr. Partington replied that they were working with IT to post them on the website.

Commissioner comments:

Mr. Bogner had spam on his Reno County account and asked what was happening. Mr. Mathews responded that it could be spam testing or spammers that dodge the Reno County filters, he asked him not to click on it. A person was concerned about access to the river using personal property with four wheelers and property is being damaged, what can be done? Mr. Brittain stated if it's on their personal property it would be up to the owner,

the county had put up a fence and boulders to try and deter entrance to the river and properties.

Mr. Hirst mentioned in the Ninnescah Valley News they reported on the childcare facility in Pretty Prairie, where the community had stepped up to help with daycare needs. He commented on the Open-Door Health Services meeting at the State Fair Meadowlark Building tomorrow.

Mr. Whitesel stated Mr. Swarts' earlier statements on campaign funds that Mr. Steffen may have paid was disturbing.

The Board each had comments on the campaign funding.

Mr. Swarts responded to the comments.

Mr. Parks mentioned getting involved with Open Door. He stated he attended both public hearings for the sewer districts.

At 10:06 a.m. Mr. Parks adjourned the meeting until Wednesday, October 25th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reno County Clerk  
cm

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Date