

October 25, 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 Roy Jaye of First Southern Baptist Church.

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve the consent agenda consisting of items 6A through 6I which includes the: **(6A)** Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on October 20th, 2023, totaling \$1,144,781.83; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on October 27th, 2023, totaling \$798,215.00; **(6B)** approve the Title VI Policy and Plan for Reno County Area Transportation annual review of approved policy; **(6C)** approve BOCC minutes for August 9th Canvass, August 9th, August 23rd, August 30th, August 30th Study Session, and September 5th, 2023; **(6D)** approve BOCC minutes for October 3rd and October 4th, 2023; **(6E)** approve appointment of a New Authorized Representative for the Child Nutrition and Wellness program; **(6F)** approve Letter of Support for Disability Supports of The Great Plains' KDOT Grant application; **(6G)** approve Youth Services Behavioral Health Services Funding Opportunity Grant from Kansas Department of Corrections; **(6H)** approve resolution **#2023-28; A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF A RURAL HOUSING INCENTIVE DISTRICT (RHID) ISSUE IN SUPPORT OF THE HUTCH LANDMARK PROJECT TO BE LOCATED AT 501 N. MAIN IN HUTCHINSON, KANSAS**; approve Planning Case #2023-09 with a resolution **#2023-29; A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE VACATION OF A 60-FOOT-WIDE INGRESS-EGRESS EASEMENT AND FUTURE ROADWAY LOCATED IN MORGAN HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER - SECTION 11, T23S, R5W OF THE 6TH P.M., RENO COUNTY, KANSAS** presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7A. At 9:10 a.m. Mr. Friesen outlined how the public comments would proceed. He opened the meeting up to the public regarding the appointment of a Medical Consultant. He requested County Counselor Patrick Hoffman briefly review the consultant's appointment.

Mr. Hoffman said in March the commission requested qualifications and a proposal for a consultant to direct the health program administrator on program and related medical and professional matters for the Reno County Health Department as described in statute K.S.A. 65-201. This person would interact with the health officer. In the agenda packet was an outline of the responsibilities for the consultant position. The final decisions would be with the County Board of Health which consisted of the county commissioners.

The following people were in support of Dr. Pauly for Medical Consultant:

Casey Swarts, 207 Buckskin Road, Hutchinson
 Jeff Stroberg, 1200 W. 43rd Ave., Hutchinson
 Marsha McConnell, 3616 E. 43rd Ave., Hutchinson
 Lynette Krieger-Zook, 1040 N. Wheatland Dr., Buhler
 Jessica Koster, 3301 N. Kent Rd, Buhler
 Liz Schmidt, 1010 Rainbow Ct., Buhler
 Candace Dixon, 217 W. 19th Ave., Hutchinson
 Laura Meyer Dick, 3910 Juniper Hills Dr., Hutchinson

The following people were in support of Dr. Marshall for Medical Consultant:

Cheryl Thompson, 118 E. 11th Ave., Hutchinson
 Mark Steffen, 3500 N. Mayfield Rd., Hutchinson

Also speaking was Dawn Varney, 34 E. 27th Ave., Hutchinson about board certifications not having bearing on training they are paid for. Both candidates had been Board Certified at one time.

Larry Cupps, 10011 E. Arlington Road, Haven gave his personal experience with an infectious disease doctor. The doctor that treated him had knowledge and experience with the disease and saved his life.

Nick Reinecker, 504 S. Maple, Inman spoke about the Constitution of the United States in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence, "saying no to fear". He was concerned about personal liberties.

At 9:50 a.m. Mr. Friesen closed the public comments.

Mr. Hoffman reiterated there were three: the Board of Health, the Health Officer, and the Medical Consultant. It is important to remember the legislators did make some changes, and only the Board of Health can make an order regarding masks, size of gatherings, closing businesses, controlling movements or religious gatherings. A Health Officer can make some orders in some different situations however they are all reviewable by the Board of Health. The Medical Consultant makes no orders, they only advise the Health Officer and Board of Health on options.

Health Department Director Karla Nichols thanked everyone for their support of Public Health, it does matter.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen, to approve the appointment of Dr. Pauly as Medical Consultant.

Mr. Friesen requested comments from the Board. The Board discussed schools and vaccines, vaccine side effects, a need for change in viewpoints, personal rights and freedoms, and masks.

The motion failed with a 2-3 with Mr. Hirst and Mr. Friesen voting to approve the motion.

Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Parks, to approve the appointment of Dr. Marshall as Medical Consultant. The motion was approved with a 3-2 vote with Mr. Hirst and Mr. Friesen opposed to the motion.

At 11:00 a.m. the meeting recessed for ten minutes.

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

7B. Mr. Partington briefly went over the Memorandum of Understanding. Clint Nelson, CEO of Interfaith Housing & Community Services, Inc. discussed the Memorandum of Understanding with Reno County for environmental remediation of the former St. Elizabeth Hospital at 500 W. 20th Avenue, Hutchinson. He presented a recommendation for the demo to have the title revert back to Interfaith Housing from Reno County. He stated they had been points short in the scoring criteria of the EPA cleanup application to demo the property. This recommendation was made with an abatement contractor, and he said they are in conversations with the KDHE and State Air and Quality Manager who has reviewed and approved the recommendations mentioned for demolition of the St. Elizabeth building. The nuns' quarters needed to be demolished however he had not been in that building to see if it also has asbestos.

These properties would be a home buyers project not rentals with 14 planned three bedrooms, two and half bath, 1800 square foot walk up units for an estimated list price of \$250,000 each. He said the homes would be on the tax role not tax exempt. ARPA money of \$675,000 General County Line-Item total and is within their budget currently \$24,000 has been used and the request for \$115,000 will be from that general county line. They would still have a reserve fund to continue doing work for the next one to two years in rural areas. The City of Hutchinson is willing to contribute \$65,000 to cover the full abatement. Demo and dirt cost were estimated at \$320,000 may come from private donations. **Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel**, to approve the proposal as recommended by Mr. Nelson. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

8A. Mr. Partington asked the Board if they had any questions about the monthly reports, there were none. He asked to keep Mr. Bogner and his family in our thoughts and prayers as his mother passed away and mentioned the date and times for the service. He asked if any other Board members would like to register to attend the KAC Conference in Wichita on December 5th, 6th, and 7th besides Mr. Hirst, and Mr. Parks.

Mr. Hoffman mentioned he was working with the District Attorney and Community Corrections expanding their diversion program options for first time drug offenders and would be putting it on social media.

Commissioner comments:

Mr. Whitesel would like to discuss security at the courthouse and health department vaccines administered to schools. Mr. Friesen suggested filling out the agenda item form and submitting it to Mr. Partington.

Mr. Hirst reminded everyone of the Honor Flight event. He mentioned there was on record a company that was leasing land for solar and in southwest Reno County, Grove Township, a company trying to set up wind energy.

In the future Mr. Parks would like to see cooperation between the Reno County Sheriff and the City of Hutchinson's Chief of Police. He said apparently, he had seen several Reno County residents that have out of state license plates which affects Reno County.

Mr. Bogner noticed signs being changed on roads, some even blowing out in fields, so whatever contractor the state hired did not do a good job and now clean up had to be done.

Mr. Brittain replied that local vandalizing was responsible for taking the top bolts out of the stop signs.

Mr. Friesen thanked the audience for their comments, he appreciated them speaking in public. He mentioned watching a program on Netflix regarding Opioid abuse called "PainKiller". He spoke about the payment given to the Health Department and wondered if some of the funds could be used for mental health. He asked if the health advisory Board would be able to study the issue.

10A. **At 11:45 a.m. Mr. Friesen read the motion** to recess into executive session for 7 minutes until 12:00 p.m., with the County Administrator Mr. Partington and County Counselor Mr. Hoffman joining the governing body in the executive session, the justification for the executive session is discussion of job performance of non-elected personnel and the subject matter personnel matters of nonelected personnel. **Mr. Hirst seconded,** and the motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

At 12:00 p.m. Mr. Friesen recessed for the City/County Joint meeting at the Reno County Correctional Facility. He adjourned the agenda meeting until Wednesday, November 8th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date