

October 3rd, 2023  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held a special session at 6:30 p.m. to interview for the Medical Consultant 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 candidates were Dr. Scott Pauly, MD and Dr. DeAnna Marshall, Diabetic Counselor.

Chairman Friesen opened the public meeting, setting the rules of the interview asking the audience to write down questions for the candidates to answer.

Health Department Director Karla Nichols briefly explained what the Medical Consultant would do for the Health Department. She read the state statutes K.S.A. 65-201 regarding the position. She said Dr. Pauly was currently the consultant and would provide information that could be presented to the Board of Health (the Commissioners) to make the final decisions concerning health issues. The consultant comes in for a monthly meeting to discuss community information regarding sicknesses or anything within a broad overview he would also speak about vaccines and prevention.

County Counselor Patrick Hoffman referred to the state statutes in chapter 65-200 articles that spoke about what was required to identify Health Officer and what was required by the Medical Advisor giving input on health issues. He gave an explanation clarifying the Board of Health's purpose. Mr. Friesen questioned the authority to mask mandate by the commission. Mr. Hoffman explained what the Board of Health could do.

Dr. Pauly introduced himself and gave background information on his training and experience. He then answered the best he could to the questions from the audience. He had to sometimes answer as a doctor, as a person, and other times answering as the Medical Consultant role. The Board and audience questioned his role with the COVID vaccines, wearing of masks, lockdowns, and mandates.

Dr. Marshall gave her background information. She was asked the same questions by the Board and audience. The conversation turned to COVID vaccines, wearing masks, and forcing people or mandating. After briefly answering questions, the floor was opened up to public comments.

Dr. Stephen Marshall stated his wife was qualified and would do a good job in the consultant position.

Connie Newcome, Inman, Kansas spoke about forced vaccinations that were still happening in today's world. Some businesses would turn away people who have not had vaccinations and doctors would turn away parents that don't vaccinate their students. She said it was a hardship for families to find a school that would take children that did not have their shots. Mr. Friesen commented that any vaccine mandates were by a private business and the county had no say in what they required.

Dr. Mark Steffen expressed concern about qualifications and providing sound guidance to the Health Department by a consultant stating it was time to make a change.

Dr. Dawn Varney stated both candidates were knowledgeable and could research medical information when needed. The job of the Medical Consultant was to provide information on health problems in our community, all health issues like drugs, child health care, and situations with food and water along with numerous other issues. She said Dr. Pauly and Dr. Marshall will do the best they can to deal with issues a lot more than just COVID.

Mr. Friesen stated the vote would be decided in the October 25<sup>th</sup> commission meeting. The Board thanked the doctors and audience for attending the meeting and made closing comments, also giving both doctors a chance to have closing comments.

At 8:45 p.m. Mr. Friesen closed the meeting and adjourned until Wednesday, October 11th, 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