

October 4th, 2023
KLETC Integrity III Room
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held a special session with Chairman Daniel Friesen, Commissioner Ron Hirst, Commissioner Randy Parks, Commissioner Don Bogner, County Administrator Randy Partington, Communication Specialist Sandra Milburn, Public Works Director Don Brittain, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present. Commissioner John Whitesel was not available. Schwab Eaton Engineer Stuart Porter and Ranson Financial Municipal Consultant Rose Mary Saunders were also in attendance.

Mr. Friesen opened the public meeting at 6:10 p.m. at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) Integrity III Room regarding Sewer District No. 201 (Yoder) and No. 202 (H.A.B.I.T.) Improvements.

The meeting started with introductions and then Mr. Porter outlined the wastewater project for Sewer Districts 201 and 202. He said that both wastewater systems have required improvements from KDHE regulations. He spoke about the funding of \$6 million dollars through KDHE revolving loan fund. He stated the KDHE loan has a loan forgiveness of \$1 million dollars that has already been earmarked. The USDA funding grant is an additional financing that might qualify for some loan forgiveness. The USDA funding that could help to keep the user fees low.

Mrs. Shirley Nelson requested if they had another meeting to send notifications to sewer and water users. It was explained that this was a required townhall meeting for the loan application and that the only other meeting was on October 11th, 2023, at the regular agenda meeting. She had a complaint about notifications for the Yoder water plan townhall meeting that had taken place earlier in the year.

Mr. Brittain suggested sending a possible notice to users of rate increases or public meetings for future projects. Any future meetings could be put on the user's utility bill since most people in the area don't have access to radio, text, or the newspaper. He would also put signs on the highway with electronic messages. He mentioned the sewer rates had stayed the same since 1988 until 2022 when they went up. The next project would be the water issue in Yoder.

The invitation went out to come to the commission meeting next Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Saunders said this counted as one of the two public meetings per EPA and KDHE requirements.

At 7:00 p.m. Mr. Friesen adjourned the meeting until Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date

DRAFT