

September 27, 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 Associate Pastor Glenn Koster, Sr. with First Church of God.

Mr. Friesen commented that three commissioners participated in the Kansas State Fair goat milking contest and won three times in a row.

There were no revisions to the agenda and no public comments.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner,** to approve the consent agenda consisting of items 6A through 6C which includes the: **(6A)** Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on September 15th, 2023, totaling \$491,638.30; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on September 22nd, 2023, totaling \$913,302.20; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on September 29th, 2023, totaling \$550,918.13; **(6B)** approve Letter of Authorization for Barbara Lilyhorn to act as signatory for U.S.C. 49-5311 grant program documents; **(6C)** approve purchase of used/demo unit 2023 CAT 950M Wheel Loader from Foley Equipment Wichita, Kansas, in the amount of \$291,260.00 as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7A. County Administrator Randy Partington explained Planning Case #2023-07; this was approved by the commission, September 13<sup>th</sup> with a 5-0 vote. **Mr. Parks moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel,** to approve **Resolution #2023-26; A RESOLUTION ORDERING THE VACATION OF A 40-FOOT-WIDE EASEMENT FOR FUTURE ROAD AND UTILITIES LOCATED IN ROLLING DUNES SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER-SECTION 18, T22SS, R5W OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> P.M., RENO COUNTY, KANSAS.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

8A. Reno County Childcare Task Force presentation/update by Heather Faulkner from Reno County Task Force member and Center Director at Abundant Life Childcare Center and Abby Stockebrand owner of CrossAlign Consulting. Both ladies explained in their presentations, "Where we are and goals".

Ms. Faulkner explained how the ARPA investment funds were being used. She played an audio of a childcare provider, Annette Roberson, who spoke about the impact the funds had on her business. She also made comments on working very well together with the communities, schools, and private partnerships to develop year-round childcare opportunities.

Ms. Stockebrand gave a presentation overview with initiatives, retention grants, assessing budgets, bulk food, infant and provider training, community wait lists and using also existing resources. She mentioned an accelerator grant of \$2,173,887 and a \$1.5 million set aside for projects. The state partnership is with KU Center, Public Partnership and Research (KU-CPPR). Building sustainable solutions was their vision for the future.

The Board discussed several topics regarding childcare issues.

8B. Appraiser Mike Plank reviewed his annual report. He addressed the previous question on taxing childcare property explaining they do not track childcare in homes but use residential values at 11 percent and commercial at 25 percent.

8C. Darcy Basye Environmental Health Supervisor gave explanation on the Reno County Local Environmental Protection Plan (LEPP) Grant given from Kansas Department of Health and Environment for \$50,000 to assist with wastewater repairs or replacement. It helps low-income families using Federal guidelines for repairs or well testing, starts next month until June 2024. Ms. Basye stated there was no cap per project and the grant would pay 100 percent directly to the contractors. **Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the application for the Reno County Local Environmental Protection Plan (LEPP) Grant in the amount of \$50,000 as outlined. The motion was approved by a roll call vote or 5-0.

At 10:23 a.m. the meeting recessed until 10:30 a.m.

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

8D. County Counselor Patrick Hoffman presented the Reno County Sanitation Code 2023. He stated this was a redraft after the September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting with staff to review the code and collect feedback from contractors to update the current Sanitation Code to align with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bulletin 4-2 more closely. He went over the steps in the process: **(1)** the commissioners sign and approve the documents if they were good at the county level, **(2)** send them to KDHE for their approval, **(3)** hold a final public hearing, and **(4)** adopt the code if approved. Sanitation appeal reviews would go through the Planning and Zoning Board then could come to Commissioners for a final decision.

Josh Barkley from Barkley Plumbing stated he appreciated the work that went into updating the code so the entire process to shorten timelines to obtain permits would go smoothly. He thought it was a great foundation.

Ron Vincent from Carl Vincent Service, LLC stated the new code would speed up the process. He said they did what we had to do what KDHE requires or recommended. He thought this was the best they were going to get, and he seemed to like the idea the waivers disappeared for appeals.

After a brief discussion **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Whitesel**, to approve the Sanitation Code 2023 as presented with the following amendments:

- 1) Final language for the homeowner to be able to do their own work with sufficient expertise to install systems.
- 2) Administrative policy regarding the code will be required in writing to be first provided to the Commission for review.
- 3) Have on page 6 item 4 changed from 30 business days to 20 business days.
- 4) Appeals process prior to District Court may appeal to the Commission, they may take it up or may not.

- 5) Appeals otherwise comply with minimum state regulations per page 5 section 8.
- 6) Strike gender language on page 3 section 3C.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4 to 1 with Mr. Hirst objecting to No. #5.

9A. County Administrator Randy Partington asked if the Board had questions on department reports, none were made.

9B. Mr. Partington briefly highlighted financials. He mentioned the county health department's three-year Opioid grant for \$1 million that would cover current costs of the program. He commented on the Yoder sewer projects \$600,000 looking for the other \$400,000 that needed to be financed with a possible KDHE loan that would be applied for by October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He spoke about options for financing before the end of the year. He asked the Board if he should get ahold of the candidates for the medical consultant to see if they were available on Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m. for public interviews in the Veteran's Room at the Courthouse. The Board by consensus replied yes.

Commissioner comments:

Mr. Whitesel mentioned the Kansas State Fair and those involved with the fair.

Mr. Hirst congratulated the HCC for their fine showing in the contest, stating the kids did a great job.

Mr. Parks commented that he attended the retirement parties for Sheriff's Department Lance Smith, 24 years, and Jodie Bryant from the DA's Office, 30 years, thanking them both for their years of service.

Mr. Bogner spoke about taxes on land sale, tractors used for private vehicles which he thought was a state problem not the counties. He said the 30/30 cattle trail was popping up and he was very concerned stating the Texas Secretary of Agriculture voiced concern on this issue with the federal government taking land. He asked the public to call 911 proper authority for emergencies not him since it delays the response teams.

Mr. Friesen thanked the staff and audience for the good accomplishments today.

At 12:00 p.m. Mr. Friesen adjourned the meeting until Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reno County Clerk  
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Date