

January 10, 2024
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 Wayne DeWindt, Eastwood Church of Christ.

Richele Calvert the newly appointed County Treasurer who would finish out retired Treasurer Brenda Kowitz's term. She introduced herself stating she had been with the Treasurer Office nine years and gave a brief summary of the Treasurer's Office projects. The Board welcomed her and gave their congratulations.

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner, to approve Commissioners consent agenda consisting of items 6A and 6B which includes the: **(6A)** Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on January 5th, 2024, totaling \$924,503.74; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on January 12th, totaling \$1,408,356.90; **(6B)** approved added, abated and escaped taxation change orders numbered 2023-685, 686, and 694 for approval by the Board of Commissioners; as presented by staff. The motion for the consent agenda was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.

7A. Michelle Updegrove with Register of Deeds presented her annual report on 2023 projects in her department. She spoke about the hardcopy books being digitized and the Board questioned what would happen to the books after electronically stored. Ms. Updegrove stated there were a few options available, one was storing them in Underground Vaults & Storage and for conditions and security reasons that was the better option.

7B. Mr. Partington explained the Administrative Services Agreement with Ranson Financial Group for Reno County Water District 101's (Yoder). Ranson Financial would oversee the paperwork with KDHE for the Water Revolving Loan Fund and the Small-Town Water and Sewer Infrastructure Assistance Grant, and

if the county applied for USDA funds that would also be handled in the process. He stated Ranson was on contract for similar administrative services on the HABIT/Yoder sewer project. Reno County sent out RFQ's and Ranson was the only response received.

Mr. Bogner questioned if the amounts were capped. Mr. Partington stated of \$15,000 for the KDHE paperwork, broken down by \$10,000 for rd-apply application and \$5,000 to complete the USDA Environmental review with a not to exceed clause. Mr. Partington said those were standard costs for these types of services. The repayment of any loan would be paid by the water district residents. **Mr. Bogner moved, seconded by Mr. Parks**, to approve the Administrative Services Agreement and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement as presented by staff. The motion was approved unanimously.

8A. County Administrator Mr. Randy Partington inquired if there were questions on any of the monthly department reports, there were none.

8B. Mr. Partington stated the financial reports were through December and did not include the year-end transfers. The final financial report will be toward the end of February or first of March. He received an email from the Chamber of Commerce with two tickets regarding the State of the City Address on Wednesday, January 31st between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. at the Sandhills Event Center. He asked who would like the tickets, Mr. Whitesel and Mr. Parks would be attending. Next meeting was to be January 24th there would not be a quorum so he suggested moving the meeting to January 31st and to be after the Chamber meeting that a couple of commissioners would be attending and starting the agenda at 9:30 a.m., the Board agreed. The last item was for the courthouse tax credits they sent out a request for proposals to bid on the \$2.9 million. He asked if the Board wanted to do the full amount or in increments of \$100,000. Mr. Hirst suggested looking at CPA firms using \$50,000 instead of \$100,000. Mr. Partington asked about scheduling a study session to talk about the landfill methane wells with SCS. He would ask Solid Waste Director Megan Davidson to give an explanation in February after one of the agenda meetings, the Board agreed. Mr. Partington requested the Board think about goal setting for the 2024-2025 and future capital projects. He would like to see if Wichita State University will come to facilitate leading a discussion on strategic plans. The Board was concerned about cost and suggested doing this in-house to save money. Mr. Bogner suggested getting the approximate cost and then deciding on a plan of action. Mr. Hirst suggested finding a local facilitator

with experience. The Board agreed to prioritize feedback for Mr. Partington and come up with the top 3 to 5 goals/ideas to focus on at a minimal cost.

9. Commissioner Comments:

Mr. Whitesel asked the public to drive safely with the weather conditions, stay well and have a good year.

Mr. Hirst wanted to thank Public Works for all their hard work with the weather conditions. K-96 Corridor meeting was on Rural Entrepreneurship coming out of leadership center. He would like to request from Legislator Seiwert K-96 between mile markers 108 to 114 for six miles as "Dead Eye Infantry Division".

Mr. Parks and Mr. Friesen had no comments.

Mr. Bogner commented on the Conservation meeting he attended mentioning financial grants available for the fire east of town.

10A. Mr. Friesen requested nominations for Chair in 2024. Mr. Hirst nominated Mr. Parks; the vote was unanimous at 4-0 with Mr. Parks abstaining.

10B. Mr. Friesen requested nominations for Vice-Chair in 2024. Mr. Parks nominated Mr. Bogner; the vote was unanimous at 4-0 with Mr. Bogner abstaining after noting a small protest.

At 9:40 a.m. the agenda meeting adjourned until Wednesday, January 31st, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date