

January 31, 2024  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held an agenda session with Chairman Randy Parks, Commissioner Don Bogner, Commissioner Ron Hirst, and Commissioner John Whitesel, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, County Administrator Randy Partington, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present. Commissioner Daniel Friesen was not available.

The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Matthew Stafford from First Congregational Church of Hutchinson.

Mr. Parks explained the time difference for this agenda session was 9:30 a.m. instead of the printed 9:00 a.m.

There were no additions or revisions to the agenda.

Mr. Hirst explained there was a correction on item 6B, minutes for December 13<sup>th</sup>, regarding Mr. Swarts' out of county comment. The final minutes were reprinted prior to approval of the consent agenda item.

**Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner**, to approve the consent agenda consisting of items 6A through 6I which includes the: **(6A)** Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, totaling \$1,392,015.23; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on January 26<sup>th</sup>, totaling \$482,571.58; Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, totaling \$443,889.17; **(6B)** approve BOCC minutes for December 13<sup>th</sup> and December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023; **(6C)** Set date and time for County Canvass following the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary Election on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. at the Reno County Annex Conference Room; **(6D)** approve the Professional Development of Staff Proposal and memorandum of understanding (MOU) working with the KU Public Management Center to help develop the county's core values, mission statement, and 1.5 to 2 day HPO sessions for an amount not to exceed \$170,300 and have county administrator sign MOU. Funds for the training of employees will come out of budgeted areas in the general fund from 2024 and possibly 2025 budgets. The county will be billed per session used; **(6E)** approval of Sheriff's Shooting Range Agreement with Hutton Construction on details for Phase I of the Commission approved shooting range at the landfill. In July 2022, the commission authorized phase 1 with an amount not to exceed

\$600,000. Hutton Construction proposed an agreement to formally begin Phase I with a guaranteed maximum price of \$508,760 and authorize the county administrator to sign the construction management agreement. The costs for this phase of the range project will come out of Fund 099 (CIP Reserve Fund) with no impact on the county's operating budget; **(6F)** approval for Public Works Department request to purchase one (1) 2025 Freightliner 108SD tandem axle truck chassis with a 16-foot dump body from Truck Center Companies, Wichita, Kansas, for a total price of \$207,891.00 budgeted for 2024 per the Capital Improvement Plan. Public Works Fund 007 Operational Equipment; **(6G)** approval to purchase a 2024 Ford F350 for Reno/Kingman Joint Fire District #1 from Midway Motors for \$50,875.00. Replacing a 2012 Freightliner M2106V dump truck which was 11 years 11 months with 249,392 miles as of 1/22/24 purchased in 2012. This is budgeted for 2024 per the Capital Improvement Plan; **(6H)** approval to purchase a truck chassis for Reno County Fire District #6 with a not to exceed cost of \$45,000. This purchase had been planned for following the district's CIP. The funds received from the sale of the older truck will be placed in the district's special equipment fund; **(6I)** a **resolution #2024-01; A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 79-2801 DIRECTING THE FILING OF A REAL ESTATE TAX FORECLOSURE ACTION** as presented by staff. The motion for the consent agenda was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

7A. Patrol Captain Steve Lutz explained about a Law Enforcement Memorial on the southeast corner of the County Courthouse grounds. It would be a 25-foot circle made with concrete or like material with sidewalks, one toward 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue the other toward Adams Street. A stone or granite type of memorial would be placed to the east of the courthouse with a flagpole in the middle of the circle to memorialize the Law Enforcement Officers/Deputies who have lost their lives in the line of duty. He stated Maintenance Director Harlen Depew contacted the Historical Society and received approval of the memorial. FOP Lodge #18 had seed money and the balance of the funds would be privately donated. Reno County would continue to own the grounds and memorial. **Mr. Whitesel moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst**, to approve the construction of a memorial as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

7B. Maintenance Director Harlen Depew outlined the courthouse furniture proposal, courthouse interior improvement project update, and change order request. Mr. Depew stated the furniture for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors was completed. The 5<sup>th</sup> floor furniture would cost \$134,502.55 and shelving for an additional

not to exceed \$12,000 to be used by the District Attorney's office and District Courts. Mr. Partington covered the use of funds for this purchase.

Mr. Whitesel questioned whether the District Court staff had to use the back staircase for storage boxes. District Attorney Tom Stanton stated he was not aware of them having to use the back stairway, and said it was not an issue to use the front door. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bogner**, to approve the purchase of courthouse furniture from HON/Office Plus of Kansas, Hutchinson for \$134,502.55 and authorize additional shelving from a different vendor for \$12,000 as presented. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

Mr. Depew then discussed the remodel project update with Ward Davis Builders. He stated the first floor was complete except for the carpet and the second and third floors were completed. The fourth floor was almost ready, and the fifth floor would be finalized then carpet would be installed. Timeline: was to carpet east side in newly remodeled space with completion end of February. Then move into the west side and carpet and end up with the first floor in the middle of April or middle of May. He said WD Construction would be going over the completion date by 62 days.

Mr. Depew then spoke about the change order from Ward Davis Builders stating a detailed breakdown was in the agenda packet. They decided to do one change order instead of many throughout the project with a cost of \$24,756.00 including the time extension of 62 extra days making it mostly complete by mid-April instead of the original date in March and final completion by mid-May. Documents were not included today; however, they would be available for the next agenda session and noted that today was just a review.

7C. Aging/RCAT Director Barbara Lilyhorn gave her annual report. She spoke about bus orders and how the cost has doubled from \$78,000 for a base model to \$130,000 and after equipment was added, the cost is \$150,123.00 for one unit. She also mentioned the KDOT Repair Fund was left over money from the sale of buses which helped with 100 percent cost for an engine repair and 30 percent toward the transmission repair.

8A. County Administrator Mr. Randy Partington inquired if there were any questions on any of the monthly department reports, there were none. He reminded the Board after the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting there was a study session with Solid Waste

Director Megan Davidson and SCS regarding methane options. He spoke about iParametrics being in town and auditing ARPA funds for sub recipients. He and Financial Specialist Leslie Roederer will be meeting with the auditors to make sure all is on track. He commented that in the early part of 2024 they would receive reports from outside agencies. He said they filed the quarterly reports for December 2023. We need agreements for HCC and the hospital on projects that will be completed this year and still need commission approved ARPA agreements to spend the money.

County Counselor Patrick Hoffman spoke about the sanitation code project. KDOT had reviewed the code and made no changes and noted that it was published last Friday. He stated the process was on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A public hearing would be held for comments and then the Board could choose to adopt the new codes. The new codes are on the county website, and he said in February the project would be complete.

#### 9. Commissioner Comments:

Mr. Hirst attended the KAC local government day in Topeka and came away with the thought that the flat tax won't be overridden after speaking with state representatives. Dr. Bill Clifford, representative from Finney County answered questions on bills and spoke about The Presidential Preference Primary. He attended a SCKEED meeting last week saying they are doing well and stable financially. There is one house for sale and another house would be finished in 6 to 8 weeks. He spoke about 504 loans completed in the first quarter; these are the larger loans which can go over 5 million dollars. He attended the Southwest Bricktown meeting which discussed planning and what needs to be done in that area. He went to the K-96 Corridor meeting with Mr. Partington and attended the Extension Council meeting to get more information on what is coming up.

Mr. Bogner spoke about the Stafford County and Kansas Natural Resources Coalition regarding the water issues with Quivira. Reno County may have a small part. They quoted several laws pointed out to help them with a mutual understanding with state and federal agencies. Reno County does the meetings and properly shows our intentions, they have to consider the county's consideration to benefit Reno County. The best thing Reno County did was the 30X30 resolution for the citizens of Reno County to protect them. Future planning, with Mr. Hoffman's help we would have more of a say in what's going on in our county, giving us a better say and Mr. Hoffman would have a better understanding of these things. The organization

membership fee was \$5,000 annually and we could discuss it later.

Mr. Hoffman stated it was put on by the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition, that is the organization Mr. Bogner was speaking about that provided information. It was held in Stafford because the groundwater district conflicted with the federal agency of Fish & Wildlife. The discussion was on how county government could interact with federal agencies. He was still processing information and spoke about the 30X30 resolution and what it said. The broader issue is how local government can collaborate with federal agencies on issues.

Mr. Bogner mentioned not only the federal government, but the State of Kansas got on board later with several other states. He said it also includes departments within the state of Kansas. There was a brief discussion on waterways.

Mr. Whitesel wanted to thank the employees who took care of the roads when it was so snowy and cold. Public Works and the City of Hutchinson crews did an excellent job. He and Mr. Partington attended the State of the City Address, and the main emphasis of the presentation was cooperation between counties and cities working together on projects. He thanked the City of Hutchinson for doing a lot of positive things that will benefit Reno County citizens. The Kansas State GOP meeting was this past week and very well represented. Out of the 156 elected delegates we have eleven delegates from the Reno County area who push for smaller government, less taxes, and less regulations. We are working not only in the county with state representatives, but the Republican Party at the state level is working to keep the government in its place.

Mr. Parks had no comments.

At 10:25 a.m. the meeting recessed for five minutes.

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

**10A. At 10:30 a.m. Mr. Parks moved** that the Board recess into executive session for 30 minutes until 11:00 a.m. with County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, County Administrator Randy Partington, Reno County EMS Chief Dave Johnston, and Maintenance Director Harlen Depew for the subject of preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property and with the

justification of the executive session being preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property, **seconded by Mr. Whitesel.** The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-0.

At 11:00 a.m. the agenda meeting returned to regular session and adjourned until Wednesday, February 14th, 2024, 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