

January 5, 2016  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in agenda session with, Chairman James Schlickau, Commissioner Dan Deming, County Administrator Gary Meagher, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present. Commissioner Dillon was not available.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Ron Kyker, Countryside Baptist Church.

There were two additions to the agenda; Treaner Architect meeting, Sheriff discussing the security entrance.

**Mr. Deming moved, seconded by Mr. Schlickau,** to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on December 31st, 2015 through January 8th, 2016 of \$743,580.74 as submitted and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2015-1372, 1380, 1388, 1396, 1408, 1418, 1425 and 1427. The motion was approved by a 2-0 vote.

Megan Davidson Solid Waste Office Manager met with the Board to recommend approval for a request to send a response to Ellis County, Kansas' Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking solid waste disposal services for waste collected at the Ellis County Transfer Station. She stated that the average tonnage would be 13,725 annually and at our rate of \$31.75 a ton it had the possibility of generating revenue of \$435,768.75. Ms. Davidson also stated that McPherson County had stopped bringing in waste except for 28 tons last year so this would help toward replacing the revenue lost from that contract. The average Reno County waste is 350 to 400 tons instead of previously having 550 to 600 tons. Ms. Davidson noted that we are still the largest user at 143,019 tons annually. She gave tonnage amounts of surrounding areas that use the Reno County Landfill stating half of the income goes into the operating fund and the balance to a reserve fund. Ms. Davidson explained the permits for cells 7, 8, 9 through the state. They are currently using cell 5 and received an estimate of \$1.2 million to develop the next cell.

County Administrator Gary Meagher explained the overall operations at the landfill were down because of recycle efforts and McPherson County developing their own waste process therefore withdrawing revenue from Reno County's landfill. He stated we still employ the same amount of personnel and equipment for the current 350 to 400 tons as we did for the 500 to 600 in the past so we should be able to handle the added waste from Ellis County. He touched on the master plan of moving the scale house and how the current rates do not reflect additional costs for such projects along with piggybacking on future cells.

Ms. Davidson also added that the permitted cells 7 through 9, if piggybacked, should last 25 or more years. **Mr. Deming moved, seconded by Mr. Schlickau**, to approve the request for proposal from Ellis County. The motion was approved by a 2-0 vote.

Captain Darrian Campbell met with the Board to recommend approval to purchase five Ford Interceptor's from Midwest Superstore, Hutchinson, for a total package price of \$122,265 with four vehicle allowances on trade ins. He stated that several bid requests were sent out with Midwest Ford sending back a bid that was \$513.00 more than last year when the Sheriff's Department purchased four SUV vehicles. One of the vehicles would be compensated by an insurance claim from being totaled.

Mr. Schlickau questioned if the SUV's were better than the Crown Victoria or Dodge Chargers. Captain Campbell verified that the Ford SUV's were better vehicles for cost savings and an asset to the Sheriff's Department since the parts lasted longer, the tires did not wear as fast, and the 4 wheel drive was helpful.

Captain Campbell also clarified the trade in vehicles would be 3 Chargers and 2 Crown Victoria's. This will leave 2 Chargers of which one will be used for the reserve unit and the other for the Civil Processor. One Crown Victoria will be used for Senior Patrol and the other by a Civil Processor. These vehicles would be traded out with SUV's next year. He also stated there were three trucks driven by supervisors in the fleet along with the Ford SUV's.

Mr. Deming asked Captain Campbell to explain about the added costs of equipment in the Ford SUV's. Captain Campbell went over the cost of push bumper bars \$250 each, a quarter cage in the back seat \$720 to \$750, and the added cost of console data terminals that meet the Federal locking guideline requirements. **Mr. Deming moved, seconded by Mr. Schlickau,** to approve the purchase of five vehicles as outlined by Captain Campbell. The motion was approved by a 2-0 vote.

Mr. Meagher also was present to recommend approval for the appointment of Joe O'Sullivan as County Counselor for Reno County, Kansas; and subsequent employment agreement. He gave the explanation of Mr. O'Sullivan's long history with the county. Mr. O'Sullivan retired from his private practice and will become a part time employee of Reno County with flexible office hours with a salary of \$50,000 annually without personal or sick leave. Mr. Meagher pointed out other benefits the county would pay were the annual registration fees required of attorneys by the Kansas Supreme Court and the Federal District Court. Also registration fees for Mr. O'Sullivan to attend semi-annual continuing legal education seminars sponsored by the Kansas County Counselors' Association and other such educational seminars as required or which are necessary to maintain his license to practice law. This agreement would supersede the primary agreement between parties dated January 17, 2001, as amended subsequently on several occasions. Mr. Meagher stated this agreement was indefinite until either party terminated. **Mr. Deming moved, seconded by Mr. Schlickau,** to approve the appointment as outlined by Mr. Meagher. The motion was approved by a 2-0 vote.

Mr. Meagher updated the Board on a proposed meeting for Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. with Reno County, Treanor Architects and the contractor with the low bid on the new security entrance. The bids came in last week higher than were originally estimated so they will be discussing ideas on cost drivers to see where unknowns may be during the remodel and if they could save money with different suggestions. One example would be limiting hallway traffic to make construction easier.

Sheriff Henderson was not in attendance at last week's agenda meeting when the new security entrance was discussed. He stated a Hutchinson News article sounded as if Reno County may possibly scrap the entire security project and allow guns into the Courthouse without checking with anyone. Sheriff Henderson made a comment about Mr. Deming stating that he didn't believe we needed security from Al-Qaeda coming here. This caused the Sheriff to have concerns with security and he discussed incidents that had taken place in the last 40 years in the Courthouse or at Law Enforcement Center. Sheriff Henderson mentioned the conversation last week of dismissing the construction since gun laws are changing and they are allowing guns into the State Capital. He explained the extensive process at the Capital for guns to be allowed along with knives less than three inches but nothing larger. The security staff at the public entrance will also have technology to scan for liquids and other explosive devices. He would be attending a meeting about their staffing on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with Capital Security Captain Andy Dean. The Sheriff spoke about current procedures for security by setting up metal detectors in the hallway on the third floor outside of the courtrooms. This has been criticized by Judge Chambers because he is concerned that this sends the wrong message to any jurors involved in a case. He stated that security at the front door would keep this from being an issue and would keep the entire Courthouse more secure. The Sheriff went on to explain he not only has concerns for the public and employee's safety but the safety of inmates also. The Sheriff finished with stating that allowing guns into the Courthouse simply puts too many people at risk and the public has the right to be safe and secure when they are in the Reno County Courthouse.

Commissioner Schlickau stated last week was an added item and it was not intended to exclude the Sheriff in the discussion.

Commissioner Deming asked the Sheriff when he visits the Capital to get clarification on concealed carry permits and how screening takes place. He also asked to keep in mind legislative expansion of gun laws and how wasteful the cost would be to install and man the security entrance; then not be able to prohibit firearms because of future changes that may further restrict the county's ability to prohibit firearms.

Mr. Meagher would update the Board in next week's agenda session after the conversation about the security entrance.

Mr. Deming mentioned a newsletter from TECH. He then complimented them for their more solid financial situation since the county partially funds TECH operations.

At 9:40 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
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Date