

April 12, 2016
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in agenda session with, Chairman Dan Deming, Commissioners James Schlickau and Brad Dillon, County Administrator Gary Meagher, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

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

There were was one addition to the agenda; update from South Central Kansas Association of County Engineers (SCKACE) meeting.

Mr. Dillon moved, seconded by Mr. Schlickau, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on April 15th, 2016 of \$603,991.96 as submitted and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2016-434, 436, 442, and 449. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote.

At 9:08 the meeting began with a Proclamation read by Commissioner James Schlickau proclaiming the week of April 10th thru 16th as "Reno County Victims' Rights Week". District Attorney Keith Schroeder accepted the proclamation stating it was a team effort between various agencies, survivors, family members and others not just his office. He thanked the Commission and invited all to join them on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. for a candlelight service in the Veteran's Room of the Courthouse.

Judge McCarville made an appearance in full costume representing Major General Jessie L. Reno in observance of his 193rd birthday on April 20th. He gave a very detailed account of the life, dates and times of Civil War General Reno and told a couple of short stories of his family and friends. Reno County was named after General Reno who was born in 1823 and died at the Battle of South Mountain on September 14, 1862 at the age of 39.

Commissioner Deming read the next three proclamations.

Mr. Deming read the proclamation proclaiming the week of April 10th thru 16th as "National Volunteer Week". Volunteer Center Assistant Director, Leah Chandler accepted the proclamation and thanked the Commission for their support on behalf of the 1,200 plus volunteers that make up RSVP.

Mr. Deming then read the proclamation proclaiming the month of April, 2016 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month". He read the next proclamation proclaiming the week of April 16th thru 23rd, 2016 as "Week of the Young Child". Both proclamations were accepted by Michael Woods, Family Services Supervisor for Healthy Families of Reno and Sedgwick Counties. Mr. Woods stated that child neglect and abuse in Reno County had increased 9 percent and that proclaiming April "Child Abuse Prevention Month" would bring light to help prevent child abuse. Mr. Woods also stated that the week of the Young Child had various activities scheduled for families to participate in at the Hutchinson Zoo, Home Depot and the parking lot of the Reno County Museum. This program grows every year.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan met with the Board to recommend approval for an agreement with the City of Hutchinson for joint law enforcement operations. He stated the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) was constructed in 1970 and an agreement was formed to share expenses and certain joint operations between the city and county in that building. The last time this agreement was signed was on February 1, 2011 (City Contract No. 2011 C46). The agreement renews annually unless the parties give notice otherwise. The reason for the renewal at this time is because of the new Reno County Correctional Facility and functions associated with that facility. The contract has most of the changes in Section 1 and Section 2. The City absorbs a larger percentage of the cost since the jail moved to their new location out of the LEC. Reno County Correctional Facility transportation and medical expenses were changed in Section 2. This is a one year agreement renewable annually. The city pays to the county 14 percent of all the costs of running the Reno County Correctional Facility. This number is based upon the average number of the cities inmates in the facility. **Mr. Dillon moved, seconded by Mr. Schlickau,** to approve the agreement as outlined by Mr. O'Sullivan. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote.

Human Relations Director Renee Harris outlined the proposed Holiday Schedule for 2017. She stated after speaking with Mr.

Meagher the decision was to assign the Commissioner Holiday on October 9th, Columbus Day, when all the courts would be closed. This holiday would not be added to the regular holiday schedule of nine days but would be up for discussion again in 2018.

Aging/Transportation Director Barbara Lilyhorn discussed the proposed RCAT route revisions. The revisions were with the South Hutchinson route making it a shorter ride time into Hutchinson. They also added the advantage of service to areas not served before, like the Hutchinson High School area, Reno County Correctional Facility, Carey Park area and decided to make use of the highways more but were not scheduling any pickups along the highway. The changes added three miles to the current routes adding a cost of \$4,719 of which Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) would share thirty percent making RCAT's actual cost \$1,416.

Mr. Deming asked if any routes were eliminated. Mrs. Lilyhorn replied that Avenue E, Avenue G, Maple Street, and Carpenter had changed services however riders could walk to Main Street or Plum and catch a ride. She also stated that instead of servicing South Hutchinson twice they would make one trip through.

Quest Center Director David Dukart gave a slide presentation for the center's 2015 Annual Report. The Quest Center changed their mission statement since partnering with Hutchinson Community College (HCC). He stated both HCC and SKCEDD are major contributors in the Quest Center. Mr. Dukart stated his main focus is the Quest Center giving one hundred percent of his time, and any extra time is teaching in the evening for the college. The purpose of the Quest Center is to help entrepreneurs or small businesses with information, training, loans or grants depending on their business plans, cash flows, and profit and loss statements. They do evaluate business plans to determine if a business is a solid investment and may have to decline a request. They do not compete with local banks since the type of loans they give have a higher risk factor. Mr. Dukart stated the banks use up to 80 percent of the value for security on their loans and the Quest Center gives loans up to 100 percent of the actual collateral taking the higher risks. Presently they have 14 loans that are higher risk.

He stated they make sure all finances are secure but go that one step more and use 100 percent of the collateral. Mr. Dukart used Benton's Greenhouse as an example of helping an individual with a small business loan and training. SKCEDD also played a large part in the financial package for Benton Greenhouse.

Benton's main nurse is in Hutchinson and a seasonal outlet is in Newton. He stated without the Quest Center the greenhouse would have been closed and they were able to keep it open in Reno County.

Commissioner Schlickau asked Mr. Dukart to include a detailed financial report with the Quest Centers request for funding for budget year 2017. Mr. Schlickau asked that an expense report outline how county money was being spent. He also asked for a list of funding sources, including contributions by HCC. Mr. Dukart expressed that the requested information would be provided.

Mr. Deming asked Mr. Meagher to give a brief explanation of the unique way of Reno County financing an organization like the Quest Center. Mr. Meagher replied that at the time the Quest Center was created it was a unique organization for the county to invest money in an incubator organization. It no longer is an incubator organization but has evolved to try and meet the needs of the community. In the state of Kansas there are Eco Development organizations that receive funding, the closest one is in Wichita, so if we did not have the Quest Center for services most would have to seek out that Wichita office or SKCEDD to access those services. Mr. Dukart stated they work more with the smaller businesses and individuals.

Mr. Schlickau asked that Mr. Porter make comments on the relationship between the Quest Center and HCC. He also asked Mr. Porter to make any comments about how that relationship may be improved in the future.

Vice President of Workforce Development and Outreach, Steve Porter thanked the Commission for their support. He gave a brief history of the partnership which started July 1, 2014 with the college and Quest Center. At the Quest Board meeting more staff was approved to give better customer service. This would also give Mr. Dukart more freedom for his outreach projects. We feel very positive and it takes the funding from the county and support and funding from the college to make this a great partnership and a good fit.

Vice Chair with the Quest Board Jeff Ericksen thanked the county for their support. He spoke about moving additional staff over to Quest Center from the Outreach Program which will allow Mr. Dukart to focus on his mission and make people aware of the services at the Quest Center. Succession plans are going to be a focus as we move forward.

Commissioner Dillon told a story of a small town beauty salon operator and how The Quest Center tried to assist her. He stated this is a good program and we are filling a need with the Quest Center and we should continue this program if we can.

Commissioner Schlickau asked about HCC students being assisted by Quest Center. Mr. Dukart assists them with the opportunity for a grant from \$500 to \$5,000 and this is tied with two years of additional financial advice and to supervise that students business. They do have to be referred by a Quest member Board or HCC facility and is a very positive program. We hope it encourages the young people to stay in Reno County and develop a business or come up with a business idea.

Commissioner Dillon clarified the source of the Quest Center's grant funding. Mr. Dukart explained how the grant money was acquired. Mr. Dillon did not want any misunderstanding about Reno County's tax dollars being used for these grants. Mr. Dukart replied that the counties money went toward the office and no county funds are being used for grants. These grants are from outside funds and 100 percent of the county money is used for my salary and keeping the office open. Mr. Dillon commented that HCC owns the building now that houses the Quest Center.

Commissioner Schlickau gave an update on a Thursday meeting from South Central Kansas Association of Commissioners & Engineers (SCKACE). Mr. Schlickau took notes on the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Todd Salfrank's information. Mr. Schlickau informed the Board a discussion by Randall Allen who spoke about the changes to the tax lid and where we stood. Mr. Allen also discussed consolidation of funds.

Mr. Meagher briefly explained that some counties were considering consolidation of funds with the tax lid coming on, making it easier to work with the funding. He stated he would have to speak with the auditors on fund exemptions because there may be some funds they could consolidate and others that could not be consolidated.

Public Works Director David McComb commented about the programs that are available such as the Federal fund exchange that will generate about \$470,000, same as in the past. He spoke about some of the safety funds that were available. KDOT offers to review the signage in the county. They pay 90 percent to our 10 percent match and review the whole system. Once it is

completed the review would be sent to the Secretary of KDOT and when approved Reno County would be up to code with our regulatory signs. Succession planning was also discussed. Road and Bridge in each county does things different. In the future we want to be trained and have knowledge to put a few key people in place so they know what they are doing for the future. He said there was no one within the Public Works Department that had a weed certification right now but we have it advertised for applications. Another item was KDOT conversation of K-14 from Yaggy Road to north of Sterling and review for the turn back miles and bridges, bringing them up to standards before turning them over to us. Mr. McComb stated that Yaggy Road was 14 miles. He stated that some roads may have to be turned over to townships in the future and the lower volume roads may have to be reclassified.

Commissioner Deming mentioned second half taxes were due May 10th, 2016.

Sheriff Henderson met with the Board for his regularly scheduled monthly meeting. He briefly went over various events not requiring action by the Board.

At 10:50 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 19th, 2016.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date