

July 19, 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 no additions to the agenda.

Mr. Dillon moved, seconded by Mr. Schlickau, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on July 22, 2016 of \$230,973.37 as submitted. Next item on the consent agenda was to move the regularly scheduled November 15, 2016 Commission Meeting to take place at 8:30 am on Monday, November 14, 2016. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote.

Quest Center David Dukart met with the Board along with Benton's Greenhouse owner Jennifer Grinnell and Scuttlebutts Coffee Shop owner Joe Young. Both gave testimony about the help that Mr. Dukart had given to them so their businesses would be successful and thrive. Mr. Dukart gave a brief description of the Quest Center's Economic Development purpose. The Quest Center brought into Reno County about a half million dollars from servicing the fourteen revolving loans. They work closely with Network Kansas and E-Committee funds.

Attorney John Swearer, Chairman of the Quest Board, addressed the Commission stating he appreciated the support from Reno County. He believed the Quest Center benefits the community for start-up businesses. He stated there were three ways that the Quest Center helps; (1) business consultant, (2) business loans, (3) education. He spoke about the E-Committee loans.

Commissioner Dillon did not want to put an extra burden on our college partners financially for the Quest Center.

Commissioner Schlickau still wanted to see the funds reduced from \$65,000 to \$60,000 and eventually remain at \$50,000. Mr. Schlickau asked what Hutchinson Community College (HCC) got out of this partnership besides consulting classes for students. He then asked Ms. Grinnell if she would have paid a fee for Mr. Dukart's services. She answered yes but it was different after meeting with Mr. Dukart than other agencies out there that charge fees for advice. Mr. Schlickau did some number crunching and he still felt that the Chamber contributed more to the community than Quest Center.

Commissioner Deming said he agreed with Commissioner Schlickau that the \$5,000 Quest Center cut from \$65,000 to \$60,000 should be sustained. He stated the Quest Center was definitely an asset to the community but felt in relationship with county funds going to the Chamber of Commerce for economic development that the Quest Center was over-funded and a reduction was proper. Mr. Deming noted the Chamber was to receive \$37,500 from the county for 2017 including \$13,000 previously allocated to Market Hutchinson; representing an overall increase of only \$5,000.

Mr. Dukart mentioned the funds were once at \$100,000 or \$105,000 dropping to \$80,000 and now proposed at \$60,000 for a 42 percent cut in funds.

Commissioner Dillon stated the cut in funds was partially because of the Quest Center no longer owning its building. Mr. Dillon asked if the college would make up the difference in salary or were the other commissioners considering cutting Mr. Dukart's salary by the \$5,000?

Commissioner Schlickau was in favor of reducing the funds to \$50,000 for budget year 2017 and forward. Mr. Schlickau stated the Chamber had requested increases in funds which had not been granted. The services the Quest Center offer were free to the public.

Commissioner Dillon recommended pulling the \$5,000 back from the Chamber since they were not asking for the additional funds. He would like to see the Commission continue to fund the \$65,000 to the Quest Center.

Mr. Swearer believed the Quest Center was a beneficial program and if the funds were cut they would see if HCC would be willing to increase their support.

Commissioner Dillon suggested Mr. Dukart move to the courthouse and use the Commission's secretary. He still was not in favor of cutting the \$65,000 since he felt it was a fair amount.

Mr. Young also commented that Mr. Dukart had helped with a lot of time and he makes an investment in the clients and it would be hard to put a dollar amount on what he has done for us.

Mr. Schlickau moved, seconded by Mr. Dillon, to approve the funding of the Quest Center for \$60,000 in 2017 but that he would back off the idea of future year reductions to \$50,000 as discussed. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote.

At 10:05 the meeting recessed for five minutes.

The meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Gary Meagher, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

County Administrator Gary Meagher gave a presentation on the secure entrance project with A&A Builders' contract for the construction of the Courthouse Security Entrance with a base bid of \$232,900. The base bid included the outside ADA compliant ramp along with reconfigured outside front doors. The alternate bid was \$12,400 for a tempered glass wall that would look like a store front in a quarter inch frame which could easily be replaced. The project has a 120 day completion date.

Lynn Swartzkoff, Mann & Company and Larry Arnold, A&A Builders were in the audience to answer questions. Mr. Arnold stated if approved they would be able to start construction in two weeks. Mr. Swartzkoff added that the ramp would feature a heated hot water tube in the winter for de-icing. **Mr. Schlickau moved, seconded by Mr. Dillon,** to approve the contract with A&A Builders as outlined by Mr. Meagher. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote.

Human Resources Director Renee Harris met with the Board to recommend approval for the Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) Health and Dental Insurance renewal contract for plan year beginning October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. Mrs. Harris stated after meeting with the BCBS representative and benefits committee they came up with final rate changes. She stated the overall renewal rates came in 10 to 11 percent higher for this year however they were prepared since previous years had been below or level. Mr. Meagher explained the county had one

significant claim that would affect the self-insured rates for thirty-one months; seven months of this year and the last two full years. Mr. Meagher also stated that each year will have less effect and end up rolling off. Mrs. Harris stated no changes were made to the plan itself that the employee's would see. We would still remain with the high deductible plan and major medical plan and continue with the Wellness Program. Reno County made one adjustment in premiums and that was changing the individual stop loss from \$50,000 to \$75,000 making a difference of \$310,000 in the premium bottom line. She said the county would take on an additional \$25,000 more with the stop loss because it is just like a deductible.

Mr. Dillon asked when we do the self-insurance and raise the stop loss from \$50,000 to \$75,000 the county ends up sharing the risk with BCBS to a point and we determine how much risk we take, is that correct?

Mr. Meagher replied that since we are partially self-insured and take on up to \$75,000 per person for the stop loss risk hiring BCBS to take on the insurance beyond that amount. We estimated the \$75,000 based on our census if we are hitting 5 to 8 stop loss claims. The deductibles will be the same and set as a fully insured plan. So rather than paying BCBS a profit we would reinvest the money taking on the risk to give us a reward and if we manage the plan well we keep the money instead of BCBS pocketing the money if we have a good year.

Mr. Dillon asked what amount when Mrs. Harris said we had a large claim would that be \$100,000 or \$200,000. Mrs. Harris replied it was a one million dollar claim.

The Board continued to discuss the self-insured and BCBS insurance premiums. Mr. Deming asked what the average employee would pay next year for insurance. Mrs. Harris replied the average employee, depends on participation in the Wellness Program, but the base rate is going up 10 per cent if they are not on the Wellness Program at all. Mrs. Harris went over rates for the employee spouse, employee child, and family plans per month.

Commissioner Schlickau stated \$1.1 million is what we have in reserve. Mr. Meagher replied we should have \$1.2 to \$1.5 million for September 30th for the plan year.

Assistant Chief Chris Ledbetter Fire District Reno/Harvey #2, Buhler met with the Board to discuss purchasing a new command vehicle for approximately \$40,000. Chief Ledbetter went over the bids; Chevy was \$42,512, Ford \$42,783, and Dodge \$44,454 and all bids were from Midway Motors. He checked on a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton and there was a \$5,000 difference for the larger truck. Mr. Ledbetter stated using a personal truck with no identification on the sides is not recognized by other agencies when they assist with fighting fires. The command vehicle could be used for five and six years and then swapped out down the road for a brush truck. They sold an older ambulance recently that generated \$20,000 which gives them \$370,000 in the equipment fund. Mr. Meagher asked about the diesel versus gas engines. Chief Ledbetter explained they received a quote for a Chevy gas engine for \$38,000 however all the other vehicles in the fleet were diesel and he went over the assets for the diesel.

Mr. Dillon questioned why with all the other vehicles a command vehicle would be needed. Chief Ledbetter went over all the vehicles in the fleet giving explanation for each. He tried to explain why the need for a command vehicle now when they had previously not asked for a truck. The Chief stated if they have personal vehicles being used as their command vehicles when other fire fighters from different areas come to help, those vehicles are not recognizable to them.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weeshar also gave explanation on the request for a command vehicle.

After a lengthy discussion on equipment and vehicles the Board requested the Chief look into other options and return.

Commissioner Dillon was concerned about depleting the equipment fund to make a long term investment in real estate. The equipment fund should be for equipment not a building. Chief Ledbetter would prefer not to deplete the equipment fund either because if the engine would have to be replaced it could cost us \$300,000 and up.

The Board discussed using bonds to pay for the construction of the station. Mr. Meagher explained the bond mill levy and interest.

Chief Ledbetter also discussed the Putnam Architect estimate for the addition to the Buhler station for \$225,000 to \$250,000. Putnam's cost for design services was \$18,850. **Mr. Schlickau moved, seconded by Mr. Dillon,** to approve the fee from

Putnam Architect for design services at \$18,850 as described by Chief Ledbetter and Mr. Meagher. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote.

Public Works Director Dave McComb met with the Board to discuss an agreement between Cook, Flatt & Strobel Engineers, P.A. and Reno County to engineer and prepare bridge plans for the replacement of 5 bridges described as Rayl Road Bridge Mile 6.96; Mayfield Road Bridge Mile 16.55; Worthington Road Bridge Mile 28.95; Mills Avenue Bridge Mile 28.20 and Sun City Road Bridge Mile 28.15. Mr. McComb stated the county crew would be building the five bridges. When selecting bridges the county would build the smaller bridges less than 50 foot in length since they have the crews and equipment. He stated over that is beyond their capacity to construct so they would have them designed only. He stated this was a good use of the bridge fund having the people and materials. Construction of the bridges will take place in 2017. Mr. McComb went over how they choose the bridges to be replaced and reviewed the 273 timber bridges around Reno County. The two mills by statue had helped with building smaller bridges. **Mr. Schlickau moved, seconded by Mr. Dillon,** to approve the agreement for \$25,000 as described by Mr. McComb for the five bridges outlined today. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote.

At 11:30 Commissioner Dillon excused himself from the meeting.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti met with the Board for his regularly scheduled meeting. He discussed various topics that did not require action by the Board.

At 11:50 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date