

April 11, 2017  
Reno County Courthouse  
Hutchinson, Kansas

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Chad Trunkhill, Our Redeemer Lutheran.

There were no additions to the agenda.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Deming,** to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on April 14, 2017 of \$393,332.79. Mr. Deming commented about \$28,000 spent for fuel cost from fire trucks who assisted with the wild fires. Next item consisted of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2017-479, 483 through 487, as submitted. Then on the consent agenda was a proclamation proclaiming week of April 17 - 23, 2017 as "Week of the Young Child". Present to receive the proclamation were Tonia Roberts, Healthy Families, and Sharon Hixson, and Reno County Early Childhood Council. The motion was approved by a roll call by a 2-0 vote.

Mr. Deming read the proclamation and Kim Graham Director of the Early Ed Center accepted. She introduced Tonia Roberts from Kansas Children's Service League, Sharon Hixson from Reno County Early Childhood Council, Marilyn Graham from Hutch Community Foundation with Early Childhood Grants and Janet Dick with Healthy Families. She spoke about the National Association and also about the Open House celebrating 50 years of services to young children. They try to coordinate this week with third Thursday.

Commissioner Deming reminded people this is the week of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Observance recognizing the 9-1-1 dispatch operators. The Board sent personal letters out appreciating their efforts along with fire fighters and law enforcement appreciating their help with the fires in Reno County.

Mr. Deming also reminded residents that Reno County did not have an election today because it was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional

District not the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District as the candidates, so no voting today.

Chief Bobby White Fire District #3 met with the Board to recommend approval to have Emergency Fire Equipment repair and update Brush Truck #394, 2004 Chevrolet chassis, at a cost not to exceed \$20,000. He explained the modifications they wanted to make to the brush truck changing it to the new way and making it safer for fire fighters. The project would include a new flatbed, new foam system, and parts and labor to install. The project would be paid for out of the Fire District #3 Special Equipment funds that have a current balance of \$526,794. **Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Deming**, to approve the project to upgrade brush truck not to exceed \$20,000 as outlined by Chief White. The motion was approved by roll call by a 2-0 vote.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of Overall Goals and Changes in meetings or procedures desired by County Commissioners. Since Mr. Bush was absent the Board postponed this discussion until next week at the end of the agenda session.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan met with the Board recommending a resolution pertaining to open burning and establishing requirements, restrictions, and prohibited acts with respect thereto; and rescinding resolution 2016-07. Mr. O'Sullivan gave a brief history starting in 1998 with the open burning resolution which was passed because of controlled crop burning. Recreation and fire barrels were excluded in the 2011 resolution. Residents had to give notice and obtain approval to burn after calling 911 and if this was violated than the person was fined and could have jail time. It was again clarified in April 2016 amended prior to open burning notification with name, address, phone number. He went over section 3 and section 4 addressing PBA (Prescribed Burn Associations) in the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Hirst wanted to get further input from the public, fire chiefs, and local ranchers/farmers before consideration. He thought two weeks would be a good amount of time to postpone. He told a story of a phone call discussing the wind speeds and whether this person could or could not burn.

A large discussion ensued between the Board, Mr. O'Sullivan, Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar and Chief White. The Fire Chief discussed several years back to have 911 called making it standard with all of them instead of calling each of them to get permission to burn. Mr. Meagher spoke about how wind measurements from The National Weather Service measured at the Hutchinson Airport.

Dusty Tahl, Ninnescah Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) based out of Pretty Prairie stated that under section 4 he would like to see it amended for PBA registered in good standing. He said we all are under local chapters that follow rules and pay annual dues which make them in good standing. Mr. Tahl spoke in depth about wind speeds and how essential they are to burns and recommended using the NOAH model for accurate wind speeds at ground level.

Then a large discussion ensued about dispatchers having the correct information to pass along to residents wanting to burn. Also about PBA's contracts to burn and that PBA's do not carry insurance; however they know what they are doing with prescribed burns. They have the manpower to handle situations along with extensive planning and active monitoring of wind.

**Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Deming,** to table for two weeks then review resolution. The motion was approved by roll call by a 2-0 vote.

Mr. O'Sullivan commented about dates discussed on the tax abatement stating a standard date would need to be set for the Appraisers Office to move forward.

Sheriff Henderson met with the Board for his regularly scheduled meeting. He discussed various topics not requiring action to be taken by the Board.

Comments by the Commissioners were as follows:

Mr. Deming complimented Harlen Depew and Gary Meagher for their work with the unused space temporarily by Community Police Officers. Thank you for sharing.

At 10:35 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

Approved:

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Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

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Reno County Clerk  
cm

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Date