

May 2, 2017
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Jeff Slater, First United Methodist Church.

There was one addition to the agenda; discuss a request from the Highlands to be a 3rd class city.

Andrew Peters, Langley Road, Hutchinson, KS Director of Sunflower Soaring Foundation from Sunflower Gliderport in the Hutchinson Airbase Industrial Tract, addressed the Board regarding an application for erecting a Meteorological tower near the gliderport of which the application had since been withdrawn. However he still wanted to point out four very important issues to be considered by the Board. One, the purpose of a meteorological tower was to collect wind profile data to place a wind farm. There are two such towers collecting data currently at Nickerson and Andale. Two, a study by KDOT, professors at the University of Kansas determined that windmills at a wind farm produce wake vortices (horizontal tornados) that can be hazardous to small aircraft up to 3 miles down wind of the windmill. The report specifically looked at two airports where the specific geometry of the wind farms was in relation to the airports and cross wind conditions were analyzed. This turbulence hazard is in addition to the structural hazard a 400-500 foot windmill poses to aircraft. Third, during the Planning Commission hearing several people expressed strong opinions against windmills near their property. Finally, the FAA regulates the navigable airspace, which typically starts between 500 and 1000 feet above ground. The altitude lowers down to 150 feet around public use airports leaving it to local authorities to regulate how the land is used beneath the navigable airspace.

Mr. Peters finished with a recommendation to zone all un-zoned areas within a five mile radius; however he would prefer ten miles, around Sunflower as soon as possible. He would like this zoned as agricultural or another appropriate category since the un-zoned area is not monitored and controlled. It does not

have the requirement to apply for and receive use permits, and neighbors are not provided the due process of a public hearing. He strongly encouraged the Commissioners to begin the process of zoning all land in Reno County and to consider how to provide protection around all airports in Reno County from the hazards windmills present to small aircraft.

Commissioner Deming told Mr. Peters that his concerns and request would be referred to the County Planning Commission and county staff for additional information and a report.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Deming, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on May 5, 2017 of \$159,646.98 and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2017-492, 498 thru 500 as submitted. Next on consent agenda was a proclamation read by Mr. Deming; proclaiming the month of May 2017 as "Bike Month" and Friday, May 19th, 2017 as "Bike to Work Day". Zan Borders and Traci Hansen with the Vitality Team of Reno County and Hutchinson Recreation were present to accept the proclamation. They thanked the Board and mentioned several upcoming bike events in the community. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Deming, to remove the March 28th tabled item #6 from the agenda. This public hearing Planning & Zoning Case No. 2017-02 was withdrawn by applicant Harley Ewing on April 26th, 2017. The request was to construct a 196 foot meteorological tower on the east side of South McNew Road between East Greenfield Road and East Lake Cable Road. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 2-0. Since the application has been withdrawn the issue is moot and considered dead.

Commissioner Deming stated there was a movement underway to establish a 3rd Class City at the Highlands residential addition. A town hall meeting will be held on May 16th, 2017 at the Highlands Clubhouse at 7:00 p.m. to answer questions. The purpose of the meeting is to outline for the residents affected, from the Homeowners Association, their proposal for a 3rd Class City and why it is in their best interest. This movement revolves around better road maintenance as the Highlands is in Grant Township who has limited resources to maintain or improve roads to the extent desired by some Highlands property owners. Mr. Deming advised that a petition calling for third class city status is being circulated and it will take the names of 50 electors or registered voters to bring the issue before the county commission. There is a 90 day period to hold a public hearing, consider the pros and cons and make a decision, with a unanimous county commission vote necessary for approval. The

County Commissioners, Mr. Meagher, Mr. McComb, and Mr. O'Sullivan plan to be at the meeting to answer questions and receive information. Both Mr. Hirst and Mr. Deming said the commission has not made any conclusions on merits or disadvantages of the third class city request and will be at the May 16th town hall meeting only to hear public input and attempt to answer questions from affected property owners. It takes 50 registered voters to sign the petition and is in the works now and probably will be presented after the town hall meeting for verification. Mr. Deming discussed the process if the 3rd Class City is approved and noted that the Commission will have to vote to allow the 3rd Class City request. The Commissioners, Mr. Meagher, Mr. McComb, and Mr. O'Sullivan will be present at the meeting to receive information only and answer any questions they might have.

Register of Deeds Michelle Updegrove met with the Board to give the Mortgage Registration Tax (MRT) and Recording Fee Revenue report. She stated March and April were down for mortgage tax and the recording fees were up. The year to date was down approximately \$13,170.33 from last year. She attributed the shortfall to the phasing out of the mortgage fees.

Mrs. Updegrove was also present to give her regularly scheduled meeting. Stating her goal was to have e-file and get scanning up to date. She discussed the purchase of new furniture versus using former clerk's office furniture and decided to purchase three new desks, chairs, mats and a couple of new tables for an estimated cost of \$8,712.12. She had \$10,000 to use from the part-time person's salary position that she didn't fill for 2017.

Mr. Deming commented that the April Sales Tax was down approximately \$14,000 and the Jail Sales Tax was also down approximately \$15,000. He reminded everyone and the media that next week's meeting would be Monday, May 8th instead of Tuesday, May 9th and they would be discussing the goals and the priorities list.

Mr. Hirst commented about SCKEED changing the annual board meeting and tour to June 8th. He thought it would be nice to recognize Captain Darrin Campbell for his service and status of Sgt. Major, which is the highest rank that enlisted personnel can achieve.

At 9:35 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 8, 2017.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date