

May 23, 2017
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners met in agenda session with, Chairman Dan Deming, Commissioner Ron Hirst and Commissioner Bob Bush, 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 Darryl Peterson, Grace Christian Church.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Mr. Hirst moved, seconded by Mr. Bush, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on May 26, 2017 of \$433,239.23 and also consisting of pending Added, Abated and Escaped Taxation Change Orders numbered 2017-530 as submitted. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan reviewed the changes on Section 3b and b4 on a resolution discussed in previous agenda sessions pertaining to open burning and establishing requirements, restrictions, and prohibited acts with respect thereto; and rescinding Resolution 2016-07.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar discussed controlled burns and how they would be allowed to burn. He also stated that three times during last year the burn bans were in effect.

Mr. Bush moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to table item #6 on the burn resolution, re-writing language and then putting it on next week's agenda for action. The motion was approved by roll call vote of 3-0.

EMS Chief Terry David went over the Reno County Emergency Medical Services First Quarter Operations Summary. He stated that they had a need to purchase replacements for two ambulance units and had looked into using the smaller truck model; however decided they would prefer the same model they are currently using. Ford manufacturer released a new model, Ford Transit, instead of the Mercedes so they were looking at this option.

County Administrator Gary Meagher suggested purchasing a box to move over not the chassis as an option.

Chief David stated that the Chevy chassis was not as good so they would be going back to Ford with a one-time deal. The new smaller truck's cost was estimated around \$125,000, spending a total of \$190,000 to \$210,000 for the new truck with auto loader, not the power cot lift they now have. Federal law changes require a better way to secure patients for safety so everything stays in place.

Commissioner Deming clarified the refurbished box saved \$75,000 versus the new smaller truck price of \$125,000 and up. Chief David stated it would be the same money with two trucks left in the fleet to change over. Mr. Deming asked the Chief to bring back a comparison of remounting costs versus a new purchase.

Mr. Deming then questioned the \$350,000 for operating expense, which seemed to be a large increase over the 2016 budget. The Chief stated they did a wage study and increases in salary were necessary to keep the turnover in health care down.

Commissioner Bush requested the Chief make a choice and recommend their needs for vehicles. He also wanted an organization chart with base salaries for positions. Chief David stated EMS grants could be applied for and used for scopes or toward paying half of the costs.

Hutchinson Hospital's Dr. Smith addressed the Board stating he would be able to provide reports of the important equipment, people, and research. He could also provide information for hospital employee's salary increases since they were in the first year of a three year four million dollar process.

Horizon's Director Michael Garrett presented his request for 5 percent in additional funds for the 2018 budget. He presented his case going over line items and then going over the direct service staff wage comparisons for 2017 versus proposed 2018.

Executive Director of the Reno County Historical Society, Mary Grace Clements from the Reno County Museum, met with the Board stressing the importance of preserving educational stories about the area. She mentioned they had not asked for an increase in 10 years and had a 25 percent increase in maintenance costs along with memberships dropping 54 percent. She discussed hiring an individual to build the programs at the museum for the public. Ms. Clements informed the Board that they have a new World War II exhibit. Ms. Clements spends half her

energy between the Reno County Museum and Strataca (underground salt mine). Mr. Hirst inquired about the down memberships and if she had ideas to boost those numbers. She replied that they had plans to re-introduce to the community interactive and interesting programs and stating that they had 48,000 visitors to the salt mines, bike rides and 5K runs along with a ghost hunt at the museum as a few of the ideas for community involvement.

Judge McCarville addressed the Board with a funding amount of \$9,555 for FYI 2018. He introduced Liberty Thompson from Court Services and together they explained the Drug Court services.

Reno County Extension Office Director Jan Steen met with the Board to request an increase of \$54,000 from last year which is 14 percent more than the current budgeted amount. He stated they had used their reserve funds with the exception of \$40,000 that was earmarked for education programs. The additional funding would help with the rising expenses of telephone, internet, supplies, postage and salaries which were their largest expense. If they do become a district there could be more expense involved with moving to another building.

First Generation Video Martha Fellow heads the Welcome Channel #7 which plays information to visitors and residents. She gave a small video presentation explaining the purpose of the channel and what can be a snapshot of the counties attractions. She stated that a link could be put on the Reno County Website for people to access. Mr. Deming wanted to know if the city would be funding the Welcome Channel. Mrs. Fellows stated that they would do 50 percent (\$6,500) and City Manager John Deardoff hopes to restore full funding in the budget by next year.

Mr. Deming commented on the opening of this seasons Farmers Market with Mr. Hirst.

Mr. Hirst had no comments at this time

Mr. Bush had no comments at this time.

At 10:55 the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 30, 2017.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date