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Historic new County Commission meeting held Monday

Reno County, Kansas – January 9, 2023

The Reno County Commission began their first meeting of the new year at the Reno County Annex with current members Chairman Daniel Friesen, Commissioner Ron Hirst and Commissioner Ron Sellers. Business was conducted and Ken Jorns was given a plaque of appreciation and recognition for his nine years of service on the Reno County Planning Commission. Then Sellers shared comments about his term as commissioner as Monday was his last day in office.

Two new commissioners, Randy Parks and Don Bogner, were sworn in by District Judge Trish Rose and the commission meeting began again with four commissioners. In attendance was commissioner-elect John Whitesel who was chosen by the Republican party to take the seat that commissioner-elect Mark Reese resigned from on December 26, 2022. Whitesel's name has been submitted to Governor Laura Kelly, but he has not officially been certified by her office to serve.

The next Reno County Commission meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 9 a.m., at the Reno County Annex, will have the five commissioners after Whitesel is sworn in. Commissioners are Randy Parks in District 1, Ron Hirst in District 2, Daniel Friesen in District 3, commissioner-elect John Whitesel in District 4 and Don Bogner in District 5. It will be an historic moment, with voters choosing in November 2021 to expand to a five-member elected commission instead of the current three-member governing body which has been used since the first commission was appointed and elected in 1872.

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