

Wabaunsee County Commission

Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

Regular Meeting Minutes December 11, 2023

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, December 11, 2023. Commissioners conduct the meeting in person and over ZOOM. Members attending were Nancy L. Hier, Rodney Allen and Jim MacGregor. Commissioner Hier called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Road & Bridge Supervisor Josh Hinch, Sheriff Rob Hoskins, Richard Orton, Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester, Noxious Weed Director Tonya Hensley, Economic Development Director Stephanie Imthurn, County Attorney Tim Liesmann and County Clerk Abby Amick were in attendance in person, others joined via zoom.

Road & Bridge Update

Road & Bridge Supervisor Josh Hinch reported that the underground tanks were successfully removed, the dirt is being tested for contaminant, the results should be back in two weeks. The crews are working on Homestead Road and Wells Creek Road this week. Hinch shared that another employee has given their notice, there will be additional position openings advertised now and in January.

Noxious Weed Update

Noxious Weed Director Tonya Hensley presented the annual contract with the State of Kansas for roadside spraying for 2024 with increases in labor and use of equipment. Commissioners signed the contract.

At 9:17 AM Commissioner Hier moved to recess to executive session under the following exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act: Pursuant to non-elected personnel matter exception, the subject to be discussed is wages; open session will resume at 9:27 AM in the Commission Meeting Room; those persons in attendance include County Clerk Abby Amick, County Attorney Tim Liesmann, Noxious Weed Director Tonya Hensley, Commissioner Hier, Commissioner Allen and Commissioner MacGregor; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 9:27 AM Commissioners returned from executive session in the Commission Meeting Room. No action was taken.

Safe Kids Program

Health Department Administrator Ray Finley and School Resource Officer Angie King joined the meeting in person. They are exploring re-igniting the Safe Kids Coalition in Wabaunsee County. The program promotes safety, accident prevention, seat belt checks, car seats, water safety, railroad crossings, smoke and carbon dioxide detectors, opioid awareness and prevention. The program can be tailored to the community needs. While a lot of these efforts are already in place, Safe Kids Coalition can help with funding and coordination. In Pottawatomie County the Health Department is the lead agency for the Coalition, Wabaunsee County intends to follow the same model. The Wabaunsee County Coalition is recommending a contract with Pottawatomie County to assist in getting the program established. Commissioners agreed to contracting with Pottawatomie County for the first two years and then re-evaluating to determine if we can manage a stand-alone program at the conclusion of the contract.

Housing Update

Economic Development Director Stephanie Imthurn reported that she is attending City Council meetings in each City, presenting the addition of residential renovations to the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. The Cities that she has met with so far are supportive of the change in the Plan.

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Other Business

Commissioners agreed to renew the Kansas Association of Counties membership. Commissioners discussed the legislative roundtable that will take place on December 18th at the end of the Commission Meeting. It was reported that all of the feedback received regarding the newsletter in the tax statement has been very positive.

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the minutes of the December 4th Commission Meeting; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

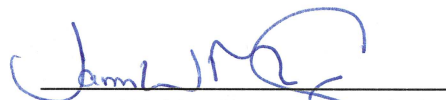
Chairman Hier reviewed and signed the Daily Statements for December 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2023. Commissioners reviewed and signed wage change forms and Tax Abatements 27-30 for Tax Year 2023 totaling \$698.70.

At 10:14 AM Commissioner MacGregor moved to adjourn until Monday, December 18th at 9:00 AM; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes approved this 18th day of December 2023.


Nancy Hier, Chairman


Rodney Allen, Vice Chairman


James W. MacGregor, Commissioner

Attest:


Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk

