

Wabaunsee County Commission

Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

Regular Meeting Minutes April 19, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, April 19, 2021. In compliance with the CDC guidelines to maintain social distancing Commissioners conduct and record the meeting over ZOOM. Members attending were Joel S. Fager, Rodney L. Allen and Nancy L. Hier. Chairman Fager called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. County Attorney Tim Liesmann and County Clerk Abby Amick were in attendance in person, others joined via zoom.

American Rescue Plan

Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor joined in person. MacGregor updated the Commissioners with the names of the Steering Committee Nominees: Abby Amick, Tim Liesmann, Amy Terrapin, Ervan Stuewe, Kara Mayer, Ryan Armbrust, Rick Mohler, and Richard Orton. A final nominee has been asked in the Maple Hill area. MacGregor will serve as a non-voting chair, and the Commissioners will serve as the Executive Committee. The first meeting of the Steering Committee will be April 28th.

Commissioner Fager moved to approve the minutes of the April 12th Commission Meeting; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Health Department and Covid Update

Health Administrator Ray Finley joined in person. Finley reported on the Covid numbers for the County: 1 active cases, 14 deaths and 0 in the hospital. Wabaunsee County has had 673 total covid cases reported since March 2020. Vaccinations have gone from administering more than 200 each week, to as few as 140 this week. The Health Department has hired part time help in the office for data entry, making phone calls and helping with scheduling.

Noxious Weed Budget Request

Noxious Weed Supervisor Tonya Hensley joined in person. Hensley presented the Commissioners with a contract from CIC Software for a new tracking and management software that allows for mapping and treatment tracking. The upfront cost of the software is \$5,555 and would be paid from Noxious Weed Capital Outlay this year. Hensley presented the Commissioners with a 20 years of service award that she received from the County Weed Directors Association of Kansas. Hensley also presented the Noxious Weed Budget request of \$290,250 which is a decrease from 2021; and the Solid Waste Budget request of \$13,240 which is an increase of \$3,240 from 2021. Hensley reported that she has updated the job descriptions for her department and will file them with the Clerk's Office.

Wabaunsee County Conservation District

District Manager Roxann Maike and Water Quality and Education Coordinator Tom Watkins joined in person. Maike thanked the Commissioners for their support and reviewed the operations of the Conservation District. Watkins shared the current Board of Supervisors and an update on programs administered through the Conservation District. They are able to reach well over 400 students on an annual basis with the message of conservation of natural resources through local programming. Commissioners thanked Maike and Watkins for the work of the District. The Conservation District presented a Budget Request of \$40,000; and increase of \$2,000 from 2021.

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Emergency Management Budget Request

Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Terrapin joined in person. Terrapin presented the Commissioners with a Proclamation of a Local Disaster Emergency from the April 2nd Fires. The Proclamation was filed with the state verbally at the time of the disaster and is being presented for formal approval. Chairman Fager signed the proclamation. Terrapin presented an Emergency Management Budget request of \$66,450; an increase of \$9,630 from 2021. The increase includes \$3,000 for utilities at the new communications tower, a 3% increase in wages, and \$5,000 toward equipment reserve for the future replacement of a vehicle.

Road and Bridge Dust Control Update

Road and Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush joined in person. Bush presented a Request and Petition to lay Fiber Cable along the road by Wamego Telephone Co along Paw Paw Creek Road and Homestead Roads. Commissioners approved and signed the Utility Agreement as presented.

Bush read aloud his recommendation regarding the Dust Control on Wells Creek Road; "The traffic count for Wells Creek Rd has shown a significant increase from the last KDOT numbers recorded in 2016. In 2016 the average daily traffic was 225. The preliminary number counted in 2019 is 340. With this increase in traffic, the dust has increased accordingly. There are two areas on the road that have several homes close to the road. I propose doing dust control with magnesium chloride for the areas. The cost for the magnesium chloride applied by a contractor, would be about \$12,500 installed. Wabaunsee County Road & Bridge would take care of the prep work. The whole project would be funded through our road materials budget. I would like to consider this as a trial venture. Not to establish a new policy on dust abatement if you approve this expenditure".

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the expense of a one-time application; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bush reported that the application will be scheduled as soon as possible. There have been property owners using the magnesium chloride product for years and they are seeing results. For the most timely response, this is the best option available to us.

Sheriff Deputy

Sheriff Rob Hoskins joined in person to introduce newly hired Deputy Ricky Williams. Williams joins us from Abilene.

Zoning Update

Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester joined via zoom. Sylvester provided an update from the April 15th Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting and the Lake Wabaunsee Committee. The Lake Wabaunsee Committee has mailed a survey to 235 people, asking for responses by April 28th. The Committee will

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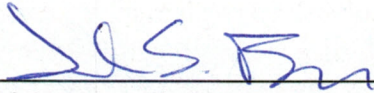
meet again May 5th to form their recommendations to the planning commission to be presented at their May meeting.

Sylvester reported that the Planning Commission heard three Conditional Use Permits at their meeting. The Hockenbarger AirBnB was voted down; the two Harshman Quarries both passed. The discussion about Impact Fees was lively, it seems that everyone agrees that something needs to be done but no one can agree on what is fair. Sylvester mentioned that he met with the County Appraiser to look at his software and found that it would require a parcel by parcel determination, he is looking at software specific to zoning for the development of a zoning map. Sylvester also reported that the Planning Commission Agendas are posted on the county website www.wbcounty.org a week before the meeting.

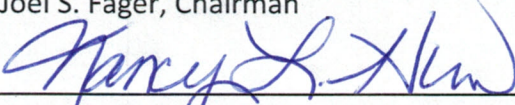
Commissioner Allen moved to appoint Brian Falk to the Planning & Zoning Commission representing District 2; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0

At 10:48 am Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn until Monday, April 26th at 9:00 a.m.; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

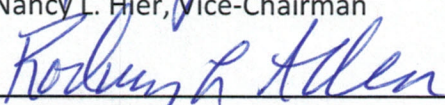
Minutes approved this 26th day of April 2021.



Joel S. Fager, Chairman



Nancy L. Hier, Vice-Chairman



Rodney L. Allen, Member

Attest:





Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk