

Wabaunsee County Commission

Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

Regular Meeting Minutes March 22, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, March 22, 2021. In compliance with the CDC guidelines to maintain social distancing Commissioners conduct and record the meeting over ZOOM. Members attending were Rodney L. Allen and Nancy L. Hier. Joel S. Fager was absent. Vice Chairman Hier 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.

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the minutes of the March 15th Commission Meeting; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Hier moved to appoint Peggy Adams to Position 5 on the Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library Board of Trustees for a four-year term; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

County Attorney Tim Liesmann explained a typographical error in the original Resolution 2021-10 a Conditional Use Permit for Paul and Jenny Schutter for a rental business. The error was in the reporting of the Planning Commission vote, where the original resolution stated a vote to approve, when in fact, by majority, the Planning Commission voted to recommend against approval.

Commissioner Allen moved to approve Resolution 2021-16 Correcting language in Resolution 2021-10, Schutter Conditional Use Permit Rental Business; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Health Department and Covid Update

Health Administrator Ray Finley joined in person. Finley reported on the Covid numbers for the County: 0 active cases, 14 deaths and 0 in the hospital. Finley reported that the Wabaunsee County Health Department administered 290 vaccinations in the prior week, and will do over 300 vaccinations in the current week. They are preparing for the allocation of vaccines to increase to 400 in the near future. The State announced opening Phase 3 as of today. The Health Department has not hired their additional vaccinators yet, but they are gearing up for larger vaccination clinics.

Planning and Zoning Update

Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester joined in person. Sylvester provided an update on the Planning Commission meeting from March 18th. Sylvester reported that he had filed the flood plain resolution with the state and has not heard a response yet. He also reported that he is investigating software for zoning, to include flood plain management and sanitation. Sylvester shared that he intends to post minutes and agendas for the Planning Commission Meetings on the Wabaunsee County website going forward. He stated that quarry inspections are going to be underway soon, including inspections of closed quarries and currently operating sites. Sylvester reminded everyone that county employees are required to notify the Zoning Administrator if they see new construction or other activity that requires a permit.

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Road and Bridge Update

Road and Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush joined in person. Bush presented a proposed fee structure for Impact Fees for review. The proposal will be reviewed by quarry operators and the Planning Commission. Impact Fees would go into a fund specific to those quarry haul routes. Bush presented an award letter from KDOT for Bridge #25 on Willard Road. This project was one of 6 projects selected for funding in the state. Engineering has started on the project. Bush provided an update on the Old K-10 project, stating that the engineering group that will do the mix design will be coming out to core and test the contents of the current material and determine the new mix design.

Bush reported that he intends to submit a Wells Creek Road project application for a cost-share program. The project would increase the drainage capacity and install a new bridge over Cold Water Creek. The application has been submitted three times before, Bush is hopeful that it will get funded this time. Bush also reported on work being done on Wells Creek Road. Gravel had been added to the road, but was removed because of the rains softening the surface. The gravel will be added back and compacted, with the objective of creating a good driving surface, creating more of a crown on the road to help with runoff and eliminate standing water and reduce potholes.

Bush shared a list of equipment and leftover materials from projects going up for sale on Purple Wave Tuesday, March 30th.

Fire District #2

Fire Chief Dennis Buchman joined the meeting in person. Buchman stated that he wanted to respond to concerns raised at a previous commission meeting regarding Fire District #2 and asked for clarification on the LEPC dues. Sheriff Rob Hoskins and Undersheriff Brett Wilson joined in person. Sheriff Hoskins reported that the concern is related to the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) and the lack of participation and dues payment by Fire District #2. Buchman responded that he didn't know anything about it. Commissioner Allen asked to have the Fire District Treasurer contact Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Terrapin regarding membership. The LEPC meets quarterly to discuss issues affecting all of the entities involved. There is a long-term goal to have all of the emergency response entities on the same communication system, so that they can communicate effectively on scene. Commissioner Allen and Sheriff Hoskins encouraged that someone from Fire District #2 attend the quarterly LEPC meetings going forward.

Buchman asked about cement that had been dumped in the ditch in Garfield Township, 1 mile west of Alta Vista Cemetery and to the south. Buchman stated that it is a dangerous location and needs to be removed. Sheriff Hoskins said that he would follow up.

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At 10:05 am Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn until Monday, March 29th at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Minutes approved this _____ day of March 2021.

Joel S. Fager, Chairman

Nancy L. Hier, Vice-Chairman

Rodney L. Allen, Member

Attest:

Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk