

# Wabaunsee County Commission

## Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

### Regular Meeting Minutes March 8, 2021

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The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, March 8, 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, Joel S. Fager 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.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the minutes of the March 1<sup>st</sup> Commission Meeting; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Allen announced that James Kenney, Wabaunsee County Sheriff from 1977-1981 had passed away.

County Attorney Tim Liesmann provided an update on the Belvue Bridge grant application status. Liesmann stated that the prior year's application will serve as a starting point when the grant cycle opens up this year. Wabaunsee County will work with Pottawatomie County to submit the application jointly.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve a cereal malt beverage license for Lake Bums Bait Shop/Lake Wabaunsee to sell at retail cereal malt beverages in the original and unopened containers and not for consumption on the premises located at 657 Flint Hills Dr, Alma; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners discussed appointments to the Lake Wabaunsee Committee that will report to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Several names were discussed, Commissioner Fager directed that all names should be sent to County Attorney Liesmann to keep track of.

#### **Health Department and Covid Update**

Health Administrator Ray Finley joined in person. Finley reported on the Covid numbers for the County: 3 active cases, 14 deaths and 0 in the hospital. Finley reported that vaccination clinics are continuing, they anticipate an increase in the number of initial doses that Wabaunsee County will receive. The Health Department may need to hire additional parttime staff to help run more vaccination clinics. There are grant funds available to pay for staff (existing and new), but not to pay for the staff that give injections.

#### **Extension Office**

Agent Stephanie Melhus presented a revised budget without the E-Community program included in the expenses for 2021. Commissioner Hier moved to approve the amended budget with a total County Appropriation of \$151,200.00 for 2021; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Fager moved to adopt Resolution 2021-14 a Resolution Modifying the Duties of the Economic Development Department, to include the Network Kansas Business Loan program management; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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#### **Fires Update**

Sheriff Rob Hoskins joined in person. Sheriff Hoskins reported on the fires from March 7<sup>th</sup>, stating that in addition to several Wabaunsee County Fire Districts, crews from Lyon and Morris County also responded to the fire near K-4 and North Pole Road in southwest Wabaunsee County. Hoskins reported concerns that he has heard regarding Fire District #2 not supporting the Local Emergency Planning Committee for several years, yet when there is a fire in that District, many of the other Fire Districts make themselves available to for mutual aid. County Attorney Liesmann stated that duties and authorities have all been delegated to each Fire District in the past, if there was an interest in pulling back funds in the next budget year, the commissioners could take action at budget time. Sheriff Hoskins shared that every Fire Department in Wabaunsee County, except 1, was called out on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Road and Bridge signage and contracts**

Road and Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush joined in person. Bush presented a request submitted by Alma Township for a Stop Sign and a "Dangerous Intersection" sign at Clapboard Ravine Road and Park Valley Road. Commissioners were in agreement that it is a dangerous intersection and asked County Attorney Liesmann to draft a Resolution approving the signage.

Bush reported that Bridge No. 25 was selected for a KDOT Grant, the bridge is an iron bridge east of Maple Hill. Cook, Flatt and Strobel Engineers have prepared a bridge design contract for \$87,400. Commissioner Hier moved to approve the contract for the design of Bridge No 25; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bush presented a contract for the design of Bridge No 35 on West Spring Creek Road. Bush expects to receive FEMA assistance from the 2019 Flood for this project. Cook, Flatt and Strobel Engineers have prepared a bridge design contract for \$12,400. Commissioner Fager moved to approve the contract for the design of Bridge No 35; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bush presented a contract for the design of Bridge No 108 on Elm Creek Road, south of Eskridge and Bridge No 160 in the Newbury area. Bush outlined that Bridge No 108 would have cost share with an oil company that has agreed to make the structure support a higher weight limit, and Bridge No 160 will be funded by a quarry operator as stated in their Conditional Use Permit. Cook, Flatt and Strobel Engineers have prepared a bridge design contract for Bridge No 108 of \$8,000 and Bridge No 160 of \$5,000. Commissioner Hier moved to approve the contract for the design of Bridge No 108 and Bridge No 160; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bush presented a bid adjustment reducing the miles of the Old K-10 full depth reclamation project to 5 miles, from Alma to Spring Creek Road. Bush recommended the acceptance of the Bob Bergkamp Construction Co Inc bid for the Old K-10 full depth reclamation project. Commissioners discussed the cost per mile compared to the original project and found that the difference was minimal.

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Commissioner Fager moved to accept the bid from Bob Bergkamp Construction Inc for the Old K-10 full depth reclamation project in the amount of \$614,758.39; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bush presented a quote from Olathe Ford for an F250 three-quarter ton, extended cab pickup truck. The quote for the government rate is \$34,873. Bush shared comparison pricing for similar used pickups that cost more. Commissioner Allen moved to approve the purchase of the pickup from Olathe Ford for \$34,873, Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**CIC Software Contract**

Debbie Trahan with CIC, Register of Deeds Marcy Merritt and Treasurer Karen Callaway joined in person. The final contract for the purchase of the software and server were provided. Commissioner Fager moved to approve the contract with Computer Information Concepts, Inc; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**Fence Viewing Petition**

Jean Keller, Steve Murray and Mitch Murray joined in person. County Attorney Liesmann reported on the background and historic agreement of the fence, providing maps and photos of the existing fence. Liesmann stated that the Commissioners do not settle property line disputes, only fence maintenance responsibility. Once the Commissioners make a determination on a fence, that determination is filed with the Register of Deeds and is permanently attached to that property. Keller shared that the property is for sale, and that she is seeking a temporary arrangement, where Murray's maintain the creek crossing until the property is sold. A new agreement would need to be reached with the new owners at that time. Murray addressed the prior concerns, stating that he had fixed the crossing in both instances with no objection. Murray offered to continue watching that fence and creek crossing for the interim until the property is sold. Murray and Keller both indicated that they did not want a permanent determination made on this fence, they came to agreement.

**Economic Development**

Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor joined in person. MacGregor provided updated Fact Sheets outlining Transient Guest Tax and Community Improvement District details and statistics. MacGregor reported that he will be meeting with State Senators, Representative Highland and the Secretary of Commerce in the coming weeks.

Commissioner Fager stated that CPR Classes are being scheduled for County Employees.

Treasurer Daily Statements for February 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 were viewed and signed by Chairman Fager.

Abatement #2020-AB36 for \$10.48 was approved and signed. Wage change requests were approved and signed.

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At 10:57 am Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn until Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March 2021.

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Joel S. Fager, Chairman

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Nancy L. Hier, Vice-Chairman

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Rodney L. Allen, Member

Attest:

Abby L. Amick  
Wabaunsee County Clerk