

Wabaunsee County Commission

Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

Regular Meeting Minutes April 27, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday April 27, 2020. In compliance with the CDC guidelines to maintain social distancing and stay at home order Commissioners conducted the meeting over ZOOM. Members attending were Rodney L. Allen, Joel S. Fager and Jim Suber. Chairman Fager called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Department Head Meeting

Health Administrator Ray Finley and Amy Terrapin gave an update on COVID-19. Finley said there are currently 3,174 positives in the state in 76 counties. Finley said there has been a spike in the state in the last week because the state received a huge amount of testing supplies from the feds last week and restraints have been lifted on testing. Currently Wabaunsee County has 15 active cases and 1 recovery all centered around Alma Foods that are employees and employee's family. Commissioner Fager asked if someone is positive, has been asked to quarantine and are not complying how it that handled. Undersheriff Wilson said they would act at the direction of the health administrator. Finley said Alma Foods is doing everything they can and have worked with the health department, they are currently looking for a private lab to retest employees.

Emergency Manager Amy Terrapin said there is a new decontamination system for the N95 masks where one place will be set up in the county that masks can be taken, they will be collected one day, decontaminated the next day and returned the third day.

Undersheriff Wilson said they are still working on a trailer for the generator and hope to have it completed by tornado season.

Deputy Sam Hamilton said they should know by August or September if they received the grant for a school resource officer. Hamilton said it is a 4-year grant but the three years it pays 75% and the schools will pay the remaining 25% but a decision will need to be made for the 4th year. Hamilton said the grant included wages, vacation and benefits the same as what any other employee is getting.

County Treasurer Karen Callaway would like to purchase a permanent drop box to be placed at the south entrance of the building. A bid was presented for a 14-gauge steel box 49" H x 20" W x 26' with 3-point locking mechanism from Salsbury Industries. Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the purchase for the steel box from Salsbury Industries for \$847.97. Commissioner Suber seconded, motion passed 3-0.

Zoning Administrator David Breiner said he has been answering questions and doing property visits for septic requirements.

County Attorney Tim Liesmann said he is looking at getting the tax sale back on track.

County Extension Agent Stephanie Melhus thanked the office for sharing information with the business in the county and she is available to take calls.

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Noxious Weed

Noxious Weed Director Tonya Hensley presented a bid for a 2nd truck from John North Ford, Emporia for a F350 Cab & Chassis for \$30,921. Commissioner Allen mad a motion to approve the purchase of the 2nd truck in the amount of \$30,921. Commissioner Fager seconded, motion passed 3-0. Hensley also said Tri County Waste may be quitting recycling, they haul the county recycling and if they quit the county may not be recycling any longer.

Road & Bridge

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush handed out the Biennial Bridge Inspection Inventory and asked the Commissioners to review and if they have questions they can get together and go over them. Bush pointed out that there are recommendations for some of the deficient bridges including estimates of replacement costs.

Commissioner Allen said that the Bridge by Alice Dickson's has a hole and Bush said he would take care of it.

District Court 2021 Budget Request

District Court Clerk Angie Anderson requested \$88,563 which is the same as 2020.

Fair Association 2021 Allocation Request

Fair Association President Mary Reed Spencer thanked everyone for their support of the fair association without the support they could not provide the facilities and have the fair and all other activities. They have been working on the north barn and will begin the first stage of improvements. Spencer said the Alma Area Foundation and others have provided funds and they have had lots of volunteers and will continue to do fundraisers.

They are moving forward with the fair and have signed a lease with Flint Hills Jr Shooters for a new building. They currently have \$150,000 including matching funds for the beef barn improvements, the plan is to break ground the end of the 2020 fair. They also have poured concrete under the awning, fair board members are putting in a ceiling under the awning, also added wireless internet at fair grounds. Spencer said that the Health Administrator Ray Finley has been wonderful to work with and has kept them very informed. The Fair Association is requesting an allocation of \$25,000 for 2021 the same as last year.

Emergency Management 2021 Budget request

Emergency Manager Amy Terrapin requested \$56,820 for 2021 which is \$1,170 more than the 2020 approved budget. Terrapin said the budget includes an increase for annual tower inspections that she would like to begin in 2021 and continue each year from here on out.

County Extension Update

Stephanie Melhus County Extension Agent said they are still having the county fair and continue to work on that. Agent Bernadette Trieb is still answering questions on Medicare and they are also

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receiving calls from businesses concerning COVID-19. Office Professional Stephanie Maiké is helping with the F-H program and has set up a Facebook page that will launch May 1, 2020. Melhus said she feels it will be a good, cost effective way to reach folks.

Commissioner Suber asked for any news about the Community Vitality program. Melhus said they are tabling hiring anyone for the position until COVID-19 slows down. They are working on a plan of action to move forward and realize there are some budget restrictions and are being mindful of that. Commissioner Fager asked if they are using the money set aside for that or is it being put on hold. Melhus said extension is doing a 2020 version of the business directory.

Commissioner Allen left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

At 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Fager moved to adjourn until 9:00 a.m. Monday May 4th, 2020. Commissioner Suber seconded, motion passed 2-0.

Minutes approved this _____ day of April 2020.

Joel Fager, Chairman

Rodney L. Allen, Vice-Chairman

Jim Suber, Member

Attest:

Jennifer A. Savage
Wabaunsee County Clerk