

Wabaunsee County Commission
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS
Regular Meeting Minutes April 6, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday April 6, 2020. In compliance with the CDC guidelines to maintain social distancing and stay at home order Commissioner 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 9:20 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The March 23rd and 30th minutes were approved.

Health Administrator Ray Finley, County Attorney Tim Liesmann and County Clerk Jennifer Savage were in attendance along with 15 persons on Zoom.

COVID-19

Health Administrator Ray Finley said yesterday afternoon he was notified there was one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Wabaunsee County. As of this morning they are conducting a full investigation of where the person has been and who they have been in contact with to track down the source. Finley said the person is in self quarantine.

Finley said as of today in Kansas there are 747 positive cases, 22 deaths have occurred and 7476 negative cases. Finley said the stay at home is working, he said to use caution and be very aware of where you go because it appears, we are flattening the curve and said again the stay at home is working!

Emergency Manager Amy Terrapin said she received items that KDEM pushed out from the strategic stockpile and will be contacting the fire departments to get supplies out to them. Terrapin reminded everyone to track their hours, expenses and supplies specific to COVID-19.

County Extension

County Extension Agent Stephanie Melhus said their office is closed but they are still doing business and serving the public by working from home. Melhus said that FACS Agent Bernadette Trieb continues to answer Medicare calls. Melhus is working with the E-Community Loans and reviewing the job description for the Community Vitality position, she said the board has not made a decision to hire at this point as there is a hiring freeze.

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Other Business

Commissioners signed the 2020 Lawn Mowing and Trimming Contract between the County and Dustin Sievers.

March vouchers were approved and signed.

Treasurer Daily Statements for Marcy 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30 & 31 were viewed and signed.

2021 Budget Requests

Register of Deeds Marcy Merritt provided two requests for the 2021 budget for her department. The 2021 requests were for \$106,151.19 without server and software and \$153,141.19 with server and software. Both requests include a replacement air conditioner.

County Attorney Tim Liesmann presented the 2021 budget request for his department of \$112,800.

Belvue Bridge

Commissioners held a Zoom meeting with Pottawatomie County Commissioners to discuss the condition of the Belvue Bridge. Steve Holz was also in attendance. Pottawatomie County Public Works Director Peter Clark said they have done polymer patching on the bridge and have a Request for Qualification for Structural Engineering Services for Belvue ridge Rehabilitation/Improvement Options. Pottawatomie County is interested in evaluation the bridge to identify potential rehabilitation/improvement alternatives to allow the bridge to carry, if possible, legal commercial loads. This would include a structural engineering study estimated to be \$50,000 - \$75,000. Commissioner Suber said the bridge needs handle legal loads. Clark said this study will determine that and provide options. Holz asked about the reported \$790,000 plus steel structure damage. Clark said the 2019 Fracture Critical Inspection done by Finney & Turnipseed showed some spider webbing and rusting which is the estimated cost of repairs. Commissioner Riat said he would like to see the study done and Commissioner Fager agreed. Commissioner Allen said he is happy to work with Pottawatomie County Commission on this study.

County Attorney Tim Liesmann said he is in the process of applying for a Build Grant and we currently have a 2017 study done that needs refreshed that is a maximum of \$25

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million. It is estimated at \$15.3 million to replace the entire bridge and asked Pottawatomie County Commissioners for a letter of support.

After lots of good discussion **Commissioners approved:**

1. Request for Qualifications for Engineer Study with the cost of the study split as required by statute at 83% Pottawatomie County and **17% Wabaunsee County**
2. Apply for the building grant
3. Wabaunsee County Road & Bridge communicate with Pottawatomie County on temporary surface repairs
4. Pottawatomie County request cameras placed on the bridge to control weight, speed and who is using the bridge to write tickets.

Robert Wagner with Granite Communications presented Granites Cost Savings Program for communications and asked to review CenturyLink invoices.

At 11:45 a.m. Commissioner Fager moved to adjourn until 9:00 a.m. Monday April 13, 2020. Commissioner Suber seconded, motion passed 3-0.

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