

# Wabaunsee County Commission

## Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

### Regular Meeting Minutes February 3, 2020

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The Board of Wabaunsee County Commissioners meeting in session Monday Feb 3, 2020. Members present were Rodney L. Allen and Jim Suber. Joel Fager was absent. Vice-Chairman Allen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush, John Borg, Wade Olsen, Zoning Administrator David Breiner, County Attorney Tim Liesmann and County Clerk Jennifer Savage were in attendance.

#### **Alta Vista Road**

John Borg and Wade Olsen discussed the condition of Alta Vista Road. Borg said the road is a mess and are slop and would like to know why we can't get better quality rock. Borg said for a county system with \$2.3 million budget we could have decent rock on the road. Borg said if we can spend \$64,000 for a retaining wall and \$62,000 for a machine "you could surely purchase some rock". Commissioner Allen asked Borg if he had looked at the retaining wall and said that Bush has talked with them about the material. Bush said that KDOT has even rejected the rock from the Reading Quarry, and the rock from south of Eskridge has quite a bit of clay content but it is better than it was. Bush said he has looked at rock by Herington, but they would have to haul it themselves which would cause them to improve their fleet and would be a 1 ½ hour drive each way, so he was looking at other options. Lime content and Clay content of the rock available was discussed. Borg suggested holding off on blading the road at this time until the Commissioners come and view the road. Borg said there is a lot of rock in the ditch from blading so fast and suggested way of using the blade to our advantage. Borg asked for \$5,000 and said we would take care of Alta Vista Road.

Olson said a few miles of Alta Vista Road are pretty bad, and in some places, there is different rock and the road ditch has a lot of gravel in it.

Borg also questioned why using concrete for the new retaining wall and Bush said it was decided to use concrete because of the longevity.

#### **Other Business**

Treasurer Daily Statements for January 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2020 were viewed and signed. Commissioners approved the January payroll and January Vouchers.

Added Tax #03-2019 in the amount of \$220.94 and #04-2019 in the amount of \$229.18 were approved and signed. Board of Tax Appeals Order in the amount of \$3,169.92 Exempting property from the tax roll W 90' Lots 13, 14 Blk 7 City of Alma (Alma Area Foundation) was approved and signed.

#### **Crosswinds Counseling**

Amanda Cunningham, CEO gave and update with 2019 highlights including joining with USD 329 on a grant to provide a full-time therapist in the high school and have hired a customer service representative in the Alma office. Cunningham said they have assisted in two recent town hall

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meetings and are hoping to expand tele video services, so clients do not have to drive to Emporia. Goals include continuing working with the schools.

#### **County Attorney**

County Attorney Tim Liesmann said the building committee chose to do the design build project like what we are currently doing with P1 and he will put together rough drafts for request for qualifications and request for proposals.

#### **Extension**

Agricultural Extension Agent Stephanie Melhus and FACS Agent Bernadette Trieb said that a sign has been ordered for the building and they are planning on hiring someone for the community vitality position. Trieb said 335 people participated in Medicare Part D which is up 45 from last year which resulted in \$155,000 in savings.

#### **Fair Board**

Adam Luckert and Amy Bandel with the Fair Board and Alan Winkler with the Alma Area Foundation gave an update on what is going on at the fairgrounds. Luckert said last summer the north building had the restrooms renovated and they have now painted, studded and insulated and new electrical will go in, they have installed a garage door and a double walk thru door and most of that was provided by Alma Area Foundation donations.

They have entered into an agreement with the Flint Hill Shooters to build a 60' x 80' building that will begin very soon to be completed in 3 to 5 years. Luckert said the building will be used during the county fair and will available for rent with the fees staying with the building to pay utilities, etc.

Luckert said before Thanksgiving they were approached by an anonymous donor to expand/upgrade the livestock barns. Currently they do not have enough seating for the livestock and swine shows. This person is donating \$50,000 towards launching a renovation of the livestock barns to begin after the 2020 County Fair. The Fair Association approached other key donors and not have \$100,000 in donations and have estimated the cost of a 60' x 120' enclosed area at \$150,000 unless concrete is needed which would be additional dollars. They are also looking at a 60' x 160' open air building estimated at \$150,000 for a total of \$300,000 to complete all buildings. Ultimately, they plan a new announcer stand out of native hardwoods that ranchers can put their brand on for a \$500 donation.

Frontier Farm Credit offers a \$10,000 Working Here Fund Grant that supports rural America with grants that benefit agriculture education they plan to apply for and are asking the Commission for a letter of recommendation to help secure the grant. Commissioners are happy to provide a letter of recommendation when they apply for the grant.

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At 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Suber moved to adjourn until Monday February 10th at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Allen seconded; motion passed 2-0.

Minutes approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February 2020.

Board of County Commissioners  
Wabaunsee County

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Joel S. Fager, Chairman

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Rodney L. Allen, Vice-Chairman

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Jim Suber, Member

Attest:

Jennifer A. Savage  
Wabaunsee County Clerk