

# Wabaunsee County Commission

## Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

### Regular Meeting Minutes January 25, 2021

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The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, January 25, 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.

#### **Flint Hills Regional Council Membership**

Jim MacGregor, Economic Development Director joined the meeting. The Commissioners discussed renewing the annual membership with the Flint Hills Regional Council. MacGregor asked that the commissioners consider renewing for 2021, giving him an opportunity to evaluate the opportunities available to the county.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve paying the 2021 membership with the Flint Hills Regional Council of \$2,290.80; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hier was appointed to serve on the Flint Hills Regional Council representing Wabaunsee County.

MacGregor shared that he has attended city council meetings in Alma, Alta Vista and Paxico, and is scheduled to attend Eskridge. MacGregor reported that he has been meeting with businesses and residents and attended the Planning Commission meeting.

#### **Department Head Update**

Department Heads met on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Items discussed included County Health Administrator warned staff that the south parking lot will be reserved for vaccination appointments in the coming weeks. Under-Sheriff Wilson gave a construction update with an anticipated finish date in April. The used window units are being stored until a decision is made to remove them. County Appraiser shared that SB13 passed right out of the Tax Committee, the bill would do away with the Tax Lid and require a hearing and a written letter to every taxpayer if a budget is increased.

Commissioners discussed the disposal of the window unit air conditioners and agreed to donate them to Community Care Ministries to be offered to Wabaunsee County Residents.

#### **Resolutions**

Commissioner Hier moved to approve Resolution 2021-03 A Resolution concerning transfer of funds for Fire District Number 8 to the Special Equipment Fund in the amount of \$24,818.97. Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve Resolution 2021-04 A Resolution Waiving the requirement of Accounting Procedures as specified in K.S.A. 75-1120a(c)(1). Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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Commissioner Allen moved to approve Resolution 2021-05 A Resolution Authorizing Tax Sale. Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the minutes of the January 11<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting, Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

9:30 a.m. Commissioner Fager moved to enter Executive Session regarding non-elected personnel to discuss wages, with Ryan Michaelis present, for 15 minutes, Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

9:44 a.m. Commissioners returned from Executive Session. No action was taken.

#### **Smithsonian Coming to Wabaunsee County**

Patty Reece, founder of the The Volland Foundation, joined the meeting. Reece introduced herself and shared that The Volland Foundation had applied and been accepted as a host site for a traveling exhibit presented by the Smithsonian. The exhibit is titled “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” and will be in Wabaunsee County March 13 – April 25, 2021 with the main exhibit at The Volland Store and a complimentary exhibit at the Wabaunsee County Historical Society. The exhibit will feature the Wabaunsee County story, as well as the Nation’s story in addressing change in rural America. The local planning committee is developing a printed program that will encourage visitors to go out and ‘tour’ Wabaunsee County sites as a part of the exhibit experience. The program will have a map that could be saved and used on future trips through the county. Visits to see the static exhibit will be by appointment only, to limit the number of people in close proximity. Appointments will open on March 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.thevollandstore.com](http://www.thevollandstore.com). John Hund, committee member, joined via zoom to share his appreciation for the opportunity to host this exhibit and share the local story. Commissioners expressed their support for the project.

#### **Health Department Update**

Health Department Administrator Ray Finley shared the Covid update, there are 46 active, 13 deaths, and 1 in the hospital. The Health Department has started Phase 2 vaccinations, scheduling appointments as the vaccines arrive. They received 100 doses this week and expect 100 doses to arrive next week. 60 people were vaccinated in Phase 1. More than 1,000 residents have signed up so far. Vaccinations are being offered to the most elderly first. When running at full capacity the Health Department expects to be able to vaccinate 80 people a day. When larger deliveries start coming in, they will schedule clinics out in the county.

#### **EOC Update**

The Governor’s Executive order sunsets tomorrow, January 26<sup>th</sup>. The EOC recommendation is to consider adopting a resolution to make the mask mandate issued by the Governor ‘in place, but only when 6 foot social distancing isn’t possible, or when 30 people are in a gathering.’ Commissioners agreed that they anticipate the Governor to extend the order and opted not to adopt a new resolution.

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**Planning Commission Positions**

At 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Fager moved to enter executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected officials regarding the planning commission recommendations to fill vacant positions. Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

10:35 a.m. Commissioners left executive session. No action was taken.

County Attorney Tim Liesmann stated that the Zoning Conditional Use Permit Hearing will be held Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> during the Commissioner Meeting, all testimony will be heard at that time.

Treasurer Daily Statements for January 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 20 were viewed and signed by Chairman Fager.

Commissioners reviewed and signed Payroll Change Notices.

Commissioners reviewed and signed Tax Abatement #2020-AB28 in the amount of \$68.24.

At 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn until Monday, February 1st at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

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