

Wabaunsee County Commission
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS
Regular Meeting Minutes June 15, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday June 15, 2020. In compliance with the CDC guidelines to maintain social distancing 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. County Attorney Tim Liesmann, and County Clerk Jennifer Savage were in attendance.

County Extension/Community Vitality 2021 Appropriation Request

County Extension Agents Stephanie Melhus and Bernadette Trieb discussed their roles with Economic Development/Community Vitality. Melhus provided a handout of what K-State approves for the to do concerning community vitality and also two appropriation requests depending on what services it is decided on that Extension will continue to provide. Appropriation with Extension doing no economic development \$154,000, appropriation with Extension doing E-Loans, Network KS, and tourism \$167,000.

Melhus provided information on what they have done so far this year including working with E Community Loans, Network Kansas, and an updated business directory. She estimated for them to continue with the two programs it would cost \$24,000 per year with \$2,000 per month divided among the three staff.

County Attorney Tim Liesmann reminded that with the demerger of economic development the Commission makes the final call as to what county extension will retain as duties, funds, and which direction to continue. Commissioner Allen said he does not think will need a full-time position. Melhus said they are happy to continue with the E-Loans and Network Kansas. Commissioner Fager said there are different options, if Extension wants \$24,000 for this year that would leave \$44,000 for 2021 to go towards economic development. Melhus said she will help for the remainder of the year anything they have continued to do they will. Melhus appropriation for 2021 is Appropriation with Extension doing no economic development \$154,000, appropriation with Extension doing E-Loans, Network KS and tourism \$167,000.

Monthly progress reports from the first of the year were also provided.

Commissioner Fager made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-10, a resolution establishing an Economic Development Department effective July 1, 2020. Commissioner Allen seconded motion passed 3-0.

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Public Hearing CDBG-CV Grant

9:25 am A public hearing was held concerning the county applying for COVID-19 grant funds thru the CDBG-CV grant, no public present, hearing was closed.

Fire District No 2 2021 Budget Request

Hal Mayer and Greg Brown said they are doing well and feel their request for 2021 can be half of what they received in 2020. They have rebuilt some trucks and now have 5 brush trucks. Brown said their biggest issue is that the 911 calls for the fire district in their area go to Geary County rather than Wabaunsee County which is a concern for them.

Water Incursion Scoring

County Attorney Tim Liesmann said we need to tally the water incursion scoring to proceed with the design build project. Liesmann said P1 Group and the Law Company both submitted proposals. Discussion included concerns about mortar repair in the jail to electrical upgrades. Liesmann said at this point this is a design build project so it can be changed to develop the scopes

Scores were compiled by Liesmann with P1 Group 129 The Law Company 112. Liesmann opened cost proposal bids with P1 \$746,160 and The Law Company \$1,049,200.

Commissioner Fager said looking at the scores and the cost he would make a motion to proceed with P1 Group for the water incursion project Commissioner Allen seconded, motion passed 3-0. Commissioner Fager thanked both companies for looking at the project. Liesmann will begin work with bonding companies.

Fire District No. 6 2021 Budget Request

Gary Ringel Fire Chief said they have been working on the building they purchased at 123 W 3rd St in Alma and have borrowed \$160,000 from Firemen's Relief funds and are getting \$310,000 in bonds to be able to proceed with completing the inside of the building. Ringel said they are requesting a ½ mill increase for 2021.

Fire District No 7 2021 Budget Request

Shawn Flach Treasurer gave a brief update and said they are requesting the same levy as 2020.

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Wabaunsee County Fair Association

Mary Reed Spencer gave an update on the recent livestock show. Spencer also reported on progress of the improvements to begin at the fairgrounds after this year's fair, including demolition of the old beef barn and building a new building Spencer said they are up to \$170,00 toward those costs and that Frontier Farm Credit offers grants. They are going to apply for a \$10,000 grant and asked for a letter of recommendation from the County Commissioners. Commissioners were happy to sign a letter of recommendation.

Other Business

Commissioner Fager said he would move forward to form a committee of 3 to 5 people to determine how the county should move ahead with Economic Development.

Treasurer Daily Statements for May 6 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 & 29, 2020.

Neighborhood Revitalization Refunds for \$25,976.80 and Abatement No. 2019-29 for \$117.66 were approved and signed.

At 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Fager made a motion to adjourn until 9 a.m. Monday June 22nd. Commissioner Allen seconded; motion passed 3-0.

Minutes approved this _____ day of June 2020.

Joel Fager, Chairman

Rodney L. Allen, Vice-Chairman

Jim Suber, Member

Attest:

Jennifer A. Savage

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