

Wabaunsee County Commission  
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS  
Regular Meeting Minutes June 29, 2020

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The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday June 29, 2020. 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 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, County Clerk Jennifer Savage, Zoning Administrator David Breiner were in attendance.

**American Medical Response 2021 Subsidy request**

Jon Antrim and Charles “Mickey” Huber, Kansas Operations Manager met with the Commission to discuss the 2021 Subsidy request for ambulance service in the county and provided a handout for the year in review. Antrim discussed call volume base on locations and the fact that COVID has reduced the number of calls per operation because people just don’t want to go to the hospitals. Antrim said he is requesting the subsidy remain the same as it is for 2020 but asked for a 5% increase on base rated and mileage charge be the same as Medicare allowable mileage charge of \$14.43 per mile. Commissioner Allen made a motion that for 2021 Mileage be set at \$14.43 per mile and base rate be increased 5%. Commissioner Suber seconded, Commissioner Fager abstained, motion passed.

**SPARKS – CARES Act**

Emergency Manager Amy Terrapin, County Health Administrator Ray Finley and Sheriff Rob Hoskins met with the Commission to discuss the CARES Act for Corona Virus relief. Terrapin said \$400 Million will be distributed between 103 counties. In Wabaunsee County that will be calculated at \$210 person or approximately \$1.5 million. Terrapin said theses funds can be utilized for COVID related expenses, can be distributed to schools and cities for direct aid for payroll and expenses for telemedicine, telework, things caused by COVID for example Finley said he can claim a percent of his time that is dedicated to COVID. Terrapin said the state wants direct aid timeline by August 15 and how the county plans to distribute the funds. Terrapin would like to develop a SPARK taskforce committee. A resolution will also need to be adopted by the county by July 13<sup>th</sup>, which County Attorney Liesmann is working on. Finley said there are tight timelines on this, Terrapin said many counties are utilizing an outside source to handle the funds and what can be paid out of the funds. Finley said the state will be sending something to the county clerk as the point of contact. Sheriff Hoskins requested that

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Emergency Manager Amy Terrapin be the point of contact. Terrapin said the 1<sup>st</sup> round of funds will be County, Schools and Cities and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> rounds will be directed towards businesses. The SPARKS Committee will consist of Emergency Manager Amy Terrapin, County Attorney Tim Liesmann, County Health Administrator Ray Finley, County Clerk Jennifer Savage, County Treasurer Karen Callaway, Undersheriff Brett Wilson, County Commissioner Joel Fager and Jim MacGregor.

**Road & Bridge**

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush said he is purchasing a new dump truck and asked whether he must pay federal excise tax. He is having a truck built and it takes 6 months. He is looking at a Peterbilt that is priced at \$130,000 and is requesting authority to negotiate a price. Bush is also getting bids on a three-sided storage building for equipment, and a brush chipper. Approval to negotiate a price on the truck was given. Bush said that Bridge No. 87 on Headwaters Rd is complete, and the Skyline Rd project is in the pre-engineering phase. Commissioner Allen asked about the haul route for the Sage Quarry, Bush said a new route is proposed South Boundary to Echo Cliff south to K4 Hwy.

Commissioner Fager and Bush went to Nemaha County and looked at roads that the deep recycle had been used. Bush wants approval to start getting bids for Old K10 Hwy.

**2021 Budget Preparation**

Randy Gassman was asked if his firm would be interested in administrating the CARES Act Funds. County Attorney Liesmann will send him some information.

Commissioner Fager said the county cash carry over is about 2/3 of where he would like it to be. Gassman will be gathering information today to begin preparing the 2021 budget.

Undersheriff Brett Wilson discussed the School Resource Officer (SRO) grant for \$220,000. This grant allows for two school resource officers to be hired. Wilson said the grant covers the first 3 years and the 4<sup>th</sup> year it is all on the Sheriff Department. Wilson said they do not know if the grant is all in one lump sum or in increments, it only pays for payroll. Wilson said if the grant does not come through in 2020, they will be around \$37,000 over budget this year. Gassman said in general grant dollars to not have

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to be budgeted and are not subject to budget violations. Gassman recommends the funds be set up in an account outside the general fund.

Sheriff Hoskins would like to budget to set aside funds each year so by the 4<sup>th</sup> year the funds would be available to pay the SRO. Hoskins said the schools plan to contribute a little more than their 25% which would also go toward the 4<sup>th</sup> year expenses. Gassman said the sheriff could budget more each year and transfer to a reserve fund the end of each year.

**Other Business**

The minutes of June 1 and June 8 were approved.

Commissioners set the 2021 Budget request for Economic Development at \$60,000. Treasurer Daily Statements for June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 15 were viewed and signed by the chairman.

At 11:18 a.m. Commissioner Allen made a motion to adjourn until 9 a.m. Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Suber seconded, motion passed 3-0.

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

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Joel 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