

Wabaunsee County Commission
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS
Regular Meeting Minutes March 16, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday March 16, 2020. Members present 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. The March 9th minutes were approved.

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush, Health Administrator Ray Finley, Emergency Manager Amy Terrapin, Alex Gnadt, Amanda Gnadt, Zoning Administrator David Breiner, Register of Deeds Marcy Merritt, County Attorney Tim Liesmann, County Clerk Jennifer Savage were in attendance.

COVID-19

Health Administrator Ray Finley said with the coronavirus (COVID-19) health officials are trying to flatten the curve, to not exceed the capacity of the health care to take care of those that are sick. Finley said the incubation period is 2 to 14 days on COVID-19. Currently the CDC and KDHE are not in a panic and are taking precautionary moves so the healthcare system can keep up.

Finley recommended to go to the KDHE website under the COVID-10 banner and they give recommendations and guidelines. Terrapin said there are daily updates, this is a respiratory disease it is not the flu. Finley said currently Kansas has had 8 persons test positive with one death, 4 Kansas counties have confirmed cases with Franklin County being the closest. It is time to start thinking about helping anyone in self isolation. Terrapin said she and Finley are taking calls together with KDHE and a lot of counties are declaring a disaster, she would like a 60-day disaster declaration which would allow us to get state resources and reduce some of our liability. Commissioner Allen made a motion to declare COVID-19 a public health crisis and declare a disaster. Commissioner Suber seconded, motion passed 3-0.

Sheriff Hoskins said he completed a grant last week to hire a school resource officer, if the grant is accepted it would pay 75% of the wages and schools would make up the difference.

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Alma Township Board members Suzanne Simon, Jim Heine and Bill Havenstein joined the meeting. Stanley Havenstein, Jesse Gehrt, Joe Capoun and Curtis Capoun were also in attendance.

Bill Havenstein said he wanted to clarify some things on a conditional use permit for a quarry in Alma Township. Havenstein said Alma Township has one mile of road on the haul route and the operator is responsible for the damage to the roads. Havenstein said that he and Gnadt have talked and Gnadt was very agreeable to fixing that portion of the road. Havenstein said the roads are not built for 80,000 lbs. vehicles and we have to come up with some type of impact fees.

Liesmann feels we are getting closer to working on a solution, an engineer will review the haul routes and the townships will OK the routes prior to issuance of a conditional use permit providing the planning commission approves the process, it would allow the applications to have more involvement up front from the engineer.

Simon asked why the township boards have not been actively involved up to this point, why have they have not been sent notification of planning commission meeting or sent the conditional use permit when it impacts the township roads. Simon asked who is the police and checks on the conditions of the permit, condition 7 says the township can address the maintenance of the road but they never receive copies of the resolutions, and why are the conditions different on some conditional use permits

Liesmann said the Zoning Administrator initiates if any action needs to be made so if a township has an issue, they should contact the zoning administrator. Simon said the quarry operator should know who they have to answer to and answers should be in black and white so all know where they stand. Heine said that any correspondence between the township and operators the zoning administrator should be aware of and kept in the loop.

Gnadt said as an operator the rock quarries are growing in Wabaunsee county, he is happy to put gravel on the roads and is willing to do anything the road needs so he can haul out. Simon said she would like for the operators to know if they answer to the township boards or the zoning administrator and as a township board member, she

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would like to know that also. Liesmann said the Zoning Administrator is to police the conditional use permits.

Commissioner Fager said we need to work on communication and set up a policy. Commissioner Allen said the conditional use permit resolutions are to be mailed to the townships involved in the future.

Gehrt said there needs to be a structure to fall back on for how things operate, and to streamline for all quarries and revamp for the planning commission and townships to look over the permit application prior to approval, the conditional use permit needs to be updated with clear language to move forward and be fair for all parties involved.

At 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Fager moved to adjourn until 9:00 a.m. Monday March 23rd, 2020. Commissioner Suber seconded, motion passed 3-0.

Minutes approved this _____ day of March 2020.

Joel Fager, Chairman

Rodney L. Allen, Vice-Chairman

Jim Suber, Member

Attest:

Jennifer A. Savage
Wabaunsee County Clerk