

# Wabaunsee County Commission

## Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

### Regular Meeting Minutes March 2, 2020

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The Board of Wabaunsee County Commissioners in session Monday March 2, 2020. Members present were Rodney L. Allen, Joel S. Fager and Jim Suber. Chairman Fager called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush, County Attorney Tim Liesmann, Zoning Administrator David Breiner, Nancy Hier, Kaw Township Board Members Bruce Poppelreiter and David Schlieff, George Hund, Wilfred Hund, Carolyn Matthews, Kenneth & Peggy Flagler, Appraiser Ryan Michaelis, Jerry Hund, Paul Schweir, Randy Lilley, County Clerk Jennifer Savage, Sheriff Rob Hoskins were in attendance.

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush handed out a publication referencing Full Depth Reclamation which is a pavement rehabilitation technique he is considering using in the future.

#### **Dragon Fly Road**

Kenneth Flagler provided a map of the issue to be discussed and stated this has been discussed before the Commission in the past and the road is getting to the point that something needs to be done one way or the other. (Flagler met with the Commission October 28, 2019 and discussed the condition of Dragonfly Road and the fact the road and ditches were worked on which affected the fence on his property along the road). At this time Flagler would like to have the minimum maintenance road put back to a full maintenance road and asked for the definition of a minimum maintenance road. County Attorney Tim Liesmann said there is not a statute that defines minimum maintenance roads. Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush said the last few resolutions declaring minimum maintenance roads have stated they need graded twice a year and mowed once a year. Kaw Township Board member Bruce Poppelreiter said they try to grade minimum maintenance roads twice a year and stated there are roads in the township that have been terrible for at least 20 years. Commissioner Allen said his issue is this is an issue between the township and landowners not the Commissioners.

Kaw Township Board member David Schlieff said they are doing what they can with what they have and are willing to work with Flagler on the fencing and the road. However, the roads need to dry up. Poppelreiter said they are doing their level best to get things done and don't know what else to do, he said they (township) are not bull headed on this deal, last year the budget was wiped out because of the rain and the roads were damaged. Many ideas and options were discussed on ways to correct the current situation, making the road passable to extending the width of the road but the township does not have the funds. Bush said there is not a simple fix otherwise the township would have fixed it by now, the road need ditches and some rock on it.

It was suggested that a long-range plan/solution needs to be worked out and put in place between the township and the landowner.

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

Justin Kuzila, Community Development Planner with the Flint Hills Regional Council presented the Wabaunsee County Housing Assessment. Findings of the study were:

- Median Home Values in Wabaunsee County are slightly outpacing Median Household Incomes.
- There is a demand for owner-occupied housing units.
- Households 64 to 74 years of age are growing the fastest.
- The total population is declining in Wabaunsee County. But Alma, Alta Vista, Eskridge, Harveyville, McFarland, Maple Hill and Paxico are seeing population increases.
- The vacancy rate in Wabaunsee County has increased to 19 percent.

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The following were recommendations:

- An increase in the number of owner-occupied units for all households making \$34,000 and over annually in Alta Vista, Eskridge, Harveyville, McFarland, and Paxico. This should be done by rehabilitating less desirable units or building new units.
- An increase in the number of owner-occupied units available for households with annual incomes over \$50,000 in Alma.
- An increase in the number of owner-occupied units available for households with annual incomes over \$75,000 in Maple Hill.
- Demolish dilapidated vacant units in Alma, Alta Vista, Eskridge and Harveyville.
- Create Rehabilitation programs to assist with owner-occupied unit repairs.

Kuzila said it is very important everyone is counted in the census because it involves a lot of money that is available.

#### **Other business**

Carolyn Matthews of Paxico asked the Commissioners if any of the Commissioners were planning to attend the Kansas Rural Water Association annual conference March 24 to March 26, 2020 in Wichita, KS. Matthews said she wanted the county to be aware this was going on and encourage them to attend.

Ryan Michaelis asked if the Commissioners would like to put the mowing out on bid this year. They agreed they should, and Liesmann will prepare an advertisement for the paper. Michaelis also asked Bush if his department would be able to haul off some of the dirt in the front yard and put the rocks back for the flower bed. Bush said they would.

Treasurer Daily Statements for February 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 & 26 were viewed and signed. Commissioners approved and signed the February vouchers.

Bush said Wilmington Township has contacted him and would like to hire the county to do some work for them, currently the township dump truck is broken down. The township will pay the county at the FEMA rate of \$85 to \$100 per hour. Commissioner Allen made a motion for the Road & Bridge department assist Wilmington Township hauling gravel on Sandpiper Road at the FEMA rate. Commissioner Fager seconded, motion passed 3-0.

Bush handed out the completed Paved Road Maintenance Plan for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Maintenance completed in 2017 were Old K10 Chip/Seal and 1.5" Overlay on Harveyville Road. 2018 McFarland Road Chip/Seal, Paxico Road Chip/Seal, Maple Hill Road Chip/Seal and 1.5" Overlay Keen-Eskridge Road and 2019 Mission Valley Road Chip/Seal & Crack Seal, Harveyville Road Chip/Seal, 1.5" Overlay Miller Road and 1.5" Overlay Carlson Rd.

Paved Road Maintenance Planned for 2021 Full Depth Recycle Double Chip/Seal the East ½ 9.5 miles Old K10 Road and Chip/Seal Crack Seal/Striping Keene-Eskridge Road and the Paved Road Maintenance Plan for 2021-2024.

At 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Fager moved to adjourn until 9:00 a.m. Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Commissioner Suber seconded, motion passed 3-0.

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Minutes approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March 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