

Wabaunsee County Commission  
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS  
Regular Meeting Minutes May 18, 2020

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The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday May 18, 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, Health Administrator Ray Finley and County Clerk Jennifer Savage were in attendance.

**Department Head Meeting**

Health Administrator Ray Finley, County Attorney Tim Liesmann, County Clerk Jennifer Savage were in attendance. Department Heads attending by Zoom were Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush, County Appraiser Ryan Michaelis, Register of Deeds Marcy Merritt, Custodian Jenny Henderson, Emergency Manager Amy Terrapin, Noxious Weed Director Tonya Hensley, and County Treasurer Karen Callaway.

Finley said Wabaunsee County is currently operating at phase 1.5, the EOC chose to follow the State and we will be in phase 1.5 for a minimum of two weeks. Currently 4 active COVID-19 cases with one hospitalization.

Michaelis said he is in the process of certifying values.

Callaway introduced her new employee Jesey Vopata.

Discussion was held concerning educating the public on the Road & Bridge Sales Tax which will be voted on in November. Suggestions were to place signs at completed projects, articles in the paper that are informational.

**Road & Bridge**

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush provided the agreement between Secretary of Transportation and Wabaunsee County, Kansas for replacement of Bridge No. 11. This is for replacing the bridge located on Eagles Nest Road, 4.0 miles west and 5.1 miles north of Maple Hill, over a tributary to the Kansas River in Wabaunsee County. This is a 90/10 split with KDOT paying \$200,000 toward the project. Commissioners signed the agreement for Project No. 99-C-5031-01 of the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program for Bridge Replacement Agreement No. 38-20.

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Commissioner Suber provided a legal contract between Richard Feyh, Feyh Properties LLC, and Wabaunsee to purchase easement for ground for the replacement of Bridge NO. 11 on Eagles Nest Road. The county purchased .36 acres for \$2,610.

**Water Incursion Project**

County Attorney Tim Liesmann said two companies will be submitting Request for Qualifications on June 8<sup>th</sup> for the Water Incursion Project for the Courthouse. These RFQ's will need to be scored, after discussion it was decided that to allow a week to review and do the scoring process on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library**

Regional Library Director Judith Cremer provided the 2021 Budget request for the Pottawatomie Regional Library. Board members Sandra Jensen and Pam Bales attended by Zoom. Cremer gave an overview of how the libraries are operating during the COVID-19 pandemic including offering curbside service and staff have been calling patrons to see if they were ok and if they needed assistance. Cremer is requesting for 2021.

**County Extension 2021 Budget Appropriation**

Ag Extension Agent Stephanie Melhus, FACS Agent Bernadette Trieb and Board Member Jerry Haahr provided an update and the 2021 appropriation request. Melhus said they are requesting \$150,000 in county appropriation for 2021. Melhus said they are still working remotely and will re-evaluate on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held concerning the Community Vitality position. Melhus said the extension office cannot really meet the needs of that position, K-State does not have a specialist to help with economic development, they could only do certain aspects of economic development and could not fulfill all of them, they are will to handle the E Community Loans. Melhus said the Extension Council has also discussed this and are OK if the county takes back the full position.

Melhus said they are producing the 2020 business directory and will honor any ads that have been paid for in the past. Commissioner Fager said they would move forward to reallocate back to our own economic development and asked Melhus to let them know what has been spent toward economic development/community vitality to date. Fager said what the county wants in an economic development director is not

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what the extension can do, and they need to work toward a resolution. County Attorney Liesmann will draft a resolution

**Planning, Zoning & Sanitation 2021 Budget Request**

Zoning Administrator David Breiner requested \$41,000 for 2021. The 2020 approved budget was \$40,260. The 2021 Sanitation Budget request was \$22,300 the same as the approved 2020.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-08, a resolution to Certify Legal Authority and Authorization to Apply for the CDBG-CV grant. Commissioner Suber seconded, motion passed 3-0.

The minutes of May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 11<sup>th</sup> were approved as presented.

At 11:17 a.m. Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn until 9:00 a.m. Monday June 1st, 2020. Commissioner Suber seconded, motion passed 3-0.

Minutes approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June 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