

**Wabaunsee County Commission**  
**Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes October 19, 2020**

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The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, October 19, 2020. In compliance with the CDC guidelines to maintain social distancing Commissioners conduct and record the meeting over Zoom. Members attending were Joel S. Fager, Rodney Allen and James Suber. Chairman Fager called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. County Attorney Tim Liesmann, Road and Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush and County Clerk elect Abby Amick were in attendance.

**Road & Bridge**

Thayne Bush, Road & Bridge Supervisor provided an update on Bridge #11 Eagle Nest Road, and shared photos of the bridge completion. Bush shared an update on Skyline Road, he is meeting with KDOT and Co Engineer to fieldcheck the plans for the slope protection where the road is being eaten away by the creek. Bush updated the Commissioners on the Belvue Bridge, pavement is being replaced this week in cooperation with Peter Clark, Pott Co Public Works; WB is committing signs, equipment and labor; the bridge will be closed 8-4, and open other hours.

Regarding the City of Paxico signage, Bush stated that the county is responsible for the center 24' of road, the city is responsible for the signage. Newbury Street is county maintained.

**Planning Commission Update**

Zoning Administrator David Breiner reported that the planning commission heard requests from Pam Tennison-Rindt for a conditional use permit to have a Dog Breeding Facility on South Boundary Road; a conditional use permit renewal request from Matt and Sarah Vincent for a rental property at 469 E Flint Hills Dr; a conditional use permit renewal request from Jim Woodward (contact person onsite is Dave Fredricks) for 421 E Flint Hills Dr.; and a variance request from Kenneth Moore to reduce a side and front set back to construct a garage.

Breiner shared an update on his research regarding building codes in surrounding counties. Breiner also shared that he has been contact by a developer interested in buying 2,000 acres to establish an industrial scale solar panel farm in the county. Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, joined the meeting to discuss how solar panels could be taxed.

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**Bond Sale**

Greg Vahrenberg, Raymond James, joined by phone. Vahrenberg reviewed the process with the Commissioners. A 15 year repayment on the bond was selected by the County, the rating report issued an A+ rating, with very complimentary comments. The Bond Sale happened at 9:00 a.m. The winning bid was Robert Baird, with a rate of 1.427%, the second bid was from Commerce Bank at 1.7%. Robert Baird paid a premium to the County of \$16,000, reducing the size of the Bond. Robert Baird did include Bond Insurance in their bid. The closing of the Bond will be on October 29th. The total bond is \$1,375,000. The annual payment will vary 1st year \$96,000 and \$103-105,000 per year for the remainder of the bond.

County Attorney Tim Liesmann presented the Bond Resolution to the Commissioners. Commissioner Fager moved to approve Resolution 2020-24 to issue \$1,375,000 General Obligation Bonds Series 2020A. Commissioner Allen seconded; motion passed 3-0.

**Appraiser**

Ryan Michaelis, County Appraiser, presented bids for a new truck for his department. Commissioner Allen made the motion to approve the purchase of the truck. Commissioner Suber seconded; motion passed 3-0.

The Wabaunsee County Zoom meeting ended at 10:25 am. The Commissioners joined the Pottawatomie County Zoom meeting at 10:30 am

**Belvue Bridge**

PT County Public Works Director, Peter Clark, outlined the two options the commissioners are considering: \$7.5 million or the \$11.5 million. PT Commissioner McKee said in order to go forward they would need to look at bonding. WB Commissioner Rodney Allen moved to process with the \$7.5 million option. WB Commissioner James Suber stressed the need to look at a 100-year bridge. PT Commissioner Riat would like to process. WB Commissioner Rodney Allen withdrew his motion. PT Commissioner Weixelman said, if we go with a higher option would Wabaunsee agree to a higher split over the 88% / 12%. PT Public Works Director, Peter Clark, recommended moving forward with an engineering study with Finney and Turnipseed for \$200,000. Clark briefed on the current repairs needed and crews would work on them October 26-30, closing the bridge daily during work hours. Shillings would do the patchwork at a cost of \$30,000, County crews would do the cleaning/sweeping and

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Wabaunsee Road and Bridge Department has agreed to help. PT Commissioner Weixelman moved to have Finney and Turnipseed do the research and engineering for the 7.5 million rehabilitation project. PT Commissioner Riat seconded, motion carried 2-1, with PT Commissioner McKee opposing. Wabaunsee County agreed to move forward with the engineering study, and have both county attorneys draw up an agreement for research into the \$7.5 million project.

Treasurer Daily Statements for October 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15 were viewed and signed by Chairman.

At 11:32 a.m. Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn until Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Fager seconded; motion passed 3-0.

Minutes approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December 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