

Wabaunsee County Commission
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS
Regular Meeting Minutes September 21, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday September 21, 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 and Jim Suber. Commissioner Allen was absent. Chairman Fager called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. County Attorney Tim Liesmann and County Clerk Jennifer Savage were in attendance

COVID 19 Update

County Health Administrator Ray Finley said the county is currently setting at 66 cases, 5 are active, with 2 hospitalized, 61 are recoveries. Finley said at this time the numbers have stabilized.

CARES-SPARK Program Update

Jim MacGregor said over Labor Day the county received approval from the state to proceed, MacGregor gave the following update:

- Investment in fair grounds item has been pulled now,
- Received 38 small business grant requests
- Have Start writing checks and have spent \$520,000 so far between the School Districts and small businesses
- The funds are kept in separate account that draws no interest
- We are on track in payment and monitoring phase collecting documents
- ALSO, the City of Alma received a grant and will pay out to 7 small businesses, in addition both long term care facilities will be receiving direct payments from the state.
- Fixed wireless internet project is moving forward and could bring internet to appx 900 residences.
- Helped several businesses apply for grants from the state, there have been many opportunities

Commissioner Suber asked for examples of assistance to small businesses, MacGregor said the businesses are given money bases on their size and economic level of their employees. Assistance ranged from \$8,000 to \$20,000 which can be used for payroll, utilities, anything to help their business.

Carolyn Matthews Paxico Intersection

Paxico resident Carolyn Matthews said she has been a resident of Paxico for three years and owns a business and would like to talk about the intersection at Main and Newbury Rd in

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Paxico. Matthews said there are two crosswalks at that intersection, and it is not marked for parking which interferes with the safety of the intersection. Matthews said there are children on bicycles and people walking and the intersection is not marked with yellow paint or a sign. Commissioner Suber said she needs to contact the City of Paxico. Sheriff Rob Hoskins was also in attendance and Commissioner Suber asked for his guidance, Sheriff Hoskins said it is up to the City of Paxico to mark parking spaces and crosswalks. Matthews said this issue needs addressed, and she does not want to be on that street when someone gets hit.

Planning Commission Update

Zoning Administrator David Breiner said the planning commission heard request from Rick Hurla for a variance to add a house on his property on Strowig Mill Road for one of his children and passed a renewal of an Air BNB for Anthony & Judy Pleviak.

Breiner said the 90-day appeal period for the Flood Plain maps will end in 30 days. Commissioner Fager asked for an update on the Zoning maps that has marked areas for development.

Building Update

County Attorney Tim Liesmann said two companies have come and looked at the boiler and they have received a bid to replace the 9-section boiler with a 7-section boiler for \$28,741.00. Liesmann said this would be paid out of budgeted funds and not financed. Boiler replacement is expected to take place in October.

Road & Bridge

Thayne Bush Road & Bridge Supervisor provided a request and petition from Rural Water District No. 2 to bore across Chert Rd in Alma Township. Request has been approved by the township board and by Bush. Commissioner Suber made a motion to approve the Request and Petition for Rural Water District No. 2. Commissioner Fager seconded; motion passed 2-0.

Bush requested a CAT loader be declared surplus property as it is unreliable and be sold on Purple Wave Auction per Resolution 2005-30. Commissioners agreed.

Other business

County Attorney Tim Liesmann provided the contract between USD 329 and Wabaunsee County for purchase of the communication tower on North McFarland Road. Liesmann said the tower is old but has passed inspection. Commissioner Fager moved to approve and sign the contract. Commissioner Fager seconded; motion passed 2-0. SPARKS funds will be used for the purchase.

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Commissioner Fager made a motion to approve the minutes of August 17, August 17 Canvass, August 24, August 31, and September 14, 2020 meetings. Commissioner Suber seconded; motion passed 2-0.

Treasurer Daily Statements for September 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 14, 2020 were viewed and signed by Chairman.

Commissioner Fager said the committee to search for an Economic Development Director had met and agreed the position should be a county employee and came up with a job description and to move forward with advertising for the position, it would be a salary position and would report directly to the County Commissioner.

At 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Fager made a motion to adjourn until Monday September 28 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Suber seconded; motion passed 2-0.

Minutes approved this _____ day of December 2020.

Joel Fager, Chairman

Rodney L. Allen, Vice-Chairman

Jim Suber, Member

Attest:

Jennifer A. Savage
Wabaunsee County Clerk