

Wabaunsee County Commission
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS
Regular Meeting Minutes September 28, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday September 28, 2020. In compliance with the CDC guidelines to maintain social distancing Commissioners conduct and record 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 and County Clerk Jennifer Savage were in attendance.

Department Head Meeting

Ray Finley County Health Administrator said the county is up to 70 COVID cases, 67 are in recovery, 3 actives with 2 in the hospital. Finley said they have started flu vaccines.

County Extension Agent Stephanie Melhus said they are still working with Medicare and towards the 4-H achievement night and the Business Directories will be available October 15th. Sheriff Hoskins discussed a situation with an employee who has been unable to take vacation and is requested a one time pay out for more that the approved 40 hours per year. After discussion Commissioner Suber made a motion to approve and authorize a one-time payment for additional vacation leave pay out rather than it be converted to sick time. Commissioner Allen seconded and stated he would like a more detail explanation of why vacation could not be taken as you have 12 months to use it. Motion passed 3-0.

County Attorney Liesmann said they are getting new prosecution software; he will be taking care of it out of diversion funds and his budget will not take a hit.

Emergency Manager Amy Terrapin said contractors have looked at the building at the communication tower and it will need to be climate controlled, they plan to insulate and paint with fire retardant paint.

County Appraiser Ryan Michaelis said Foley Equipment called and want to install the control panel for the generator in the Sheriff Dispatch soon, he is also looking to upgrade the vehicle for his department.

County Health Administrator

Ray Finley County Health Administrator provided a contract between St. John Lutheran School and Wabaunsee County Health Department for the health department to act as the school

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health nurse. Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the contract, Commissioner Suber seconded, motion passes 3-0.

Other business

Commissioner Fager made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-22, the resolution for the Water Incursion Bond Project for \$1,390,000. Commissioner Allen seconded; motion passed 3-0.

Treasurer Daily Statements for September 15, 16, 17 18 and 21, 2020 were viewed and signed by the Chairman.

Belvue Bridge Discussion

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush went over Engineer's estimates of probable cost for project no. B2016-007 Schoeman Road over Kansas River commonly referred to as the Belvue Bridge. 10 options were provided with the Commissioners in favor of option 6 a new superstructure- concrete deck – two lane – 24.0 ft roadway, estimated 100-year lifespan with total projected costs at \$11,387, 168. Pottawatomie County is in favor of opt 3 redeck existing – concrete deck – one lane – 16.0 ft roadway, estimated 40-50-year lifespan for a projected cost of \$7,479,280. A lengthy discussion followed including the fact that during the 1993 flood, the Belvue Bridge was the only crossable bridge in the county across the Kansas river. Due to the bridge crossing the Kansas River the cost is shared between Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee Counties. Pottawatomie County would be favorable for Wabaunsee County to pay more of a percentage that required by Kansas Statute however Wabaunsee County Commissioners have stated many times they will pay their fair share and stay with the statutory obligation. Bush said it is his understanding if nothing is done to the bridge it will be closed by 2022.

At 10:30 a.m. Commissioners participated in a joint Zoom meeting with Pottawatomie County for discussion on the Belvue Bridge. The same issues were discussed as stated above. It was agreed at this time for patching to be done to the bridge with both counties to share in the cost.

At Noon Commissioner Fager made a motion to adjourn until Monday October 5 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Suber seconded; motion passed 3-0.

Minutes approved this _____ day of December 2020.

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Joel Fager, Chairman

Rodney L. Allen, Vice-Chairman

Jim Suber, Member

Attest:

Jennifer A. Savage
Wabaunsee County Clerk