

Wabaunsee County Commission

Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

Regular Meeting Minutes April 04, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, April 04, 2022. Commissioners conduct the meeting in person and over ZOOM. Members attending were Joel S. Fager, Rodney L. Allen and Nancy L. Hier. Commissioner Fager called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Health Department Administrator Ray Finley, Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush, Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester, Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor, Sheriff Rob Hoskins, resident Jim Foster, County Clerk Abby Amick and County Attorney Tim Liesmann were in attendance in person and others joined via zoom.

Health Department

Health Department Administrator Ray Finley reported 1 active Covid case, 0 hospitalizations and 22 deaths since March of 2020. The Health Department staff attended the Governors Conference on Public Health recently. Many counties across the state reported significant turnover in staffing, Finley and Commissioners shared their appreciation for the Wabaunsee County Health Department Staff, and their commitment to the county.

Road & Bridge

At 9:11 AM Commissioner Fager moved to enter executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel in the Road & Bridge Department; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 9:21 AM Commissioners returned from Executive Session. No action was taken.

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush reported that work is starting on a bridge on Hessdale Road (1/2 mile north of K4 Highway). The county will oversee construction using funding from the Local Bridge Grant. The road will be closed starting Monday, April 11th.

Commissioner Hier and Bush reported on attending the District 1 Highway meeting where they heard about future funding opportunities. Bush reported that there are 178 bridges in the county that undergo a biannual inspection; approximately 23 of those are considered to be in Poor Condition, with an estimated replacement cost of \$10 million. Bush expects KDOT to announce funding opportunities to assist in replacing these bridges but cautioned Commissioners to expect a cost share requirement. Bush shared that 30-40% of the bridges in the county are 75 years old and not designed for the load that they are carrying today. Bush stated that the county has an aging infrastructure that is outpacing the funding available to address it; that is why it is so important to apply for assistance when it is available.

Commissioners also discussed the half cent sales tax, designated to support roads and bridges, that is up for re-election in 2022.

Economic Development

Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor reported that a group of citizens are working to establish a Wabaunsee County Farmer's Market. MacGregor is helping to organize the initial startup. The market will be held on the 1st Saturday of the month (May – September), and serve as a sister market to the Eskridge Farmers Market, held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. MacGregor is working with the State to make the market eligible to use SNAP benefits.

Zoning Hearing

Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester reported that there was one Conditional Use Permit application to consider, filed by Jim Foster for a retail firearms sales and service business. The planning commission approved the permit.

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Commissioner Hier moved to adopt Resolution 2022-16 a Resolution establishing a retail firearms sales and service business at 40501 Elderberry Rd, Belvue, Kansas filed by Jim Foster of Foster Firearms, with the conditions that all applicable regulations will be followed, and the property will not be used as a public shooting range; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion Carried 3-0.

Other Business

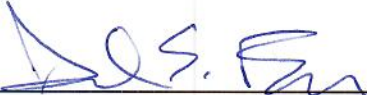
Commissioner Allen moved to appoint Robert Warren to the Cemetery District No 5 Board; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the minutes of the March 28th Commission Meeting; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners reviewed and approved expenses for March 17-30, 2022. Chairman Fager reviewed and signed Daily Statements from March 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30 and 31, 2022. Wage Change Forms and Abatement 2021-AB21 for \$64.74 were reviewed and approved.

At 10:30 AM Commissioner Fager moved to adjourn until Monday, April 11th at 9:00 AM; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.



Minutes approved this 11th day of April 2022.


Joel S. Fager, Chairman


Nancy L. Hier, Vice Chair


Rodney L. Allen, Member

Attest:



Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk