

Wabaunsee County Commission

Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

Regular Meeting Minutes December 20, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, December 20, 2021. In compliance with the CDC guidelines to maintain social distancing Commissioners conduct the meeting in person and over ZOOM. Members attending were Joel S. Fager, Nancy L. Hier and Rodney L. Allen. Commissioner Fager called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush, Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor, Broadband Fellow Amalia Murguia, Undersheriff Brett Wilson, AMR Operations Manager Charles Huber, 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 134 active Covid cases, 1 hospitalization and 19 deaths in Wabaunsee County. Finley is hopeful that the surge will go down as fast as it came on. The Health Department encourages everyone to take extra precautions throughout the holiday season.

American Rescue Plan Committee

Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor and Broadband Fellow Amalia Murguia provided an update from the American Rescue Plan Committee. Wabaunsee County received \$1.3 million in funding and have obligated about 10% of that so far. The Committee is still working through all the requests received. The committee is recommending funding of the Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library project to provide safety cases and warranty on 100 chrome books and hotspots, to be available for checkout through the library system.

Commissioners agreed to fund the Pottawatomie Wabaunsee Regional Library request of \$11,150 from the American Rescue Plan.

Road & Bridge

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush provided a press release from KDOT announcing the opening of the north 2.2 miles of the K-99 construction project. Construction is expected to continue until June 2022. The sections of old pavement that might be transferred to the county have not been negotiated yet.

Ebert Construction will begin work on Bridge 35 on Springcreek Road on Monday, December 27th. The road will remain open during construction. FEMA Funds are being used to repair the bridge from the 2019 flood. Bush reported that Bridge 25 on Willard Road is undergoing geological testing, it has taken longer than expected.

At 9:38 AM Commissioner Fager moved to enter Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel wages until 9:55 AM; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 9:56 AM Commissioner Fager moved to extend Executive Session by 5 minutes to 10:01 AM, Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 10:01 AM Commissioners returned from Executive Session. Commissioner Fager reported that the Road & Bridge Supervisor position is now an exempt salaried position.

Noxious Weed

Noxious Weed Director Tonya Hensley reported that there are several old recycling bins being stored in the Noxious Weed shop that are no longer needed. Hensley has notified other departments, but none are interested. Commissioners asked that the bins be listed for sale on Purple Wave Auction.

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Hensley presented a quote from Fairbank Equipment for a new rental sprayer to replace the current sprayer. The proposed sprayer is designed for pasture use with a 300-gallon tank, adjustable boomless spray nozzles, with a handgun and a gas motor. The current rental sprayer has ongoing maintenance issues, and the trailer is showing a lot of rust. Commissioners asked how much the rental sprayer gets used, Hensley estimated \$5,000 in income last year. Commissioners asked about insurance or cost of damages, Hensley explained that a damage deposit is collected at the time of rental.

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the purchase of the new sprayer from Fairbank Equipment for \$8,991.89; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 10:15 AM Commissioner Fager moved to enter Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel wages until 10:30 AM; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 10:30 AM Commissioners returned from Executive Session. No action was taken.

Ambulance Committee

Ambulance Committee members joined in person: Ray Finley, Assistant Fire Chief at Harveyville Dist 3 JT Smith, Undersheriff Brett Wilson, and Emergency Management Director Amy Terrapin. Terrapin provided an update on the Ambulance contract. The committee has reached an agreement with AMR for a 5-year contract. The terms include a 24/7 ALS unit in Alma and a 24/7 ALS unit in Eskridge at least 80% of the time, as well as an Ambulance in Harveyville. Commissioner Hier asked about the reimbursement to the county when the ALS unit in Eskridge is not staffed at least 80% of the time. Terrapin responded that the contract details a \$25 per day penalty.

Undersheriff Brett Wilson reported that he has worked on a plan to track the use of the Ambulances through dispatching and generate additional data points that the Committee can use to monitor the Ambulance Service in the county. The committee will continue to meet regularly to review the service and discuss future opportunities with AMR.

Fire District #5 has renovated the Ambulance Barn with help from the American Rescue Plan funds. The facility will be ready to use in January 2022. Eskridge Fire will continue to own and maintain the building.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the Emergency Ambulance Service Agreement between Wabaunsee County and Medevac Mid-America, Inc an American Medical Response company beginning January 1, 2022; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Fager abstained.

Other Business

County Attorney Tim Liesmann presented the final Community Corrections Interlocal Agreement for consideration.

Commissioner Hier moved to adopt Resolution 2021-54 a Resolution Adopting the 2nd Judicial District Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Community Corrections; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Terrapin provided an update on the recent windstorm. Wabaunsee County filed an Emergency Declaration, along with 24 other counties. The biggest loss to public facilities was the roof at Mission Valley Schools. The declaration will likely allow for public assistance only, not private losses.

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At 11:03 AM Commissioner Hier moved to enter Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel wages for 10 minutes; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 11:13 AM Commissioners returned from Executive Session. No action was taken.

Commissioners reviewed and approved expenses for December 9 - 15, 2021 and wage change forms for 2022 employee wages. Abatements AB11 of \$28.58, AB12 of \$36.20 and AB13 of \$621.00 were approved and signed.

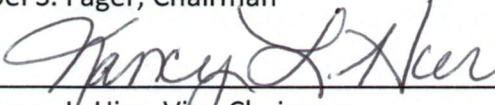
Chairman Fager reviewed and signed Daily Statements for December 10, 13, 14, 15 and 16, 2021.

At 11:35 AM Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn until Monday, December 27th at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

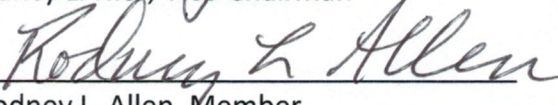
Minutes approved this 27th day of December 2021.



Joel S. Fager, Chairman




Nancy L. Hier, Vice-Chairman



Rodney L. Allen, Member



Attest:



Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk