

Wabaunsee County Commission
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS
Regular Meeting Minutes February 28, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, February 28, 2022. Commissioners conduct the meeting in person and over ZOOM. Members attending were Rodney L. Allen and Nancy L. Hier; Joel S. Fager was absent. Commissioner Hier 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, Register of Deeds Marcy Merritt, County Clerk Abby Amick and County Attorney Tim Liesmann were in attendance in person and others joined via zoom.

Register of Deeds

Register of Deeds Marcy Merritt updated the Commissioners that her office is working with Mid Continent Micro Graphics to scan all of the index books since 1869. The Register of Deeds Tech Fund will cover the expense.

Health Department

Health Department Administrator Ray Finley reported 7 active Covid cases, 0 hospitalizations and 22 deaths in Wabaunsee County. Finley reported that the Health Department is getting back to its normal functions.

Road & Bridge

Commissioner Hier moved to enter executive session to discuss the acquisition of real estate for road easements for a duration of 10 minutes; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioners returned from executive session, no action was taken.

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush reported that the intersection of K-99 and Homestead Road will be closed for construction, but local traffic is allowed to use Homestead Custom Cabinets parking lot to access the roadways.

Economic Development

Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor reported that the American Rescue Plan Committee recommends investing \$75,000 of the ARP funds into the public county wells around the county. The Committee felt that this project would not be done without this funding. The project has the potential to increase the capacity of the wells and make some of the wells potable. There are 6 public wells in the county; over time they have fallen into disrepair. Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush asked for public input to help determine which wells should be highest priority.

MacGregor provided an update on the BASE Grant (Build a Stronger Economy) application. Commissioners signed a letter of commitment for the county match.

Noxious Weed

Noxious Weed Director Tonya Hensley presented the Annual State Report for 2021. The total acres treated by chemical purchased or applied through the Noxious Weed Department in 2021 is 40,343 acres. Commissioners signed the report.

Zoning Update

Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester provided an update from the February 17th planning commission meeting. Variance #628 filed by Tonya Carrier requesting second home for a family member to build a home at 30512 Post Creek Rd Topeka, KS – passed unanimously; CUP #25 Renewal filed by Patty Reece agent for The Volland Foundation for establishing rental house at 24192 Volland Rd and 24134B Volland Rd – passed unanimously; CUP #26 filed by Kathleen Feyh Hall for establishing a daycare at 208 Main St McFarland, KS – passed

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unanimously; CUP #27 filed by Kathleen Feyh Hall for establishing a daycare at 322 Main St Paxico, KS – passed unanimously. The Conditional Use Permit Hearing will be held March 14, 2022.

The Planning Commission also discussed naming the section of K-99 that KDOT will be turning over to the County. Several names were presented, including Dogwood Canyon, Enlow Road and Old K 99 Road. There was a consensus to support Old K 99 Road. A resolution will be drafted for official action by the Commissioners. Sylvester reported that an information session regarding Solar Farm Development was presented by Fiona Bagwell. There were more than 50 people in attendance. Sylvester asked for direction from the Commissioners on action regarding solar farms. Commissioners advised to take no action at this time.

Sylvester reported that a Summer Intern has been identified to work on the Zoning Maps. Sylvester plans to attend the spring Zoning Conference.

Commissioner Hier reported that she had received a question regarding city zoning regulations. County Attorney Liesmann responded that all cities in Wabaunsee County, besides Alma, adopted the County Planning & Zoning Regulations and follow the Planning & Zoning Commission process.

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Other Business

County Attorney Tim Liesmann provided an updated contract with AMR for ambulance service.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the amended ambulance services agreement, effective January 1, 2022; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Hier signed the contract.

Commissioner Hier moved to accept the resignation of Garfield Township Clerk Bob Haffener and appoint Glen Swartz to fill the unexpired term; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the minutes of the February 14th Commission Meeting; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioners reviewed and approved wage change forms and expenses for February 10 – 23, 2022. Vice Chairman Hier reviewed and signed Daily Statements from February 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22 and 23, 2022.

At 10:47 AM Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn until Monday, March 7th at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Minutes approved this 7th day of March 2022.



Joel S. Fager, Chairman



Nancy L. Hier, Vice Chair



Rodney L. Allen, Member

Attest:



Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk

