

# Wabaunsee County Commission

## Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

### Regular Meeting Minutes January 23, 2023

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The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, January 23, 2023. Commissioners conduct the meeting in person and over ZOOM. Members attending were Nancy L. Hier, Rodney L. Allen and Jim MacGregor. Commissioner Hier called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Undersheriff Eric Kirsh, Treasurer Karen Callaway, resident Ervan Stuewe, Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush, Assistant Supervisor Josh Hinch, Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester, County Clerk Abby Amick and County Attorney Tim Liesmann were in attendance in person and others joined via zoom.

Commissioner MacGregor clarified that the intent of the mileage approved at the reorganization meeting was to match the IRS rate, the rate has since changed, so the approved rate should now be \$0.655 per mile.

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the minutes of the January 9th Commission Meeting with corrections; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners reviewed and signed the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Rebate calculations for the 2022 Tax Year.

Commissioner MacGregor moved to adopt Resolution 2023-07 regarding the transfer of \$3,000 from Public Transportation to Public Transportation Capital Outlay; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Allen moved to adopt Resolution 2023-08 Authorizing a Tax Sale; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **Executive Session**

At 9:15 AM Commissioner Hier moved to enter executive session for 10 minutes, pursuant to the confidential data exception regarding a grant application; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 9:25 AM Commissioners returned from executive session. Commissioner MacGregor presented a letter of support for the Build a Stronger Economy Grant allowing for an infrastructure project to bring water from the City of Alma to the Hwy 99 and I-70 interchange for future development opportunities. Commissioners signed the letter.

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Wabaunsee County and the Wabaunsee County Historical Society regarding the use of excess original courthouse chairs; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **Planning & Zoning**

Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester provided an update from the recent Planning Commission Meeting held January 19th. The Planning Commission held their reorganization meeting, electing Dale Peterson as the Chairman and Ryan Theel as the Vice Chair. The Planning Commission considered multiple Conditional Use Permits that will be heard by the County Commission on February 6th.

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#### **Road & Bridge Update**

Commissioners received a letter from a concerned property owner regarding the maintenance of paved road and the choice to chip and seal roads. Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush responded to the concern explaining that Chip and Seal is a maintenance procedure designed to keep the road in good condition. As the road ages cracks form and it is important to fill those cracks and seal them before moisture gets under the pavement and causes more expensive repairs. Commissioner Hier agreed that she has done research indicating that ongoing maintenance practices are a better investment in the long run as compared to allowing the road to deteriorate and experience the expense of replacement.

Bush reported that the old communications tower on Old 18 is no longer in use and may need to be taken down. Bush will continue to work on the best plan of action. Bush reported on the purchase of a 2007 plow truck, the 1999 truck will be listed on Purple Wave for auction.

At 10am Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush held the Bid Opening for chip/seal work on Keene Eskridge Road, Miller Road and Carlson Road. Bush opened the following bids:

APAC, Emporia	\$669,602.51
Circle C Paving, Goddard	\$367,650.00
Harbour Construction, KC, KS	\$390,855.00
Vance Brothers, KC Mo	\$440,284.25

Bush will review the bids and come back with a recommendation at a future meeting.

#### **Belvue Bridge**

At 10:15 AM Commissioners joined the Pottawatomie County Commissioner meeting via zoom to discuss the Belvue Bridge. Steven Holz joined in person. Present from Pottawatomie County were two commissioners: Pat Weixelman and Deloyce McKee; and others. Commissioners discussed the new cost estimates for the two proposed project options. Commissioners decided to schedule the next meeting once additional information is available from KDOT. Commissioners left the zoom call. Steven Holtz shared his appreciation for Wabaunsee County taking the lead and keeping the project moving forward.

#### **Executive Session**

At 11:10 AM Commissioner Hier moved to enter Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel, conducting interviews for the Economic Development position for 1 hour; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 12:10 PM Commissioners returned from Executive Session.

#### **Other Business**

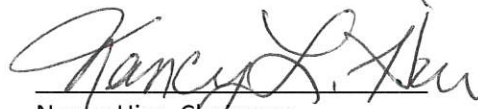
Commissioners reviewed and approved wage change forms and expenses for January 5 - 18, 2023. Chairman Hier reviewed and signed Daily Statements for January 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 and 12, 2023. Commissioners reviewed and signed Tax Abatement #2022-AB19 for \$83.80; 2022-AB20 for \$83.86; and 2022-AB21 for \$173.38.

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At 12:24 PM Commissioner Hier moved to adjourn until Monday, January 30th at 9:00 AM; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes approved this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023.

  
Nancy Hier, Chairman

Absent  
Rodney Allen, Vice Chairman

  
James W. MacGregor, Commissioner

Attest:

  
  
Abby L. Amick  
Wabaunsee County Clerk