

# Wabaunsee County Commission

## Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

### Regular Meeting Minutes January 24, 2022

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The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, January 24, 2022. 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. Health Department Administrator Ray Finley, Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush, Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester, Richard Orton, 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 125 active Covid cases, 1 hospitalizations and 21 deaths in Wabaunsee County. Finley reported that the state has shifted their focus from contact tracing to case investigation. The County is still expected to continue with contact tracing. Wabaunsee County Health Department has elected to provide household tracing locally, and not turn it over to the state to manage. The Health Department Staff have done an excellent job providing a local contact and exceptional service.

#### **Road & Bridge**

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush presented a Request and Petition to lay a residential waterline across Pavilion Road to service a new construction home. Bush reported that Wabaunsee Township and Road & Bridge had signed off on the request.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the Request and Petition to lay a residential waterline across Pavilion Road at 31342 Pavilion Road; Commissioner Fager seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Allen moved to adopt Resolution 2022-06 a Resolution Amending and Superseding Resolution 2021-56 Authorizing Fund Transfer to Special Machinery and Equipment, amending the transfer from \$50,000 to \$30,000 effective December 31, 2021; Commissioner Fager seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bush provided an update on the KDOT Bridge Investment Program citing that "Kansas will receive \$225 million under the new program to address highway bridge needs. The funding will help improve the condition of about 1,321 bridges in poor condition and to preserve and improve about 10,320 bridges in fair condition in the state." Bush reported that Wabaunsee County has 22 bridges on the list for potential funding.

#### **Economic Development**

Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor reminded the Commissioners that March 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the first Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Event in Wabaunsee County. There are 5 teams committed to compete with room for more, there will be cash prizes and opportunities to qualify for state competitions. The funding for the program is provided by NetWork Kansas and the Alma Area Foundation.

MacGregor reported on recent grant opportunities whose awards were recently announced. KDOT had an Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant where three different applications were submitted for locations in Wabaunsee County, the Maple Hill 24/7 location received the funding award. The Historic Economic Asset Lifeline (HEAL) grant was awarded to the Wabaunsee County Historical Society.

MacGregor provided an update from the American Rescue Plan committee, stating that the Federal Government has changed the requirements of the funding, opening it up to anything that the county would normally fund (except debt and legal settlements).



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The Committee's recommendations include: \$9,000 toward renovations in the Health Department clinic space for added privacy; \$304,935 as a 25% match to a grant application for fiber internet connection to 7 clusters of homes in partnership with WTC, the total project cost is \$1.2 million; \$350,000 divided between the Cities and Lake Wabaunsee Improvement District for water and infrastructure projects, accounting for \$47,620.06 per city and \$16,659.60 to LWID; \$50,000 to Rural Water District #1 to install a mile of pipe that will add capacity to their service to be able to add 10 existing homes and 10 new homes in the area. The Committee also heard requests from County Departments that they felt were worthy projects but could be managed through the traditional county budget process. Commissioners agreed to the recommendations as presented.

**Emergency Management**

Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Terrapin requested approval for the purchase of a vehicle. The current vehicle is a 2006 with over 100,000 miles. Terrapin has partial funding budgeted for 2022 as well as the trade-in value and the funding set aside in 2021.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the purchase of a vehicle for Emergency Management; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners discussed the opportunity for volunteer firemen to receive the benefit of Workers Compensation insurance coverage through the County provider, KWORCC, at no additional cost to the county.

Commissioner Fager moved to approve the KWORCC Election of Employer to extend coverage to specified volunteers; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**Executive Session**

At 10:27 am Commissioner Fager moved to enter executive session under attorney client privilege to discuss fire districts with the Emergency Management coordinator for 10 minutes; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 10:37 am Commissioner Fager moved to extend executive session under attorney client privilege to discuss fire districts with the Emergency Management coordinator for 10 minutes; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 10:48 am Commissioners returned from Executive Session. Commissioners agreed to explore community interest in potential disorganization of Fire District #2.

**Planning & Zoning**

Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester reported on the recent Planning & Zoning Commission meeting. The Hearing for all three permits will be on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Permits heard were 2 renewal quarries and one new CUP for a cell tower on Frontier Road. Planning Commission member Ryan Armbrust submitted his resignation due to serving in an incompatible office.

Sylvester reported that he had met with Charlie Schwindamann of the Kansas Rural Water Association to inspect the pond and is awaiting his report. Sylvester is also in conversation with a property owner who appears to be operating a commercial business without a conditional use permit.



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#### **Highway 99**

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush reported that he has received a notice from KDOT regarding the mile of pavement from old Highway 99 that they will be considering turning over to the county. Bush suggested that the Commissioners start thinking about how they want to name the road. Bush has received recommendations from residents along the stretch of road. Commissioners will contact Michael Stubbs and the Historical Society to follow up on the process used to name the roads in prior years.

#### **Appraiser**

County Appraiser Ryan Michaels commented that the new personal property guide has been released. The valuation of heavy trucks and trucks in general have doubled. The NEDA guide has been the standing resource for appraisers for a long time, appraises across the state are looking into how to handle the big increase in values.

#### **Other Business**

County Attorney Tim Liesmann asked the commissioners to be thinking about someone to appoint as a Community Corrections Board Member to represent Wabaunsee County.

Liesmann presented a request from P1 for a Section 179D Energy Efficient Commercial Building Allocation, for tax credits related to the work that P1 did on the courthouse. Liesmann will confirm with all departments that the work is complete and satisfactory before signing the form.

Liesmann reported that AMR is not yet providing the services agreed to in the 2022 contract for Ambulance Service. AMR would like Wabaunsee County to continue paying the fees established in the prior contract until they are able to fulfill the commitments of the 2022 contract and staff the new service in Eskridge.

Commissioner Hier asked what the next steps are regarding the Belvue Bridge. Liesmann responded that the grant application notices will be coming out soon, once we have the parameters of the grant application it would be good to make a decision on the match and report back to Pottawatomie County for consensus.

Wabaunsee County K-State Research & Extension Agent Bernadette Trieb joined via zoom. Trieb invited the Commissioners to join the Extension Council for an information session on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the E-Building regarding districting. This is an opportunity to ask questions, no decisions will be made that night.

Commissioner Fager read a letter of appreciation from the Lake Wabaunsee Improvement District thanking the county for making an investment to extend the Ambulance service to Eskridge.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners reviewed and approved wage change forms and expenses for January 6 – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Commissioners reviewed and signed Tax Abatement #2021-AB16 for \$177.52; 2021-AB17 for \$36.00; 2021-AB18 for \$19.02 and Added Tax 2021-03 in the amount of \$612.82.

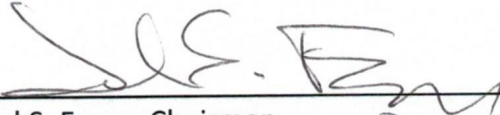
Chairman Fager reviewed and signed Daily Statements from December 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 2021 and January 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18 and 19, 2022.

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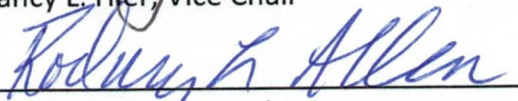
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At 11:29 AM Commissioner Fager moved to adjourn until Monday, January 31st at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes approved this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January 2022.

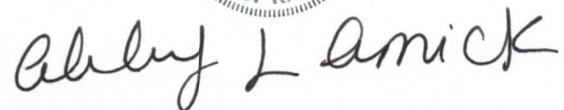
  
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Joel S. Fager, Chairman

  
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Nancy L. Hier, Vice Chair

  
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Rodney L. Allen, Member



Attest:



Abby L. Amick  
Wabaunsee County Clerk