

Wabaunsee County Commission
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS
Regular Meeting Minutes July 25, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, July 25, 2022. Commissioners conduct the meeting in person and over ZOOM. Members attending were Rodney L. Allen, Nancy L. Hier and Joel S. Fager. Commissioner Fager called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush, Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester, AMR Representative Mickey Huber, Donna Fisher, County Attorney Tim Liesmann and County Clerk Abby Amick were in attendance in person, others joined via zoom.

Road & Bridge

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush reported that he had checked on the bridge that Commissioner Hier had shared concerns about. The drift has been cleared below the bridge, the bridge was inspected this year as part of the schedule, it is showing signs of scours. Commissioner Hier asked about the Watershed Institute fee for surveying bridge 25, Bush reported that it was a requirement of the project, they were looking for Mucket Mussell, an endangered species. None were found. Hier and Bush attended a recent roundtable discussion hosted by the Federal Highway Administration regarding upcoming funding sources and the process to apply. An announcement on the Belvue Bridge funding application is anticipated soon; support has been shown by all levels of elected officials from the State of Kansas.

Water District #1 presented an application for the use of right-of-way on South Boundary Road, west of Keene Eskridge Road, in a township-maintained right-of-way. ARP funding is supporting the project, which will replace an old line and add capacity for 12 additional hookups in that area. The Township has reviewed and approved the request. Commissioners approved.

Planning & Zoning

Planning & Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester provided an update from the recent Planning Commission meeting held July 21st. Sylvester also shared that there is growing concern for heavy rock trucks entering Wabaunsee County from neighboring Counties, adding stress on Wabaunsee County roads with no impact fee. The Planning Commission will investigate impact fees for Saw Shops with rock coming into the County.

Ambulance District #2

AMR Operations Manager Mickey Huber provided an update of all the changes with AMR in Wabaunsee County in the last year. Huber stated that recruitment for the additional staff to support the Eskridge location was completed on February 27th, all three candidates completed intensive field training and were evaluated by the medical director and found to be fit to staff the unit in Eskridge. The station was staffed beginning the second week of May. The EMR program has had 9 candidates complete the first phase of training, 1 is fully licensed and the remaining 8 are awaiting the completion of their driver training.

AMR is asking for additional compensation for the months that they had staff in training, as of March. County Attorney Tim Liesmann indicated that the County has fulfilled its obligation according to the contract. Commissioners indicated that they would take it into consideration.

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Economic Development

Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor reported that there is a new Broadband Grant opportunity available to Wabaunsee County. WTC is managing the survey of residents and hope to capture a larger area than previously applied for. MacGregor reported that the Plaza of the Flint Hills is making progress, hiring staff now and will open as soon as possible. The Summer Farmer's Markets across the county have been well attended, growing each time. The E-Community Program recently awarded a small business low interest loan and partial grant. Emma Williams, new owner of Adventure Time Child Care had a strong application that scored well with the state program, qualifying her for grant dollars as well.

The Flint Hills Regional Leadership Program will be selecting its next class soon. Three Wabaunsee County residents applied; announcements will be made August 4th. Wabaunsee County will host the September 30th class focusing on Communication and Advocacy.

Other Business

Donna Fisher, a resident of the Wabaunsee area, shared concerns about the curves on K-18 having a washboard effect. Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush stated that it is a State Road, but he will relay the concerns to his contacts at KDOT. Bush encouraged that anyone with concerns on a State Road, report those concerns directly to the KDOT Area Office in Wamego.

At 10:10 AM Commissioner Hier moved to enter executive session to address Attorney Client-Privilege regarding the AMR Contract for 10 minutes; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 10:20 AM Commissioners returned from Executive Session. Commissioners requested an itemized bill from AMR regarding the reimbursement in question.

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Commissioners reviewed and approved expenses for July 14 - 20, 2022. Chairman Fager reviewed and signed Daily Statements from July 15, 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2022.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the minutes of the July 18th Commission Meeting; Commissioner Fager seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 10:22 AM Commissioner Hier moved to adjourn until Monday, August 1st at 9:00 AM; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes approved this 1ST day of August 2022.



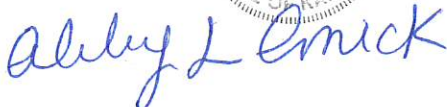
Joel S. Fager, Chairman

Nancy L. Hier, Vice Chair



Rodney L. Allen, Member

Attest:



Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk