

Wabaunsee County Commission
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS
Regular Meeting Minutes June 14, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, June 14, 2021. In compliance with the CDC guidelines to maintain social distancing Commissioners conduct and record the meeting over ZOOM. Members attending were Rodney L. Allen and Nancy L. Hier. Commissioner Joel S. Fager was absent. Commissioner Hier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. County Attorney Tim Liesmann, County Clerk Abby Amick, Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Terrapin, Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor and Health Department Administrator Ray Finley were in attendance in person and others joined via zoom.

Health Department and Covid Update

Finley reported on the Covid numbers for the County: 1 active cases, 14 deaths and 0 in the hospital.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the minutes of the June 7th Commission Meeting; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Emergency Management

Sheriff Hoskins and Undersheriff Wilson joined in person. Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Terrapin reported that the EOC recently met to discuss the State Declarations for Emergencies. The EOC has three levels of activation, locally they have been operating at a 'Partial Activated Status' for over a year; the EOC recommends returning to 'Normal Activated Status' going forward. In her seventeen years in Emergency Management, Terrapin reported that she has never been under 3 Emergency Declarations at one time, like they are currently. The EOC recommends following the State's actions when deciding to extend or rescind the current declaration.

Terrapin reported that the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been updated from the 2007 version. The Plan has been approved by FEMA, presented to all seven cities, the Rural Water Districts and School Districts for adoption. The Plan is available on the county website under Emergency Management.

Commissioner Hier moved to adopt Resolution 2021-26, adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region I Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion Carried 2-0.

Terrapin shared her experience with the UNBOUND Gravel event stating that it served as an opportunity to test all of the Emergency Management equipment and resources. It was a valuable opportunity for local personnel. The event was documented as an exercise and the county will receive credit for that. An After-Action review will take place where all the personnel involved will be interviewed at the county level to determine what worked well and identify areas of improvement. Terrapin shared that it is important to practice and test equipment during a low stress event, so that everyone is more prepared in an emergency situation. Sheriff Hoskins reported that the addition of technology made the day go much smoother than years past.

Economic Development

Director Jim MacGregor shared that he had been invited to apply for a newly announced Broadband Fellowship Program where Wabaunsee County would receive a fully-funded two-year position to assist with broadband development and adoption. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Committee is

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recommending applying for the Fellowship and providing housing for the two-year term of the Fellowship. This project does meet the ARP criteria as an eligible expense. Commissioners agreed.

MacGregor presented a draft resolution in support of the Rural Opportunity Zones Program through the Kansas Department of Commerce. Eligible participants can apply for student loan repayment and income tax discounts. In Wabaunsee County there have been 3 applicants since 2018, none of them were accepted because they did not find a match to the State funding. MacGregor recommends adopting a zero-funding resolution, as has been adopted in the past, with the option to work with area employers and community organizations to make the match. Commissioner Allen shared his concerns about providing assistance to new residents, but not the same opportunity to students who have retained residency in the county while pursuing their education.

Commissioner Hier moved to adopt Resolution 2021-27 Authorizing Participation in Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program Calendar Year 2021, with zero fund match. Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Budget Preparation

Accountant Randy Gassman joined in person. Gassman provided an overview of the budget process.

At 10:31 a.m. Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn until Monday, June 21st at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Minutes approved this 21st day of June 2021.



Attest:

Abby L. Amick

Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk

Joel S. Fager

Joel S. Fager, Chairman

Nancy L. Hier

Nancy L. Hier, Vice-Chairman

Rodney L. Allen

Rodney L. Allen, Member