

Wabaunsee County Commission

Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

Regular Meeting Minutes March 20, 2023

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, March 20, 2023. Commissioners conduct the meeting in person and over ZOOM. Members attending were Nancy L. Hier, Jim MacGregor and Rodney L. Allen. Commissioner Hier called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Road & Bridge Interim Supervisor Josh Hinch, Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Terrapin, member of the public Thayne Bush, Sheriff Rob Hoskins, Undersheriff Eric Kirsch, Noxious Weed Director Tonya Hensley, Health Department Staff Sheryl Thowe, Melissa McKenna and Ray Finley, Road & Bridge employees Greg Savage, Phillip Eisenbarth and Lynn Deever, Janitor Jenny Henderson, Economic Development Director Stephanie Imthurn, County Clerk Abby Amick and County Attorney Tim Liesmann were in attendance in person, others joined via zoom.

Years of Service Awards

Commissioners presented employees with Certificates of Recognition for their years of service. The Certificates are provided by the Kansas Association of Counties, recognizing years of service in 8 year increments. Those receiving certificates were: 8 Years: Lynn Deever, Greg Savage and Phillip Eisenbarth; 16 Years: Jenny Henderson and Rodney Allen; 24 Years: Melissa McKenna and Tonya Hensley. Commissioner Hier presented each employee with a certificate and thanked them for their dedicated service to Wabaunsee County.

Noxious Weed

Noxious Weed Director Tonya Hensley presented the Noxious Weed Management Plan for 2023 and the Annual Report that will be filed with the State. Commissioners reviewed and signed the Management Plan.

Road & Bridge Update

Road & Bridge Interim Supervisor Josh Hinch reported that they are working on 8 Mile Road this week. Greg Savage reported that the semi has been broken down that they decided not to spend the money to fix it. They found a replacement and got it purchased this week.

Commissioners reviewed a report submitted by Thayne Bush outlining the current status of the roads and bridges across the county. The assessment included goals, budget constraints and timing considerations. Wabaunsee County has 178 bridges on the national inventory, the Biennial Engineer Inspections are coming due toward the end of 2023. With this inspection we could see more bridges get their load rating decreased or moved to the fracture critical list. Neighboring Counties are considering large bridge bond projects combining 12 bridges into one Bond Issue to address their aging infrastructure. The time is coming where decisions will need to be made whether to keep all of the roads open or work with the neighboring property owners to identify roads that could be closed. Wabaunsee County has 68 miles of paved roads, the department follows a maintenance plan to keep the roads from deteriorating. Mill/Overlay costs \$250,000 per mile and is recommended to be done every 10–15 years. Chip/Seal costs \$35,000 per mile and is recommended to be done every 4-5 years. Wabaunsee County has 162 miles of gravel roads that it maintains, the rest are maintained by the 13 townships. The gravel roads are in pretty good shape. Wabaunsee County has approximately 1,300 culverts that it maintains. About 75% of the culverts need work or replacement, most are 50 years old or older. The goal is to replace the wooden structures first. Culverts vary in cost to replace from \$1,000 to \$75,000.

Economic Development

Economic Development Director Stephanie Imthurn reviewed the Goals pages from the Comprehensive Plan with the Commissioners. Several of the items listed have been achieved, and others were discussed. Imthurn is organizing a working group to further the discussion.

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Symphony in the Flint Hills

Symphony in the Flint Hills staff Sandy Carlson, Kelly Tastove and Bill Hartnett joined the meeting. Commissioners reviewed the Special Event Permit Application submitted for June 10, 2023 to be held in the "Wade Pasture" south west of Eskridge on Old K4 Road. The theme of the event is Transportation in the Flint Hills. The philosophy of the SITFH Team is to work with the county to maximize the impact on the economy and minimize the impact on county services (Emergency Services, Road & Bridge). The SITFH Team will be meeting with Emergency Management, Sheriff Department, AMR, Fire Departments and Economic Development to draw up a Service Agreement, including a fee for services provided. Commissioners agreed to wait for the service agreement before taking action on the Special Event Permit.

Executive Session

11:03 AM Commissioner Hier moved to enter executive session for 15 minutes to discuss employment for non-elected personnel for the purpose of discussing job duties; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

11:18 AM Commissioners returned from Executive Session. No action was taken.

Other Business

Sheriff Rob Hoskins reported that in years past, there was not enough room in the budget for a fulltime investigator; however Detective Dalton Rorabaugh recently completed an investigation that resulted in the confiscation of firearms, meth, THC, Marijuana, edibles resembling Rice Krispie treats, 3 stolen vehicles, and various other stolen items from multiple counties. Sheriff Hoskins complimented Rorabaugh on his persistence and investigation skills, stating that it is very beneficial to the County to have a fulltime investigator.

Extension Agent Shannon Spencer and Amy Terrapin presented a bid for landscaping in front of the E-Building. Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the Cereal Malt Beverage Permit for Bizzy B's Bait Shop at Lake Wabaunsee; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

County Clerk Abby Amick reported that a citizen raised concerns about the uneven sidewalks around the courthouse. Amick will work with the City of Alma to address the concerns.

Commissioners discussed the mowing contract and agreed to renew for another year with Sievers Lawn and Landscape. Commissioners also agreed to the seeding estimate as presented.

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Commissioner Allen moved to approve the minutes of the March 13th Commission Meeting; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 11:20 AM Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn until Monday, March 27th at 9:00 AM; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes approved this 3rd day of April 2023.

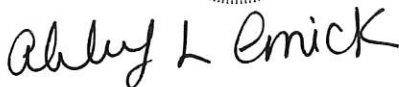

Nancy Hier, Chairman


Rodney Allen, Vice Chairman


James W. MacGregor, Commissioner



Attest:



Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk