

Wabaunsee County Commission

Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

Regular Meeting Minutes March 7, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, March 7, 2022. Commissioners conduct the meeting in person and over ZOOM. Members attending were Joel S. Fager, Rodney L. Allen and Nancy L. Hier. 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, Treasurer Karen Callaway, Appraiser Ryan Michaelis, Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Terrapin, Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor, City of Alma Mayor Maurice Baker, Ross Vogel, Jim Foster, Anthony Heigert Deputy County Clerk Alissa Barber and County Attorney Tim Liesmann were in attendance in person and others joined via zoom.

Health Department

Health Department Administrator Ray Finley reported 4 active Covid cases and 1 hospitalization of a Wabaunsee County resident. Finley presented a contract for a Pharmacist for the Health Department, Audra Bayless from Topeka has completed the requirements to be a County Health Department Pharmacist and agreed to serve in that role. The Pharmacist will be on site each quarter to complete the responsibilities required of them. Commissioners signed the contract.

Road & Bridge

Commissioner Hier moved to adopt Resolution 2022-12 naming the portion of Highway 99 being turned over to the County as Old K99 Road; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush reported that he is waiting on a response from KDOT regarding the condition of the road and the improvements requested.

Rural Housing Incentive District

Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor, City of Alma Mayor Maurice Baker and consultant Ross Vogel joined in person. Vogel provided the details of the Rural Housing Incentive District that the City of Alma has approved by resolution. Mayor Baker provided the history of the Park Valley Development. Commissioners expressed concerns about the dollars involved and timeframe of the incentive district. Commissioners will gather more information and make a decision before the March 24th deadline.

Belvue Bridge

Wabaunsee County Commissioners joined the Pottawatomie County Commission zoom meeting to discuss the Belvue Bridge grant application. County Attorney Tim Liesmann provided an update, stating that during the debriefing from the prior year application the Federal Department of Transportation staff indicated that the project had ranked in the top 30% of all projects in the first round of review. Liesmann stated that another consideration for the counties to discuss is the lower cost project is 'shovel ready', meaning that the engineering is complete and the project is ready to begin once funding is established. The higher cost project would have to be engineered and may not be as attractive to the grant review board. Commissioners discussed the difference between the two projects, the contingencies that they would like to build into the application, and the match.

Pottawatomie County Commissioners proposed making the application for the shovel ready project (approximately \$9 million plus contingency) with a 30% match, Wabaunsee County Commissioners agreed.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Coordinator Amy Terrapin provided an update regarding the grass fires over the weekend. Terrapin shared appreciation for all of the Wabaunsee County Volunteer Firefighters, Sheriff

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Department and mutual aid from surrounding counties who assisted with the fires. A local disaster declaration was signed by the commissioners.

Planning and Zoning

Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester reported that the Planning Commission is in need of a representative from the City of Alta Vista.

Commissioner Hier reported that she has had reports of solar farm developers mailing information to Wabaunsee County landowners in the last week. Sylvester and Liesmann reviewed the Zoning Regulations and the Conditional Use Permit requirements. Under the current zoning regulations, anyone interested in developing a solar farm would be required to follow the Conditional Use Permit process which includes an application, notice to neighbors, publications, hearings and final determination by the commissioners. Concerns were raised by residents Anthony Heigert and Jim Foster.

Other Business

Commissioner Hier moved to reappoint D. Max Fuller as the Non-Lawyer Member of the Judicial Nominating Committee for the 2nd Judicial District, the term of office will be from March 7, 2022 to March 2, 2026; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners agreed to continue the mowing contract with Dustin Sievers for 2022. Commissioners reported that they are still gathering information about the options for joining an Extension District.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the minutes of the February 28th Commission Meeting; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners reviewed and approved expenses for February 24 – March 2, 2022. Chairman Fager reviewed and signed Daily Statements from February 24, 25, 28, March 1, 2 and 3, 2022.

At 11:05 AM Commissioner Fager moved to adjourn until Monday, March 14th at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes approved this 14th day of March 2022.



Attest:

Abby L. Amick

Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk

Joel S. Fager

Joel S. Fager, Chairman

Nancy L. Hier

Nancy L. Hier, Vice Chair

Rodney L. Allen

Rodney L. Allen, Member