

Wabaunsee County Commission

Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS

Regular Meeting Minutes May 23, 2022

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, May 23, 2022. Commissioners conduct the meeting in person and over ZOOM. Members attending were Joel S. Fager and Nancy L. Hier; Commissioner Rodney L. Allen was absent. Commissioner Fager called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush, Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester, Sheriff Rob Hoskins, Undersheriff Brett Wilson, Sheriff Administrative Secretary Barbara Phillips, members of the public Bud Hund and Carolyn Mathews, County Clerk Abby Amick and County Attorney Tim Liesmann were in attendance in person and others joined via zoom.

Zoning Update

Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester presented the Inspection and Recommendations of Sewer District #1 performed by KDHE. Sylvester presented a software agreement with iWorq for added services such as accepting permit applications online. Commissioners signed the agreement. Sylvester reviewed the outcomes and discussions of the planning commission meeting held May 19th.

Road & Bridge

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush presented a Utility Petition and Request from Every to update lines on township roads near Alta Vista, running along Cable City Road for a 2 mile rebuild starting ½ mile west of Cable City Rd and Switch Grass Rd. Commissioners signed the request. Bush presented a used 2019 backhoe with a thumb attachment; the negotiated price is \$144,800; after the trade-in allowance the cost is \$79,800 to be paid by the Road & Bridge Equipment Fund. Commissioners approved the purchase.

Commissioners discussed the Paxico downtown traffic concerns at length with Sylvester, Bush and member of the public Bud Hund. Bush will be meeting with an engineer to evaluate the intersection and discuss the options with the City of Paxico.

2023 Budget Requests

Sheriff Hoskins and Undersheriff Wilson presented a budget request of \$1,480,047; an increase of 11.5% over 2022. The Department paid off the prior vehicle loans a year early and plans to replace additional vehicles this year as they are exceeding 150,000 miles. The budget increase is focused on salaries, comparisons to neighboring county wages were provided to Commissioners.

Judy Sommer with Wabaunsee County Council on Aging presented budget requests from each of the Senior groups in the County. The Program for the Elderly Budget is capped at 1 mill annually.

K-State Research & Extension

Director Bernadette Trieb introduced summer intern Ethan McPherson. McPherson will assist with summer programming and joins us from Fort Hays State University. Board Chairman Steve Tharman and Board Member Barbara Phillips were in attendance. Trieb provided an overview of recent programming provided by the Extension Office and announced the arrival of Agent Spencer's twin boys. Trieb presented the 2023 Budget Request of \$162,964; an increase of 7.78% over 2022. The increase is attributed to increased programming planned for 2023 as well as the scheduled replacement of a vehicle.

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Commissioners asked about the status of the Extension District discussion, Trieb reported that Pottawatomie County has voted No at the Board level, and Riley County will be revisiting the discussion in June.

Other Business

Commissioner Fager moved to recommend a 3.5% wage increase to all non-department head employees, and give the department heads the option to take a 3.5% increase or pass it on to their employees starting with the June 27th pay period; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

County Attorney Tim Liesmann updated the Commissioners on the Community Corrections Office now shared and supported by four counties; Jackson, Jefferson, Pottawatomie and Wabaunsee. The program is grant funded, with the exception of office space. Wabaunsee County will be asked to contribute a one-time support toward office accommodations in the near future, Liesmann plans to provide that support from the Forfeiture Funds.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the minutes of the May 9th Commission Meeting; Commissioner Fager seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioners reviewed and approved expenses for May 5 – 18, 2022 and Abatement 2020-AB39 in the amount of \$650.92. Chairman Fager reviewed and signed Daily Statements from May 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2022.

At 11:05 AM Commissioner Fager moved to recess to the Wabaunsee County Fairgrounds for a tour and budget request by the Fairboard; Commissioner Hier seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

At 11:20 AM Commissioner Fager and Commissioner Hier toured the Fairgrounds with Fairboard President Mary Reed Spencer, Members Adam Lukert, Dean Imthurn and Jenny Howe, County Attorney Liesmann, County Clerk Amick, and member of the public Carolyn Mathews.

Wabaunsee County Fair Association presented a 2023 Budget Request of \$30,000; no increase from 2022.

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At 12:13 PM Commissioner Hier moved to adjourn until Monday, June 6th at 9:00 AM; Commissioner Fager seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Minutes approved this 6th day of June 2022.



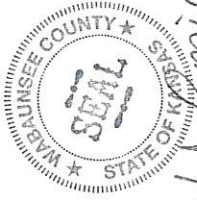
Joel S. Fager, Chairman



Nancy L. Hier, Vice Chair



Rodney L. Allen, Member



Attest:



Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk