

Wabaunsee County Commission
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS
Regular Meeting Minutes November 27, 2023

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, November 27, 2023. Commissioners conduct the meeting in person and over ZOOM. Members attending were Nancy L. Hier, Rodney Allen and Jim MacGregor. Commissioner Hier called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Road & Bridge Supervisor Josh Hinch, Ron Ronnau, Sheriff Rob Hoskins, Richard Orton, Economic Development Director Stephanie Imthurn, Health Administrator Ray Finley, Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester, County Attorney Tim Liesmann and County Clerk Abby Amick were in attendance in person, others joined via zoom.

Health Department

Health Administrator Ray Finley presented an annual contract renewal with St John Lutheran School for health services, the contract has not changed from prior years. Commissioners signed the contract. Commissioner Hier asked how vaccinations have been going. Finley reported that Flu Clinics were held in 5 cities across the county, flu shots are still available in the Health Department.

Road & Bridge Update

Road & Bridge Supervisor Josh Hinch introduced Ron Ronnau as the property owner at the old tower site west of Alma. Ronnau requested that the lease termination include removal of the concrete structure at the tower site. Hinch thought that the County could use their own equipment to safely remove the building and reuse the concrete as filler in the future. Hier asked that Hinch look at the building and estimate the time and cost to remove it.

Hinch reported that he is scheduled to have a field check meeting on Mission Valley Road for the High Risk Rural Roads grant project (HRRR). There is also a field check meeting scheduled for the Belvue Bridge project. Hinch reported that Road & Bridge put in a lot of overtime clearing snow over the weekend. Hier asked how long it takes to clear the roads. Hinch responded that each grader has its own district that covers 40+ miles of gravel roads, each district can take 6-8 hours to cover the territory. Each plow has a district as well, the time it takes depends on the snow depth, sun, temperature, etc. Typically, prioritization is paved roads first and then gravel roads. Currently, all the operators are able to run the graders and plows, so all of the equipment was dispatched at once.

Hinch reported that the crew will be installing a 120" pipe for a crossroad culvert replacement north of Maple Hill this week, the underground tank removal has been scheduled for the first week of December, the power supply has been disconnected and the old fuel dispensers have been removed.

Hinch reported that Bergkamp Construction came to look at Old K-10 Road. They believe the cracking to be typical of the road surface, and that crack filling is a normal maintenance requirement on the road. The crack seal repairs should last 3-4 years. Hinch reported that there are still 3 open slots on his staff, he would like to advertise to get one more person hired now, and continue with the plan to utilize the Noxious Weed employees through the winter months. Commissioners agreed.

Zoning Update

Zoning Administrator Noel Sylvester reported that 12 of the 15 Planning Commission Members were present at the November meeting. There were 4 Conditional Use Permits presented, all applications were for renewal quarries, all 4 were approved and will be presented to the Commissioners at the Hearing on December 4th. The Planning Commission discussed minimum impact fees for short distance haul routes. There will be no Planning Commission Meeting in December.

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In response to the new County Employee Vehicle Policy, Sylvester provided an agreement for Commissioner review. Commissioners discussed options and approved the agreement as presented.

Noxious Weed

Noxious Weed Director Tonya Hensley joined in person. Hensley presented Chemical Bids for Tordon, Remedy and Escort from Van Diest Supply Co totaling \$33,386.16 and UAP Timberland totaling \$34,760.40.

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the low bid from Van Diest Supply Co for \$33,386.16; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners discussed winter hours for the Noxious Weed Department and agreed to closing the office on Friday's from December 1 to March 1.

Neighborhood Revitalization

Economic Development Director Stephanie Imthurn updated the Commissioners on considerations for changes to the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Commissioners adjusted the single-family residence cap to \$300,000 in the proposed plan. Imthurn reported that the Housing Team has been considering additional incentives that could be coupled with NRP.

Commissioner Hier moved to adopt Resolution 2023-47 A Resolution Authorizing Participation in Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program for Calendar Year 2024 with an allocation of \$0; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Other Business

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the Maple Hill 24/7 Travel Store Cereal Malt Beverage application for 2024; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hier moved to appoint Dustin Zeller as the Newbury Township Treasurer, filling an unexpired vacancy on the board; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hier was appointed as the Voting Delegate representing Wabaunsee County at the KWORCC Annual Meeting on December 5th.

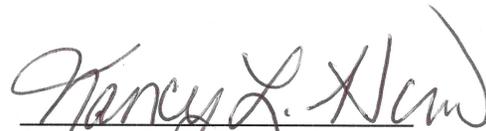
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Commissioner MacGregor moved to approve the minutes of the November 13th Commission Meeting; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners reviewed and signed two applications for Emergency Lights on personal vehicles. Chairman Hier reviewed and signed the Daily Statements for November 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20 & 21, 2023. Commissioners reviewed and signed Tax Abatements 01-16 for Tax Year 2023 totaling \$4,102.58; and Added Taxes 01-13 for Tax Year 2023 totaling \$437.50.

At 11:08 AM Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn until Monday, December 4th at 9:00 AM; Commissioner MacGregor seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

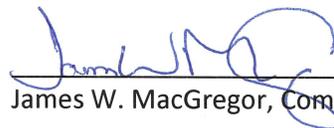
Minutes approved this 4th day of December 2023.



Nancy Hier, Chairman



Rodney Allen, Vice Chairman



James W. MacGregor, Commissioner

Attest:


Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk

