

Wabaunsee County Commission
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS
Regular Meeting Minutes September 20, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, September 20, 2021. In compliance with the CDC guidelines to maintain social distancing Commissioners conduct and record the meeting over ZOOM. Members attending were Joel S. Fager, Nancy L. Hier and Rodney L. Allen. Commissioner Fager called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Health Department Administrator Ray Finley, County Attorney Tim Liesmann, County Clerk Abby Amick, Auditor April Swartz and Clarence Hinchy were in attendance in person and others joined via zoom.

Health Department and Covid Update

Health Department Administrator Ray Finley reported on the Covid numbers for the County: 14 active cases, 16 deaths and 2 in the hospital. Finley shared that the county 14-day average and 7-day average are going down, indicating that we should continue to see the same trend going forward.

In 2019 the Health Department administered 429 vaccinations in total. Through covid, they have administered over 3,300 vaccinations. The Flu vaccine is available through the Health Department, clinics have been scheduled in each city on various dates in September and October.

Finley reported that Home Care calls are picking up. Commissioners asked what kind of services that entails. Finley reported that Home Care offers no skilled services, this includes personal hygiene, light cleaning and toenail clinics.

Finley presented a contract for school health nurse services with St. John Lutheran School.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the Contract between the Wabaunsee County Health Department and St. John Lutheran School for School Health Nursing Services effective August 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

2020 Audit

Auditor April Swartz with Varney & Associates CPA's LLC presented the 2020 Audit to the Commissioners. Swartz reported that there were no findings during the audit. This year the Audit included a Single-Audit for Federal Grant Awards due to the SPARK funding.

Economic Development

Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor reported that the American Rescue Plan committee is recommending extending fiber along Highway 99 from Homestead Road to I-70 for funding. The project will consist of a cost share between WTC, local businesses and ARP funding. The committee's recommendation is to fund 25% of the project with ARP funds at \$12,500.

Commissioner Fager moved to approve the ARP Committee recommendation for a 25% cost share on the project to extend fiber down Highway 99 to I-70, for \$12,500; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

MacGregor introduced Brett Waggoner with Governmental Assistance Services to review the Community Development Block Grant awards. There were 15 applications received, 2 were

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disqualified due to requirements of the grant. The local review committee based their recommendations on the number of full-time equivalent employees. All recipients will be required to provide proof of related expenses before receiving the awarded funds.

Commissioner Fager moved to approve the CDBG -CV3 Awards recommendation totaling \$137,000 as presented; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Planning & Zoning Update

Planning & Zoning Director Noel Sylvester reported that the Planning Commission met to discuss the language defining short-term rentals in the zoning regulations and adding the condition for short-term rentals to require a Conditional Use Permit. Public comment was made to confirm that "B&Bs" will be included in the zoning regulations. This is a modernization of terminology, removing the term "B&B" and inserting "short-term rental" which will encompass any stay of 28 days or less.

The Zoning Office had 1 building permit request last week, and 6 more came in recently. Sylvester has issued several written warnings regarding buildings that are under construction but have not been permitted.

Railroad Crossing Concerns

John Hund and Bob and Carol Michaelis presented concerns with the railroad crossings at I-70 Exit 333 and Spring Creek Road. The train consistently stops on the double track blocking access to several homes for up to 3 hours at a time. The concern is not one of inconvenience, but of safety. Carol read aloud her testimony, citing challenges related to emergency services, school busses, business operations and many other concerns the railroad has caused. The families affected are seeking a permanent solution. They have seen the problem get progressively worse over time and are asking for the Commissioners to sign a letter of support that could be taken to a Federal level. Commissioners agreed to give their support.

Road & Bridge Update

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush presented a utility agreement from WTC to add fiber cable on Fairfield Road near McFarland. This is all on township roads, the township has signed off on the agreement.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the Utility Agreement from WTC to add fiber cable on Fairfield Road; Commissioner Fager seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bush updated the Commissioners on the progress of projects across the county. Bridge 160 is complete and open to traffic. Skyline Road is set up with traffic control, they will let traffic through when possible, it will be open in the evenings. The Old K-10 project will complete the concrete stabilization next week and then they will double chip seal the road. Bush recommended tearing down the Fairview Road bridge and closing that section of the road. The concern is that someone would try to cross the bridge not knowing the condition underneath. The bridge cannot handle any weight in this condition.

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Bush reported that the KDOT Cost Share Grant Application will be written and submitted this week for continued work on Old K-10 Road.

Public Comment

Clarence Hinchy presented a letter asking for the speed limit to be reduced on Bradford Road between Mission Valley Road and Wild Plumb Road. Hinchy cited poor visibility and increased traffic as concerns. Bush clarified that the concerns need to start with the Township Board, since that is a Township maintained road. Hinchy also raised concerns about a shooting range near his property. Hinchy asked that the Zoning Office reconsider the land use for the shooting range and require a Conditional Use Permit.

Other Business

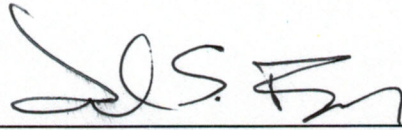
Commissioners discussed identifying a voting delegate to attend the KCAMP Annual Meeting, Commissioner Hier was selected. Commissioners designated Commissioner Fager as the primary voting delegate at the Kansas Association of Counties Annual Meeting.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the minutes of the September 13th Commission Meeting, Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

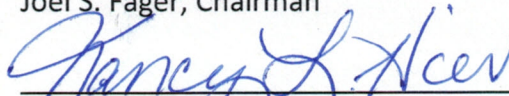
Commissioners reviewed and approved expenses for September 9 - 15, 2021.

At 11:05 AM Commissioner Hier moved to adjourn until Monday, September 27th at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

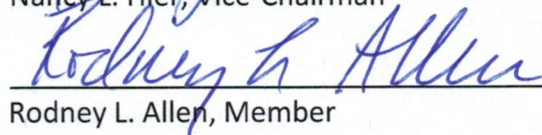
Minutes approved this 27th day of September 2021.



Joel S. Fager, Chairman

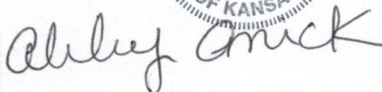


Nancy L. Hier, Vice-Chairman



Rodney L. Allen, Member

Attest:



Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk