

Wabaunsee County Commission
Wabaunsee County Courthouse, Alma, KS
Regular Meeting Minutes September 27, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners meeting in session Monday, September 27, 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, Economic Development Director Jim MacGregor, John Hund and Michael Stubbs 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: 10 active cases, 18 deaths and 1 in the hospital. The Health Department is aware of 1 death that was added to the reported numbers, but the State has added an additional death that could be the result of a review of a prior death that also had covid. The State is in the process of reviewing deaths going back to March 2020 and may add to the reported numbers as they find cases. Wabaunsee County has had a total of 871 cases since March 2020.

The Health Department is operating Flu Shot Clinics across the county currently, and Covid Boosters are available to those who qualify.

Mount Mitchell

Michael Stubbs and John Hund shared the history of the development of the Mount Mitchell historic site and park, and plans for the future.

Stubbs raised concerns regarding the mowing of Skyline Road during the peak of wildflower season, asking that sections of the road be mowed in October rather than the summer months. Commissioners discussed visibility and safety of the roadway. Bush reported that drivers have called in complaining of vegetation hanging into the roadway hitting their vehicles, those calls prompted him to mow. Stubbs also raised concerns of Old World Bluestem being spread up the road and encroaching in to the native pastures.

Road & Bridge Update

Road & Bridge Supervisor Thayne Bush updated the Commissioners on the progress of projects across the county. The Old K-10 project will complete the concrete stabilization this week and then they will double chip seal the road. The current plan is to spray the road with prime oil on Monday followed by two days of laying the double chip seal. Skyline Road has been moved, now they are replacing the rip-rap on the creek bank. There is great concern for the speed that vehicles are driving through the construction zone.

Bush reported that the KDOT Cost Share Grant Application has been submitted to continued work on Old K-10 Road. The Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program applications are coming due. Bush will be applying for a bridge on Boothill Road that has rock walls, metal stringers and wood planks. The Bridge is well over 100 years old and has served its life expectancy.

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Commissioner Fager asked about the options for addressing the safety of Highway 18 west of Highway 99 in the area of the two 90 degree turns. Commissioner Fager cited the numerous accidents that happen in that section of road as a concern, Sheriff Hoskins agreed. Bush will follow up with a recommended plan of action.

Budget Hearing

10:00 AM Commissioner Fager opened the Budget Hearing for Ambulance District #2. Commissioner Fager asked for Public Comment, none was given.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the 2022 Budget for Ambulance District #2 with a budget authority of \$580,728; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 2-0, Commissioner Fager abstained.

Recycling

Noxious Weed Director Tonya Hensley reported that the Recycling numbers have fallen way down in the last six months. The Recycling Trailer has been making a trip throughout the county on the second Tuesday and Thursday of each month. The schedule has always been printed in the newspaper. In recent months there have been 2 families at Eskridge, Paxico and Maple Hill, and none at McFarland and Harveyville using the service.

Commissioners indicated that they would like the usual Recycling Trailer route to run in October, notifying the public with flyers and notice in the newspaper that the service will be suspended until further notice.

Sheriff Department

Sheriff Rob Hoskins provided the schedule of events for National Faith in Blue Weekend October 8-11. This is an opportunity to bring the community and officers together to share their faith.

Commissioner Hier asked about the suicide prevention program held at St. John Lutheran Church, Hoskins reported that it was well attended with approximately 65 people present.

Other Business

Commissioner Hier moved to accept the City of McFarland recommendation to replace Larry Setter with Darrin Dillingham on the Zoning Board; Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hier moved to approve the minutes of the September 20th Commission Meeting, Commissioner Fager seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners reviewed and approved payroll for the pay period of August 23 – September 19, and expenses for September 16 - 22, 2021.

Daily Statements were reviewed and signed by Chairman Fager for the dates of September 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 15, 2021.

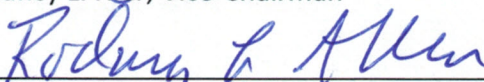
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At 10:22 AM Commissioner Hier moved to adjourn until Monday, October 4th at 9:00 AM.
Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Minutes approved this 4th day of October 2021.



Joel S. Fager, Chairman


Nancy L. Hier, Vice-Chairman


Rodney L. Allen, Member

Attest:




Abby L. Amick
Wabaunsee County Clerk