

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
DONIPHAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TROY, KANSAS, MARCH 22, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the office of the Doniphan County Commission, Troy, Kansas, at 8:30 A.M. with Second District County Commissioner Wayne Grable, Chairman, calling the meeting to order. First District County Commissioner Timothy D. Collins, Third District County Commissioner Bobby Hall, County Clerk Peggy Franken present. County Attorney Charles D. Baskins was present for a portion of the meeting.

The Kansas Chief Reporter Melanie Davis observed the entire meeting. Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris, First District Road Foreman Sean Price and Economic Development Director Leah B. Johnson were present for a portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the County Commission meeting agenda as presented. Commissioner Hall seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve County Commission meeting minutes of March 15, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve abated taxes in the amount of \$288.36 to the 2020 Doniphan County tax roll. Commissioner Hall seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Currently the Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center houses 4 local inmates.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to allow the purchase of two ceiling fans including installation for the Doniphan County Treasurer's office. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris presented the County Commission with information on the Kansas Department of Transportation 2021 Cost Share Program for their consideration for participation. The 90-10% matching funds Cost Share Program provides financial assistance to local entities for construction projects that improve safety, leverages state funds to increase total transportation investment and help both rural and urban areas of the state improve the transportation system.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve motor grader training for seven employees of the Road Department for the dates of April 19-20, 2021 in Atchison County, provided by University of Kansas Transportation Center, at a total cost of \$700.00. Commissioner Collins seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Lindsay Norris, Road Office Manager, gave the Board of County Commissioners a map depicting 150th Road, southeast of Troy, Kansas, beginning at Ottumwa Road east to Port William Road for road repair. Commissioner Grable recommended the Road Department remove brush, fix culverts, ditch and rock the two mile stretch of roadway. First District Road Foreman Sean Price told the County Commission it would cost approximately \$10,000 to \$12,500 per mile to rock the road. The Board of County Commissioners agreed to have Road Foremen view the roadway to determine scope of work and timeline for completion.

Commissioner Grable said the Second District Road Crew will complete tube replacement project on Sheridan Road, in Section 29 Township 2 Range 22E, installing two 24" road tubes and rock the road. Landowner Jerry Bauman will purchase 60' x 48" road tube plus bands from Doniphan County and contract with Muse Excavation & Construction to install along with tile work. Grable said the reservoir along the County road has been cleaned out by Muse Excavation & Construction at the landowner's expense.

The Board of County Commissioners were in receipt of road tube inventory list for each Road District along with needed tubes to complete road projects. Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the purchase of road tubes in the amount of \$43,645.80 (including three 20' x 48" tubes for Sheridan Road project). Commissioner Hall seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Foreman Sean Price told the County Commission tube work will be needed on Coronado Road, south of K-20 Highway, in Sections 34-35 Township 4 Range 19E. A 6' road tube may be donated for the project with the County responsible for the purchase of bands.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve repair bill to Midway Ford for 2012 Freightliner in the amount of \$6,187.48. Commissioner Hall seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Foreman Sean Price presented the County Commission with a current project list for the First Road District, along with future road improvement projects. Commissioner Grable also presented the County Commission with a current project list for the Second and Third Road Districts.

County Clerk Peggy Franken and Economic Development Director Leah B. Johnson updated the Board of County Commissioners on Doniphan County's allocation of funds through the American Rescue Plan. Clerk Franken said although the exact amount of monies to be received by Doniphan County is not yet known, National Association of Counties (NACO) predicts Doniphan County will receive \$1,473,973. Each city, school district and Highland Community College will also receive an allotment of the funds directly. Funds are intended to be used for revitalization, recovery and strategic investment opportunities. Allowable uses include: 1) Respond to public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts. 2) Provide premium pay for public employees that are performing essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work. 3) Provide government services to the extent of reduction in revenue due to COVID-19 relative to revenues collected in most recent full fiscal year. 4) Make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband. The funds cannot be used for property tax reduction or deposited into pension funds. County Clerk Franken and Economic Development Director Johnson recommended funds be used for broadband expansion in rural and unincorporated areas of the county. One area of concern during the COVID-19 pandemic was the inability of residents to work from home and students to be able to complete on-line learning due to lack of internet capabilities. Director Johnson informed the Board that her office has worked with Rainbow Communications recently to complete necessary preliminary engineering studies in order for Doniphan County to be competitive to potentially apply for additional state and federal funds to assist with broadband expansion. She will set up a meeting with Rainbow Communications officials to gather more information. Commissioner Grable asked about using the funds to assist rural fire districts. Director Johnson said during a webinar with State of Kansas Recovery Office that specific question was asked and Secretary DeAngela Burns-Wallace said more guidance would be needed in order to answer. The Board of County Commissioners took no action pending further guidance from the federal government and review of the American Rescue Plan as presented.

Commissioner Hall asked that two employees work out of the Third Road District at all times for safety concerns. The Board made no objections.

At 9:34 A.M. Commissioner Hall made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing matters related to attorney-client privilege with legal counsel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:44 A.M. Commissioner Grable seconded. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney and County Clerk present.

At 9:44 A.M. Commissioner Collins made a motion to extend executive session for the purpose of continuing discussion on matters related to attorney-client privilege with legal counsel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:54 A.M. Commissioner Grable seconded. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney and County Clerk present.

There being no further business before the Board, Commissioner Grable made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 A.M. Commissioner Hall seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

DATED THIS 22ND DAY OF MARCH 2021.

Attest: _____
Peggy Franken, County Clerk

Wayne Grable, Chairman