



Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2015
Alma Community Center
Alma, KS

Present from Board of the Regional Council: **Pam Bales**, Alma City Councilwoman; **Ben Bennett**, Geary County Commissioner; **Robert Boyd**, Riley County Commissioner; **Scott Briggs**, Lyon County Commissioner; **Vic Enns**, Wamego City Mayor; **Honey Grant**, Grandview Plaza Vice-Mayor; **Stan Hartwich**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Sharon Haun**, Council Grove Councilwoman; **Vern Hay**, Morris County Commissioner; **Tim Livsey**, Fort Riley; **Karen McCulloh**, City of Manhattan Commissioner; **MarySue Roller**, City of Woodbine Mayor; **Mike Ryan**, Junction City Commissioner; **Jimmy Thatcher**, Clay Center Mayor; **James E. Williams**, Emporia State University.

Absent from the Board: **Jon Geitz**, City of Emporia Mayor; **Jackie Hartman**, Kansas State University; **Joe Kormanik**, City of Alta Vista Commissioner; **Kevin Sorenson**, City of Reading Mayor; **Phil Weishaar**, City of Chapman Mayor

Present from Staff Support: **Sondra Clark**, Transit Administrator/Mobility Manager; **Makenzie Deines**, Intern; and **Gary Stith**, Director.

Legislators Present: **Rep. Don Hill**, House of Representatives; **Rep. Lonnie Clark**, House of Representatives; **Rep. Sydney Carlin**, House of Representatives, **Sen. Tom Hawk**, Senate; **Sen. Laura Kelly**, Senate; **Rep. Tom Moxley**, House of Representatives; **Rep. Tom Phillips**; House of Representatives, **Rep. Susie Swanson**, House of Representatives

Guests: **Maurice Baker**, City of Alma Mayor; **Tim Jury**, Chapman City Council; **Bruce Miller**; **Greg Miller**, Junction City Chairman and Ed Director; **Jim Sands**, Junction City Commissioner; **Kelley Paskow**, Fort Riley PAIO Chief; **Galen Johnson**, City of Dwight Mayor; **Kay Hutchinson** GMDC Executive Director; **Tracy Henry**. WBCO Eco Devo Director; **Criss Mayfield**, KSSHIRM; **Jennifer Laird**, Chase County Eco Devo Director; **Vern S.**, Clay Center; **Kevin Griffith**, KJCK 1420 AM; **Dee McKee**, Pottawatomie County Commissioner; **Traci Scott**, Fort Riley.

WELCOME:

- Robert Boyd, FHRC Board President, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and invited the Kansas Legislators, board members, staff, and meeting guests to introduce themselves.

LEGISLATIVE FORUM:

- Legislators assessment of this coming session:
 - Sen. Hawk: 2012 income tax cut needs to be appealed.
 - Sen. Kelly reduces the projections for sales tax revenue. There will be every attempt not to increase taxes because it is election year.
 - Efficiency study: Sen. Kelly was on the committee that chose the consultant group. 2.6 million in cost.
 - Exemptions review: less than 100 exceptions in sales tax
 - 98% total revenue that would be created comes from sales tax exemptions on utilities
 - This creates money for the state but huge political problem for the people it affects when their utilities bill increases- Rep. Phillips
- Grass Roots
 - More people need to call/email legislators
 - It is election year and if legislators know people aren't happy with where things are going their stance may change
 - Voters need to turn out and vote- the underlining issue
 - Rep. Tom Phillips encourages having an open quorum to inform the public
 - Kansas Economic Growth Council
- KDOT: \$480 million to annually maintain a road- \$380 million is gone- maintenance is not happening
- Tax Issues
 - Internet Tax
 - 60% of sales tax in all Kansas is collected in 6 counties
 - Can't lead communities if we are not involved
 - Be in the media
 - Talk about issues with community groups
- How we can help the Legislators
 - Leaders of community- responsibility is to encourage members
 - School teachers, governors, etc. feel under appreciated- hold banquets to encourage them
 - Not enough connection between 20-30 year olds
 - Get more involved with the community- build relationships
- TAKE AWAYS
 - Knowing issues of community members- get involved in public forums
 - Meeting with local realtors and getting younger people more involved
 - Emailing and using social media contact with legislators as we progress

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES:

➤ Staff Activity and Updates

- Shelley Carver has taken a position with KSU Foundation
- Jennifer Jordan begins work:
 - Council Grove Comprehensive Plan and OEA projects.
- EDA has approved the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- NDRC Grant for the Wildcat Creek Watershed was submitted
- Continued work on Council Grove Comprehensive Plan 2025
- Sent an invitation for the City of Onaga for a comprehensive plan
- Continue working on:
 - Council Grove Comprehensive Plan
 - Grandview Plaza on Splash Park
 - Long-range Transportation Plan for MPO area
 - Complete FTA 5307 grant and contracts with FHATA, Manhattan, MPO
 - Waterville

➤ Finance/Budget Review

- Gary Stith, Director, presented board members with the bank slide for the finance/budget review.
- The bank account has a balance of 287,408.98 which includes 85,086.26 in MPO funding

➤ Proposed Byway Map

- Karen McCulloh moved that Gary attend support the proposed Byway Map Hearing before the Riley County Commission November 30th
- Vern Hay seconded it
- Vote passes

PRESENTATIONS:

- **KDOT Programs for Local Communities** – Ron Seitz, the Chief of the Bureau of Local Projects with the Kansas Department of Transportation gave a brief overview of the funding sources available to the locals:
- Crystal Madrid, Public Service Administration
 - Handed out the Local Programs Opportunities book
 - Special City Highway fund
 - Make payments to cities that have state highways going through
 - Remainder of the money KDOT shares \$100 million with federal and state programs
 - Largest portion is federal money biggest portion of federal is surface transportation
 - Transportation Enhancement

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- Safe routes to school- programs intent to do things that encourage children to walk or ride bikes to school. Plans a safe route for them to actually develop a plan. Have money before plans can be acted
- \$110 million is the cost to fix 111 bridges
 - Replacing 77 bridges
 - 34 bridges closed

➤ **Bureau of Local Projects** – Crystal Madrid, Public Service Administrator

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

- Member Pam Bales motioned for approval of the October 16, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes. Member Ben Bennett seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Member Jimmy Thatcher moves to approve the amendments of the bylaws. Mike Ryan seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Pam Bales moves to accept a proposal from Central National Bank for extending a line of credit, Honey Grant seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

CITY/COUNCIL/PARTNER UPDATES:

- Fort Riley
 - Tim Livsey briefed the board on the following:
 1. Commanding General Grigsby is issuing his campaign plan successful retiring appreciation day
 2. Soldiers, families, civilians, and retirees'
 3. Veteran Day Parade was successful
 4. 22,000 people come to train at Fort Riley
 5. 2nd Brigade is officially deployed
 6. Colonel Cole is at Washington, D.C.- he was selected to represent Fort Riley as he shares his testimony. Shares first week of December
- Governor's Military Council
 - John Armbrust briefed the board on the following:
 1. State of Kansas 3.5 billion direct dollars
 2. 1 billion of that is personnel cost
 3. 1.4 billion in direct contacts of the state
 4. Leaders Retreat: January 22-23 at Overland Park
- Emporia State University
 - James E. Williams, Vice President of Student Affairs, briefed the board on the following:

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1. 500 thousand dollars to fund nursing program
 2. Community in Action program relationship has grown
- Alma
 - Pam Bales, thanks everyone for coming.
 - Chapman
 - Chapman is registered for the Riverwalk trail
 - Clay Center
 - Jimmy Thatcher briefed the board on the following:
 1. John Deere opens at the beginning of the year- \$7.2 million
 2. Extend sewage project is 90% complete
 - Geary County
 - Ben Bennet encourages members to save money at the local level so that citizens do not have to pay any more money on property taxes
 - Grandview Plaza
 - Honey Grant briefed the board on the following:
 1. New city building allows alcohol
 2. Working on Splash Pad with FHRC
 - Junction City
 - Mike Ryan briefed the board on the following:
 1. Bid for 12 more lots
 - Woodbine
 - MarySue Roller updated the board that Woodbine still has their post office, grocery store, and restaurant.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The January 15, 2015 meeting will be held at Potawatomi County
- Robert Boyd, FHRC Board President, adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.