

Commissioner Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Justin Clark, Kevin Stuber, Jerry Sedlacek, Kathi Vining and Bret Heim.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

- Kevin Stuber moved to approve the agenda. Jerry Sedlacek seconded. Motion passed.
- Jerry Sedlacek moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Kevin Stuber seconded. Motion passed.

Country Junction – Cereal Malt Beverage Certificate:

- Justin Clark moved to accept the cereal malt beverage certificate for Country Junction and allow the Chair to sign. Kevin Stuber seconded. Motion passed.

Chamber of Commerce – Executive Director Position:

- Commissioners discussed the Chamber executive director position. Kevin Stuber stated the individual would be full-time and focused on driving business growth in the community.
- Bret Heim stated he will draft a contract for the City to sign and then return it for Commission approval.
- Michelle Zimmerman noted uncertainty regarding insurance premium increases and the need for a financial cushion.
- Kevin Stuber moved to approve the County's half of the Chamber Executive Director's insurance package in the amount of \$5,500.00. Jerry Sedlacek seconded. Motion passed.

Grant Writing Discussion:

- Justin Clark discussed a relatively low-cost grant writing program through Fort Hays.

Executive Sessions:

- Justin Clark moved to recess into executive session until 9:25 a.m. with the Commissioners and County Counselor for attorney-client privilege. Motion passed.
- Justin Clark moved to recess into executive session from 9:28 a.m. to 9:33 a.m. with the Commissioners and County Counselor for attorney-client privilege at the request of Michelle Zimmerman. Kevin Stuber seconded, motion passed.
- Justin Clark moved to recess into executive session from 9:36 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. with Todd Green, Gary Ward, Jacob Morrison, and Bret Heim for attorney-client privilege. Kevin Stuber seconded, motion passed.

Road & Bridge – Gary Ward:

- Discussed access to the courthouse flag crank; repairs were completed and the flag returned to full staff.
- Presented furnace replacement quotes for multiple areas of the shop. Quotes included duct work and a 10-year warranty:
 - 92% efficiency system: \$15,836.69
 - 80% efficiency system: \$14,386.51
- Justin Clark moved to approve the 92% efficiency furnace from ACE Refrigeration in the amount of \$15,836.69 to be paid from the equipment fund. Kevin Stuber seconded. Motion passed.
- Discussed allocation of administrative wages among departments. Commissioners requested reports detailing time spent per department at the next meeting.
- Pipe has been ordered.

Solid Waste – David Waddell:

- Submitted the updated operation plan to KDHE and received approval.
- Will convene the Solid Waste Board and bring a resolution forward for operational changes.
- Discussed backhoe replacement options and pricing from John Deere and CAT. Commissioners requested additional review and comparisons.

Recess:

- Justin Clark moved to recess for 5-minutes. Kevin Stuber seconded. Motion passed.

Noxious Weed – Jarrod McVey:

- Commissioners thanked Jarrod for extended work hours addressing boiler issues; boiler is now functioning properly.
- Discussed upcoming trenching for the courthouse sound system project scheduled for January 26 by Shepard Farms.
- Discussed rainwater issues at the Sheriff's Office and potential drainage solutions.
- Discussed mole issues, tree removal needs, and plans to advertise for tree-cutting bids in March.
- Employee evaluations are in progress.
- Lagoon numbers from the rest area will be provided at a future meeting.

Recess:

- Kevin Stuber moved to recess for 5-minutes. Justin Clark seconded. Motion passed.

Emergency Management / EMS – John Atkin:

- No major updates. Completed and certified in the Stop the Bleed class.

Treasurer – Michelle Zimmerman:

- Discussed Solid Waste tire receipts; future receipts will be provided directly to Teresa.
- Justin Clark moved to approve and sign waste tire receipts for the year. Kevin Stuber seconded. Motion passed.

Facilities & Maintenance Discussion:

- Kevin Stuber discussed the condition of the Bressner Building, including plumbing and maintenance concerns, and shared photos.
- Commissioners discussed the need for a county maintenance person with plumbing and electrical capabilities.
- KJ Electric may be contacted to perform a breaker finder.

Other Business:

- Renewable energy moratorium remains with the Zoning Board; a zoning meeting will be scheduled.
- Property tax relief was briefly discussed.

Vouchers:

- Justin Clark moved to pay vouchers in the amount of \$300,568.31. Kevin Stuber seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment:

- Kevin Stuber moved to adjourn. Justin Clark seconded. Motion passed.

Justin Clark, Chairman

Kevin Stuber, Vice-Chairman

Jerry Sedlacek, Member

Attest:

Amanda DeWitt, County Clerk