

Minutes of January 5, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 9 a.m., in the Commissioners Chambers. Chairman Mark Pruett, Commissioner Keith Kelly and Commissioner Linda Gerhardt were present. County Counselor Todd Luckman was also present. County Clerk Kristie Richter recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Cathleen McMahon and Ali Holcomb were also present.

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda as written; Commissioner Gerhardt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

Signed the following payroll changes:

Department	Employee	From	To	Reason
Attorney	Bailey Baker		0	Resigned
Attorney	Brenden Clerico	0	\$17.00 per hour	New hire

Mileage for 2026 will be .72 cents per mile. Commissioner Gerhardt made the motion to raise the mileage rate to .72 cents per IRS standards for 2026, Commissioner Kelly 2nd the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

NEK Multi County Health Board, Susan Foster resigned. Need a new board member, need to advertise on the website and Facebook.

Scott Kieffaber, Public Works Director and Joe Gardner, Road and Bridge Superintendent, met with the commissioners to give their weekly update. The contract with KDOT for spraying right of way was signed by the chairman, the risk assessment report has been received, and they are working on fixes from the report. Scott asked about doing all the pillars in front of the doors. Commissioners agreed to be proactive on the repairs. Keith asked why Byron needed to come on site, Scott said it was to address the hot spots in the report. Keith said he believes you can put a surge protector in the breakers to stop the hot spots. Joe reported that the road groomer was used last week. They ran it down 222nd and 162nd. Joe feels like it is pulling up the gravel as it should. The concern with the

workers is that it would take the crown out of the road, but they didn't see that. Joe said they will run it for a couple more weeks to see the progress. Scott said it depends on the operator and how it is run, the potholes and ripples are virtually gone after using it. Joe said he is impressed with it. Scott said this is saving hours on the grader and rock out of the ditch. There was a tree down on 98th between V & V4, Scott said that the sheriff patrol that helped get it cleaned up is appreciated. Received an email from the Bureau of Indian Affairs there are 4 more bridges in question, Scott will send the list he has. Samsara? Are we sticking with it for 2026. Scott said they have support but not for what the County needs and he believes that the forms will never be completed as promised. They have no rights in certain programs, and this was supposed to be fixed, also all the roads are not loaded in the system. GPS could be a standalone if they want to keep it. Scott would like to go back and work with the engineer at Samsara and see if they can get things fixed. Keith asked if they wanted to get rid of all of it or keep some of it. Scott said the GPS is around \$10,000. Forms are around \$6000.00 more. Scotts used it 5-6 times throughout the year. If not, how would they track the work being done. Scott said looking at a new system would be the only alternative to be able to track. Mark asked about the system at the conference, how does that compare to what we have? Keith thought when we made the decision it was for management benefit to utilize to make sure the work is getting done. Keith wants to know how as a management tool you would use it. Scott said we will have to go into it throughout the day and check it. Keith asked Joe what he would like to see moving forward. He thinks if Samsara was working as intended it would be useful, but he has been unable to have access. Scott will get ahold of Caterpillar and John Deere to have them come discuss their access. This year's inventory is almost done. Jennifer is working on the last quarter of fuel tax. Last week they worked on the following: 1 between 278th & 286th, O4 between 98th and 103rd and 166 between R4 and S. Keith asked how we are approaching potholes in the roads? Scott would like to use the road groomer on those roads.

Lauren Lewis and Clint Prohaska with KCAMP came to discuss the utility claims. She sent the Commissioners the form that would be sent for claims. These claims need to be reported in a timely manner, if not the claimant can refer them to a 3rd party claims handler. They can be very difficult to work with if this happens. Scott said it wasn't reported to KCAMP

but to the utility companies as he didn't know we needed to report to KCAMP. He will contact both in the future. Mark asked how quickly KCAMP is to settle in litigation. Lauren said that they mediate everything. After several attempts then they would probably settle.

Todd, County Counselor, reported the status of the tax sale as confirmed by the judge, sheriff deeds are to the sheriff. Draft motion to distribute the monies from the tax sale to the Treasurer. Linda asked if the county filed the deeds. Todd, no the sheriff will send the deeds to the buyer, and they will file it themselves. Todd went over the regulations for the tribal roads. BIA overall has 2 programs. Building new roads or improving roads, and maintenance of the roads. Do they fund all roads within the boundaries of the reservation, Todd, no they wouldn't say that. They would show their plans for either maintenance or improvements and then the funding would be allocated if the funding is there. Keith would like to know what roads are being funded and if it is roads the county is maintaining.

Amy Enriken, Dist. Court Clerk, received a final quote from Budget Blinds, \$6,374.06 to do courtrooms and a bathroom. McClelland was lower than Cytek's bid. Blinds will come out of Amys capital outlay, new recording system from law library and her capital outlay. She made a request for the 2025 rollover amount and would like to have part of the budget put back into her outlay. Keith said he wants to encourage people to save money but there will be a limit to what will be transferred.

Todd spoke again on BIA road systems. Mark asked if this includes the BIA route on their maps. Todd yes, he believes this is the program where they are constructing a new road. Mark 158th Road, 11 miles in the county, do they believe then it became their ROW, Todd no. Mark asked about the federal government and how they use the funds. Can we have a report that shows how the funds are used? Todd presented some definitions of the Tribal roads. Mark asked how they determined who to call to fix the roads. The County or the Tribe? They need to have a list of what the tribe receives funding for. If the Tribe is adding anything, they need to know who is going to take on the work. They need to work together and figure out who is responsible for what bridges and roads. The BIA is a distributor of funds, not a managing authority. Going forward there needs to be an understanding of who does what. Keith said there is no way the County can afford to fix the bridges that were put in. Todd said the next step would

be to send a letter to the Tribe and the BIA. Keith would like the amount of funding in the reports in the last 10-15 years.

Kate Immenschuh, Appraiser/Zoning Officer, gave Mark the approval sheet for the Planning and Zoning boards. Mark asked Kate about Eagle View. What is the advantage of Eagle View? Keith said that they don't have to have an employee is the main reason. It would cost approximately \$73,812.00 a year to hire an employee, Eagle View cost \$29,000.00 a year, so it is cheaper than hiring another employee. This would be a net loss of \$41,000.00 for the County. Kate isn't convinced Eagle View is the best, but there are other options she is looking at. Change Finder is the biggest positive with Eagle View. The State of Kansas mandates once every 6 years the County goes out and views the county. Keith would like to move the zoning out of Kate's office and hire an individual to become the zoning officer. Kate says the demand in zoning has increased significantly. The burden on her and Jamey has made them fall behind on the appraisal duties. She believes having someone designated as a zoning/planning officer would free up time for her to do the other job duties. Would you still need all the employees to do the appraisal side? Kate said she would need 5 people and would be able to move an employee to the zoning side. She would like to keep it all in the same office and designate one individual to do the zoning. If you are thinking of separating them then she believes that office should have two people. Keith asked what the disadvantages are. Need to have good collaboration, there are overlaps that need to be addressed. Mark asked Kate to come up with a list of pros and cons on whether to move the office of zoning or keep it in one office. Mark thinks it would be more efficient to keep it all in one office. Linda thinks it would be good to have them separated out so there would be a primary focus on zoning. Keith asked how many people come in daily to ask zoning questions, two so far today and email correspondence. Revitalization and building permits all would have overlapped duties. The Commissioners believe that the zoning planner would take over revitalization. She asked if they were responsible for the deadlines and paperwork. Kate was asked to make a list of pros and cons and then they would have another discussion. February flood plain maps, public meeting, Division of Water Resources on February 10th. The meeting time will be 2 to 6:30pm. There are 30 plus properties that will be effected by the new map, she will send out letters to those individuals. She doesn't have a new query for all permit violations;

how do you want her to proceed? The Commissioners agreed that the penalties should be applied. It would be a one-time penalty plus the continuing compliance penalty up to when they are complying. Mr. Willcott has turned his building permit in.

Storage at the old elementary school is going from \$4500 to \$5400 a year. Good thing to look at for next year. If District Court is also using this, they will need to pay a share.

Commissioners left the chambers to view the sunflower room to discuss storage options and rearranging and possible moving offices. County Clerk Kristie Richter left the meeting and Deputy Clerk Tara Peek joined the meeting.

Commissioner Gerhardt made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-01 Cash Basis and Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0. Commissioner Kelly made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-02 Financial Institutions and Commissioner Gerhardt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0. Commissioner Kelly made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-03 Official Newspaper and Commissioner Gerhardt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0. Commissioner Gerhardt made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-04 Cancelling Warrants and Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0. Commissioner Kelly made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-05 ROZ and Commissioner Gerhardt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the written minutes of December 29th and Commissioner Gerhardt seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Chairman Pruetz asked the Deputy Clerk to make a note to have the departments who are using the storage facility to share the monthly cost evenly. Commissioner Kelly reminded the other Commissioners to reach out to the nominating committee members for the 2nd Judicial District to ask that they consider not appointing a lawyer to the open magistrate position to prevent future costs for the county if there were to be any appeals.

Commissioner Gerhardt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 p.m. and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 3/0. The next regular scheduled Commission meeting will be Monday, January 12th at 9 a.m.

Attest:

Board of County Commissioners
Jackson County, Kansas

Kristie Richter
Jackson County Clerk

Mark Pruett, 1st District

Linda Gerhardt, 2nd District

Keith Kelly, 3rd District