

## ***Minutes of January 12, 2026***

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 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. Deputy County Clerk Tara Peek recorded the minutes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Cathleen McMahon and Ali Holcomb were also present.

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

Commissioner Gerhardt made a motion to appoint Mark Pruett as Chairman and Commissioner Kelly seconded. The motion carried 3/0.

Commissioner Gerhardt made a motion to appoint Keith Kelly as Vice Chairman and Chairman Pruett seconded. The motion carried 3/0. Pruett reminded the other Commissioners that January 28<sup>th</sup> is Local Government Day at the statehouse in Topeka.

Public Works Director Scott Kieffaber and Road and Bridge Superintendent Joe Gardner joined the meeting to give their weekly update. Scott informed the Board that Cat was unable to come in to speak about their GPS products as they are in the middle of upgrading equipment. Murphy Tractor representative Steve Chermok joined the meeting to discuss what John Deere has to offer regarding their equipment and what is available to purchase for all other equipment. He explained that a modem and three wire system would need to be purchased and installed in the cab of non-John Deere equipment for about \$469-\$600 each. There would not be any monthly or annual fees, just the initial equipment costs. They use satellite and cellular service to operate, and the information can be reviewed through an application on a phone or computer. As technology changes, there will be costs associated with upgrading equipment. In addition to GPS, they can set up geofencing and fuel management notifications. He explained that the County can already access very detailed information on the John Deere motor graders, they just need to access the app. Commissioner Kelly told Scott and Joe to get the app going and give it a

try. Scott stated Steve was going to stay to check out the road groomer after the meeting as he had seen it being used on his road. Scott also said someone stopped to give a compliment near Mayetta where the groomer was being used last week. Scott submitted the call log for the Road and Bridge department showing 605 calls with 538 completed. He noted that 91 of the items on the list were reported by him. He informed the Board that the 2028 State grant information was available for off road and local system bridges. He and Matt applied for assistance with T7 and 215 Road, P and 292 Road, J4 and 256 Road and R and 324 Road bridge projects. Rock was hauled to the following locations the week of January 5-9: I 278-286, 278 H-I, X 94-102, K 254-262, K 254-262, N 262-270, 278 Q4-T, U 118-126, 98 V4-X, 94 V-V4, E 166-174, 182 D-E, 182 E-F, 278 Q4-S, 134 C-E, C 142-150, 102 S-T, T 106-110, O4 94-110, 278 O-P, N 262-278, N 214-218, 214 I-H, O4 110-118, P 246-254, 198 D-E, E 182-190 and to the bridge yard stock pile. Scott submitted an updated pricing sheet for Hamm **Quarries for the Cummings and Soldier locations. The 1 ¼ roadstone is** increasing from \$17.27 per ton to \$18.31 and the 2-inch roadstone is increasing from \$17.69 per ton to \$18.75 at Soldier. Scott wanted to address the rumor that the W Road project was out of money, which is false. They still have \$69,817.10 left in the budget for its completion when the weather allows. Scott is preparing bid sheets for culverts and signs/posts. They had 3 graders down last week, but all have been fixed and Wes is now working on the boom. Pruett reminded Scott to submit quarterly reimbursements for employee uniforms starting in March. County Counselor Todd Luckman presented a draft letter requesting information regarding federal funding amounts received and seeking a maintenance agreement with the tribe. Scott provided some additional information and will continue to communicate with his contacts at the tribe and BIA offices as well. Scott also submitted an updated cost share price list for chemicals used at the Noxious Weed department.

Commissioner Kelly stated that he was asked by Scott Baum if the County would consider giving all volunteer firefighters a free entry pass to Banner Lake. The Board decided to ask Kurt when he came in with bids.

Banner Lake Director Kurt Zibell joined the meeting to submit bids for sound panels at the new event center. He explained that all the bidders were given a video of him clapping inside the space and the dimensions. The bids received were as follows:

- Acoustical Solutions \$5,846.59
- R & M Equipment Company \$13,966.00
- McClelland Inc. \$41,750.00

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the low bid of \$5,846.59 to Acoustical Solutions and Commissioner Gerhardt seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Kurt also submitted bids for the boring needed for the upgrading of the transformers as follows:

- Haug Construction \$3,949.00
- Startech \$4,800.00
- Ehrhart Excavating \$24,000.00

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the low bid of \$3,949.00 to Haug Construction and Commissioner Gerhardt seconded. Motion carried 3/0. The Board asked Kurt for his thoughts on the volunteer firefighters having entry passes to the lake. Kurt stated the only costs associated with the passes themselves would be for the additional stickers he would need to purchase every year and suggested that they could be covered with the alcohol tax parks and recreation funds. He did say that he appreciated the firefighters' efforts when his brush fire rekindled days later and quickly spread, jumping the highway a few years ago. He would need a list of names, and they would need to come to the lake to get their passes from his office. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve one annual gate pass to Banner Lake for each volunteer firefighter on a Jackson County fire district roster and Commissioner Gerhardt seconded. Motion carried 3/0. Commissioner Gerhardt asked Kurt about the new rules for parking at camp sites at the lake. Kurt explained that most of the issues were at Cedar Point where there was previously no overflow parking or designated parking spots at the tent camping locations. Road and Bridge came out and laid rock to make a parking area for both. He asked Gerhardt to come out and look at campground C to see the improvements. He reported that hopefully they will be putting wire in the ground in 3-4 weeks in preparation for the upgrading of the transformers.

Appraiser Kate Immenschuh joined the meeting to discuss the Vanderputten building. She stated that she has received a compliance application, floodplain application and the variance has been approved by the zoning appeals board. Her office is still needing an elevation certificate

and a wet flood proofing application that is engineer approved. The zoning appeals board approved the variance based on the building being classified as agricultural use. Kate does not agree with this use. The building is described as being used for multiple purposes including woodworking and selling of furniture. The Board asked Todd to draft a letter to the owner and request him to come to a meeting to further discuss. Kate submitted photos from a Neighborhood Revitalization applicant who has not completed their remodel in the time frame. Commissioner Kelly asked about the letters sent to the program participants. Kate explained that her office is not required to send the letters but does so to help the applicants. Letters were sent around November 1<sup>st</sup> for Part 3, A or B.

County Counselor Todd Luckman stated he received a letter back from A1 Alarms offering a reduction in billing for the cancelled services. The consensus was, no thanks. Received notification from NEKES that a hunting cabin near Delia was not in compliance with the sanitary codes regarding wastewater systems. Received a letter from resident Dick Lake requesting the Board to allow a solar installation to reduce the tax burden on the taxpayers.

At 10:59 a.m. the BOCC took a short break. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the amended minutes of January 5<sup>th</sup> and Commissioner Gerhardt seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Approved Change Orders 2025-73 through 78.

Approved payroll for January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Gerhardt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m. and Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion carried 3/0. The next regular scheduled Commission meeting will be Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

Attest:

Kristie Richter

Board of County Commissioners  
Jackson County, Kansas

Mark Pruett, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Jackson County Clerk

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— Linda Gerhardt, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

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— Keith Kelly, 3<sup>rd</sup> District