

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026

- Agenda: 8:30 – Bills
 8:45 –
 9:00 –
 9:15 –
 9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works
 9:45 –
 10:00 –

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in a regular session with all members present. County Attorney Paul Kitzke, and County Clerk Amy Jo Tharp were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Shannon moved to approve minutes from the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Shannon moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The County Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	98,394.83
Judicial District	\$	981.54
Road & Bridge	\$	116,994.28
Airport	\$	11,748.30
County Building	\$	69,000.00
Noxious Weed	\$	2,124.07
EMS	\$	6,949.48
Fire	\$	4,221.15
Community Health	\$	10,313.59
Highway Improvement	\$	13,534.77
Treas Tech Fund	\$	1,102.50
Clerk Tech Fund	\$	1,102.50
911 Wireless	\$	117.15
Sheriff	\$	36,512.56
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>373,096.72</u>

Rodney Kelling was in attendance and told the commissioners there were no houses or buildings lost to the recent grass fires in Stevens County. The Stevens County Fire Department helped with Seward County Kansas, Grant County Kansas, and Texas County Oklahoma fires last week. Betty Rosel has been with the county EMT service for fifty-two (52) years and has turned in her resignation letter stating her last day will be February 28, 2026. Betty will continue to help with reserves when needed. Rodney would like to commemorate her years of service.

Tony Martin and Jeff Cox were at the meeting. Tony relayed that Craig Bell turned in his retirement notice stating his retirement date will be April 1, 2026. Tony said the bridge inspections were good and Tony had concern about the bridge on Washington Street. Hugoton City currently has the plans, and the bridge was built by the city, but according to statute due to the size of the city, the county is responsible for upkeep and repairs. The track loaders will hopefully be up and

running soon as they should be reaching close to completion of repairs. Due to the high winds and fires last week, there were some signs which needed replaced. Tony said he did not notice any damage from the winds to any of the county property he oversees.

Tron reported that Flora Foods wants to add some electric lines and should be working out issues with Pioneer Electric. Tony said he had heard about the issue but nothing since.

The land Kraisinger is leasing from the county either needs the county to build a permanent fence or allow the lessee to build a fence. Discussion was tabled until later.

Joe asked Paul if he had a deed ready for the museum property to be transferred and Paul said he would get it done. Paul said the company responsible for the tax sales is looking into more information but will do what it takes to make things right. Paul said he had yet to hear anything from the Cotton Gin, but they did not seem to want to work towards a settlement due to values being set.

Tron discussed with the commissioners, as a concerned farmer and not as part of his commissioner duty, if the county could help with fighting the water issue the state is proposing. He explained the state is wanting to take more water rights from the farmers to conserve the water and allow Oklahoma to have some of what water is left. The commissioners agreed the state's plan has issues but did not know what the county could do at this time.

Amy read a letter to the commissioners on Jayme Rich's behalf as she was unable to attend the meeting to find out if her wage increase would be accepted. The commissioners agreed to increase the county treasurer's wage as requested, noting the amount of the increase would come out of the state funded motor vehicle fund. Some discussion was held regarding the budget for the treasurer's department and percentage of county related work versus state motor vehicle related work.

The commissioners reviewed the encumbrance and transfer letters and tabled their decision until March 9th's meeting.

Amy told the commissioners that some department heads need to pay attention to their emails and messages as there is still some paperwork needed from the wellness center regarding county liability which needs to be turned in. She stated several emails went out without any acknowledgement or response.

Commissioners decided to have the election canvass on August 10th, 2026, at 1:00 PM in the commissioner's meeting room.

Abatement Orders for year 2026 taxes numbered 18 were reviewed and approved by the commissioners and given to the County Treasurer; total valuation removed 904 with a relief assessment of \$108.83.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman