

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
MARCH 23, 2026

Agenda: 8:30 – Bills
 8:45 –
 9:00 – Hearing for land sale – East Industrial Lots
 9:15 – Shelby Martin - Wellness
 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 with Tron arriving late. 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. Joe moved to approve the county vouchers. Shannon 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	\$	52,884.39
Judicial District	\$	726.68
Road & Bridge	\$	46,089.89
Airport	\$	2,379.43
Landfill Closure	\$	793.75
Noxious Weed	\$	8,645.53
EMS	\$	8,079.32
Fire Bequest	\$	87.15
Fire	\$	4,684.73
Community Health	\$	12,917.67
Reg of Deed Tech Fund	\$	22,445.00
911 Wireless	\$	114.26
<u>Sheriff</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>40,511.60</u>
TOTAL:	\$	200,359.40

Rodney came in and told the commissioners the plan for his position is to put an advertisement in the newspaper in May and hold the position open until June 15th. The commissioners will then select a candidate around July 15th for Rodney to train with a start date of August 1.

Tony and Jeff were in attendance. Tony expressed his concerns about needing a new loader at the landfill as the one which was previously rebuilt is having issues and costing more money. Tony discussed the possibility of future ideas for a compactor which would extend the life of the landfill by about thirty percent (30%).

Joe asked Tony and Jeff to stay and continue their conversation after the commissioners opened and completed the meeting for the East Industrial Park land sale.

Joe made a motion to open the meeting for the hearing of intent to dispose real estate pursuant to K.S.A. 19-211 for:

The Surface and Surface Rights only, including water rights to ALL of Lots Five and Six, Block 1 of the Stevens County Industrial Park, Plat No. 1.

There were no citizens who objected to the disposal of the land.

Shannon made a motion to approve the disposal of The Surface and Surface Rights only, including water rights to ALL of Lots Five and Six, Block 1 of the Stevens County Industrial Park, Plat No. 1, to Jet Land and Cattle, LLC. Joe seconded, motion carried.

Joe closed the hearing and reopened the meeting for regular business.

Sheriff Ted Heaton was in attendance.

Jeff informed the commissioners that the package for the loaders that was purchased did not come with the correct seals to withstand the use at the landfill. Joe stated his disappointment with the rebuild as it should have prolonged the life of the loader. Tony agreed and mentioned he would not recommend a rebuild in the future. Joe asked Tony and Jeff to wait until Tron was in attendance before making any decisions on a loader. Calvin Mann with road and bridge will be going in for his weed certification on the rights-of-way.

Joe asked if any new progress is happening with the solar or wind farms. Tony has a meeting with Travertine Solar in the morning for building permits. Tony mentioned he received a call from a cellular company wanting to put up a tower on the edge of Moscow that requires a conditional use permit. There will be a meeting in April for the planning and zoning board.

Shelby Martin was in.

Joe informed Shelby, Tony, Jeff and Ted that there will likely be budget cuts for 2027 as the Seaboard valuation is still up in the air but looks like it will go from a 63,000,000 valuation down to a 23,000,000 value. This will cause the county to cut budgets in order to keep taxes as steady as they can and not make taxpayers have a jump in property taxes.

Shelby brought up the issue with Sam Sandoval getting some paperwork notarized and stated it will be completed today. The commissioners asked her what the issue is with bills not being turned in to be paid. Shelby said the issue had been resolved and realized her employee had misplaced the folder with the utility bills. Amy asked how other bills were paid except Black Hills and Pioneer Communications. Shelby said only the utility bills were in the folder which was lost. A question about the number of past due notices for utilities was presented and she explained there was a folder with the utilities, and it was misplaced. Shelby said she would make sure the bills get turned in. Joe explained bills could be emailed, faxed, a picture sent, and various other ideas to make sure the county

is getting bills paid on time. Shelby said she would ask for a part-time secretary to take care of the paperwork but hearing about the budget cuts it does not appear it would be feasible at this time.

Ted told the commissioners he is replacing locks at the sheriff's department. He stated his staff will replace the locks instead of hiring a locksmith.

Joe asked if there is any more talk of an AI center in Stevens County. Tony has not heard much about the subject. Tony stated those data centers require a lot of water and electricity but has yet to hear if the county will have any benefits from having one in the county.

Tron arrived.

Tony informed Tron he would like to send out bid requests for a new loader at the landfill. Tony would like to start this today and have a bid opening on April 13th, at 10:00 AM.

Shannon made a motion to approve the bidding on a new loader for the landfill and to open the bids on April 13th, at 10:00 AM. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Tron said Flora Foods is running an electric line, and he told them to talk to Pam Peachey about using her property for the lines. If Pam would like the funds from the lines, the county will not compete. Joe asked Tony if Flora Foods is requesting an IRB. Tony replied what was currently on the property and what is new is being discussed.

The commissioners have approved for departments to give Rex items they would like to put up for auction at the Kiwana's sale this week.

Amy read Betty Rosel's resignation letter from the emergency services department with the understanding she will be kept on as a reserve when needed.

The commissioners asked Amy to contact Rex and get a contractor to do a spec sheet for the district court remodel and let Kelsee know once the spec sheet is turned in, closed bid requests will need to be published in the newspaper at least two (2) times prior to the bidding process.

Abatement Order for taxes numbered 18118 (16/20M) was reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer; total valuation removed 4,379 with a relief assessment of \$527.16.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman