

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
MARCH 9, 2026

- Agenda:       8:30 – Bills  
                  8:45 –  
                  9:00 – Judge Peterson – District Court remodel  
                  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	\$	82,445.95
Judicial District	\$	1,679.05
Road & Bridge	\$	59,849.28
Airport	\$	3,844.36
County Building	\$	205.96
Noxious Weed	\$	2,135.94
EMS	\$	7,606.90
Fire	\$	9,355.72
Community Health	\$	17,100.43
Treas Tech Fund	\$	1,769.62
911 Wireless	\$	-
Sheriff	\$	37,824.50
<u>TOTAL:</u>	\$	<u>223,817.71</u>

Judge Clint Peterson was in attendance with District Court Clerk Kelsee Burnett. Judge Peterson told the commissioners he would like the district court area reorganized to open more space and to provide more room. They would like to move court services to the law library, remove most of the books that are not needed, tear down the wall in between the district court clerk's office and the current court services office, make a half wall to allow space for public use but keep the district court's private files on the side where district court clerk's office is. The district court is in dire need of more space to store permanent files, or they will have to start digitizing files which will be expensive. The commissioners said they would go up to the court floor after they have conducted business and get a visual of what is being requested.

Pat Hall was present to observe the meeting.

Rodney Kelling was in and stated he would like to hold an emergency management discussion of the recent fires in Seward County, Kansas and Texas County, Oklahoma. The commissioners agreed there probably needs to be a meeting to see how Stevens County can be prepared in a similar situation.

Rodney informed the commissioners that Amy had heard back from KWORCC legal on the issue of hiring a volunteer firefighter / EMT with a disability. Amy responded that KWORCC inquired about the wording of the job description duties and requirements and whether it states something that would disqualify an individual from performing the required duties. Rodney does have in the job description that an EMT must be able to lift seventy-five (75) pounds. So, an individual who has a disability with weight limits imposed would not be qualified for the position. This qualifier for the job is for the safety of the EMT (employee), patients and the county. Rodney also informed the commissioners there are no jobs currently available on the firefighter / EMT volunteer schedule for an individual with lifting restrictions.

Rex came in and commented that the smell of the sewer in the courthouse could be due to the old pipes and when the wind blows the smell could be going down through the vents into the drains. As a precautionary measure, checking for leaks could be done by smoking the plumbing lines. The commissioners directed Rex to check and see who smokes plumbing lines and get an estimate on expenses.

Tony Martin and Jeff Cox were next and presented the commissioners with two (2) road-crossing permits and the 2026 noxious weed management plan, 2025 progress report, and 2025 eradication report for signatures. Tony asked the commissioners if they could approve a credit limit for Jeff Cox.

Shannon made a motion to approve a \$2,000.00 limit credit card from Citizens State Bank for Thomas Jeff Cox. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Tony and Jeff reported they will start spraying weeds in the next two (2) weeks. Shannon asked Tony and Jeff to check out Road Q near Roads 21-22 and see if it can be repaired as it is in bad shape. Jeff told the commissioners Road 24 is bad as well and said moisture is greatly needed. Joe asked Tony if he had any recent updates on the solar farm north of town. Tony said he has been communicating with Glen Kerbs and the solar company to make sure they have what is needed. Tony also told the commissioners Travertine sold out and is unsure if their project is still moving forward. Tron replied the project is still moving forward and hopes the construction will be completed by the end of the year. Tony brought up an issue with the building that was previously Stumpy's restaurant, stating someone had hit a pole/sign twice and is believed to be by someone who is accessing the wellness center. Tony said the owners of Stumpy's building asked if it falls on the county for repairs. Paul said the owner of the vehicle that caused the damage should be the responsible party, as the damage is not on county property or caused by a county vehicle.

Tony and Jeff will be attending the Southwest Kansas Highway Officials meeting in Dodge City on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The commissioners discussed with Tony what to do with the land Jim Kraisinger is leasing from the county that is now encroaching on the landfill. The commissioners said they will have a discussion with Jim about a possible solution.

Amy was directed to publish a public notice in the Hugoton Hermes for the sale of land in the East Industrial Park.

Pat asked if there will be a data center in Stevens County. Tron said he heard there is a possibility but not sure.

Amy reiterated there has been continued issues receiving signed bills from the Wellness Center and Black Hills was attempting to shut off the gas to the wellness center building. Amy stated that some of the continuous service bills have been past due since November 2025. There was discussion on the matter, and the commissioners requested Shelby to attend the next meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the issue and come to a resolution.

Matt and Jeana Wing came in and showed the commissioners some blueprints of a home they are requesting to build on a lot in the Pioneer Addition. The commissioners looked over the blueprints. Matt said they are unsure if they will be purchasing a lot, they just want to get approval before moving forward. The commissioners suggested Matt and Jeana speak with the City of Hugoton Inspector and if he is in approval they do not have any problems with their proposed residence.

The commissioners went up to the district courts floor and viewed the proposed remodel. The commissioners asked Kelsee to check for grants that could help fund the remodel and to get some quotes before they make a firm decision.

Amy presented the commissioners with the encumbrance and roll-over letters she had received:

1. GIS - \$1,000.00 toward postage for passports
2. Road and Bridge - \$224,071.50 to Road Machinery Fund
3. EMS - \$123,549.00 to EMS Equipment Fund
4. Fire - \$180,976.00 to Fire Equipment Fund

Shannon made a motion to approve the GIS \$1,000.00 for postage, Road and Bridge \$224,071.50 to the road machinery fund, EMS \$61,774.50 to the EMS equipment fund, and \$90,488.00 to the fire equipment fund. Joe seconded, motion carried.

Added and Abated Orders were reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer; for tax year 2025 number 21 total valuation added 400 and tax assessed \$52.31; for tax year 2025 number 19, 20, 22-25, total valuation removed 20,243 and tax assessed -\$2,838.26. Total valuation of -19,843 and total tax assessed -\$2,785.95.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

---

Tron Stegman, Chairman