

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
May 11, 2026

- Agenda: 8:30 – Bills
 8:45 –
 9:00 – Soil Conservation District – Abel Sullivan - Appropriations
 9:15 – Library – Stacey Strickland
 9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works
 9:45 –
 10:00 – HUB – Karen Vines
 10:30 – Sealed Bids – 3rd Floor Courthouse Renovation

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. 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	\$	81,185.15
Judicial District	\$	2,366.40
Road & Bridge	\$	82,211.76
Airport	\$	12,504.02
Building	\$	2,157.96
Noxious Weed	\$	3,891.63
EMS	\$	7,481.36
Fire	\$	3,571.42
Community Health	\$	20,340.59
Airport Grants	\$	12,765.29
Sheriff	\$	42,306.27
Emp Misc W/H	\$	-
TOTAL:	\$	270,781.85

Rodney Kelling was in and handed the commissioners the job description for the Emergency Services Director position to review. Rodney said he would like to get the advertisement posted in the newspaper this week and run it for four (4) weeks to get applications. This would allow the new hire to have ample training to take over the position in January of 2027. Discussion was had over a possible burn ban on fireworks in July. No decision was made at this time.

Rex Evans came in and informed commissioners the water fountain on the second (2nd) floor has quit working and he would like to remove it and cap the water line. The commissioners agreed. There is a crack in the Memorial Hall window which could have been caused by mowing or trimming. There is a company coming to give an estimate for repair/replacement of the window. Rex gave a quick

update about the third (3rd) floor renovations in the courthouse and said he will be back to discuss it further as there are issues which need to be addressed.

Abel Sullivan and Sheena Shuck with the Southwest Soil Conservation District were in to request an allocation for 2027. Sheena presented the commissioners with information on their budget. Abel stated the conservation district was appreciative of the funds from the county for 2026 as it allowed them to receive their full grant from the state. Abel said the conservation district is requesting \$30,000.00 from the county, which will allow them to receive their full grant from the state for 2027.

Tony Martin and Jeff Cox discussed Pioneer Electric placing power poles by the landfill.

Stacey Strickland and Lori Crawford from the Stevens County Library presented the commissioners with their budget requests and shared updates on the library activities. They said there is an increase in library card holders. They discussed that the library building is having some issues and needs general repairs. The commissioners explained the bidding process. Joe then explained that some of the CDs the library has should be used for building repairs. The commissioners relayed the issues over valuations, explaining they do not know when the valuation will go up or down.

Tony and Jeff asked the commissioners if they wanted the landfill to collect fees from the city for the city-wide cleanup, or how to proceed. The commissioners agreed there would be no fee for the city except for tires. The citizens pulling trailers during the city-wide cleanup days will still have a fee. There was discussion over a possible tire shredding machine. Tron told Tony and Jeff there is a company that will not use Road 10 anymore to haul because the road is in horrible shape due to other people using the road. Tony stated it is a public road, and he cannot tell certain people/companies not to use the road which makes it difficult to mitigate the issue.

Karen Vines with HUB was present via phone conference. She explained an alternative health insurance option called The Difference Card for the county to consider. It is a two-card (2) system where one (1) card is subscriber's primary medical insurance and is billed first and processes the medical claim according to policy rules. The second card is supplemental, employer-funded that covers the remainder of deductibles, coinsurance, and copays up to the limits set by employer. The two plans work in tandem to lower medical expenses without reducing overall coverage. Karen said if the commissioners decide to go with The Difference Card plan, she recommends a mandatory employee meeting where she would come in to explain and discuss the two (2) card system to employees. The county would need to know which way they plan on going with health insurance before October. The commissioners stated they would hopefully have an idea by July.

Nate Wolters, Kelsee Burnett and Rex Evans were in attendance for the bid opening for the third (3rd) floor of the courthouse. Tron opened the meeting for the bidding process and Amy Jo announced there were no bids. Tron asked Nate if he brought in a bid and he replied, no. Rex and Nate discussed the issues with the renovation to the commissioners. Nate stated that without viewing the blueprints, he is not comfortable bidding without determining if the wall needing to be knocked out is a load bearing wall. Nate also told the commissioners he looked above the ceiling panels and noticed the

wall was concrete behind sheetrock which would be a higher cost and may be necessary to change plans on the renovation to something different. Tron closed the bidding process.

Discussion over having Nate read the blueprints and other areas of the renovation was had. The commissioners approved of paying Nate a \$1,500.00 flat fee for the time and work of reading the blueprints and coming up with a possible solution. Susan Schulte came in and said Nate spoke with her and she has the blueprints on her computer. She is willing to lend out a copy to Nate for review but stated there should be no marks placed on them. Susan also commented she can print some up but would have to charge for the prints.

Jeff Cox requested an executive session over non-elected personnel positions and employment.

Joe made a motion to enter an executive session with Amy Jo, Tony Martin, and Jeff Cox in attendance for fifteen (15) minutes to go over non-elected personnel positions and employment. Shannon seconded. Executive session began at 11:16 AM and concluded at 11:31 AM.

Shannon made a motion to promote Haden Daharsh to road foreman at the road and bridge department, with an hourly rate of \$25.00 effective May 11, 2026, to replace Jeff Cox's position. The motion also extends to agreeing to the hiring of Alan Stoddard, Chris Beltz, and Adam Mauk at the road and bridge department. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman