

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
September 14, 2026

Agenda: 8:30 – Bills
 8:45 –
 9:00 – Karen Vines – HUB
 9:15 –
 9:30 – Jeff Cox – 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. 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	\$	127,075.63
Judicial District	\$	1,033.52
Road & Bridge	\$	185,933.70
Airport	\$	21,292.45
Noxious Weed	\$	8,866.92
Alcohol Treatment Fund	\$	1,646.81
EMS	\$	17,569.17
Fire	\$	8,122.47
Diversion	\$	750.00
Community Health	\$	25,422.15
County Building	\$	14,429.46
Sheriff	\$	118,151.74
Landfill Closure	\$	7,041.85
911 Wireless	\$	-
TOTAL:	\$	537,335.87

Rickey Burrows and Rodney Kelling came in and discussed with the commissioners about possibly having drivers for the ambulances. The drivers do not have to be EMTs but will be required to have CPR training. They would be paid the same as EMT pay and Rickey mentioned the drivers could also be firefighters since they would have CPR certification. Rodney would like to have full-time EMTs to work during the day, Monday through Friday, and pay them an hourly wage with no transfer pay. Joe stated the issue would be the cost of health insurance and how much the county could afford. Rickey would like to see the City of Hugoton help with EMT expenses since about eighty to ninety percent (80% - 90%) are within the city limits. Rickey and Rodney would like permission to place an ad in the newspaper and on the website for a full-time secretarial position to be hired by December so Margaret can train them. The commissioners agreed to advertise a full-time secretarial position for emergency services.

Amy Rich was in attendance and participated in discussion with HUB's Karen Vines who called in with updates on Stevens County's Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance. Karen mentioned the current loss ratio for the county has changed so the proposed increase looks as if it will not be as high as previously anticipated. She relayed that she should have more information by the October 13th commissioner meeting regarding solid loss ratio numbers for the year, other insurance company proposals, as well as further details about The Difference Card concept to see what a better overall fit for the county would be. Joe asked Amy Rich if there would be a concern with timing on her end and getting information to the employees. Amy replied that if there are changes it should not be an issue with her regarding the paperwork and preparation, but the main goal would just be to give employees plenty of time to receive information if there are changes effective January 1, 2027. She asked Karen if a brief communication should go out now to employees that a change may be coming, but Karen advised that based on her experience, to wait until the commissioners have made a final decision before distributing a memo to avoid potentially confusing employees further. Karen is hopeful of finalizing by October 26th and will plan to have a meeting with all employees in early November to discuss the commissioner's decisions / potential changes.

Jeff Cox was next on the agenda. He handed the commissioners an application to review for a possible landfill employee. The planning and zoning board will hold a meeting on October 14th at 10:00 AM in Memorial Hall to discuss the tower at Moscow. Kerbs Law should have information for planning and zoning by September 25th to make sure the tower plans are complete. Kirkham Michael will be checking culverts on the roads that Travertine will be using to ensure the structures are in compliance, and the roads are good for extra usage. Jeff informed the commissioners an employee at road and bridge has resigned, and he has three (3) employees he would like to give a \$1.00 an hour raise.

Jeff requested a fifteen (15) minute executive session over non-elected personnel to discuss work policy. Joe made a motion to go into executive session over non-elected personnel to discuss work policy. Shannon seconded. Executive session began at 10:05 AM and concluded at 10:20 AM. No action taken.

Joe made a motion to go into a fifteen (15) minute executive session with Josh Conley in attendance to discuss non-elected personnel employee policy. Shannon seconded. Executive session began at 10:21 AM and concluded at 10:25 AM. No action taken. Jeff asked Josh to meet him at the road and bridge office to discuss his future employment.

Shelby Martin was asked to attend. The commissioners discussed the county purchasing policy due to the purchase of an A/C unit at the wellness center. The commissioners informed Shelby that if there is an issue with the building which includes air conditioning or heating, she should contact Rex to help mitigate the situation. Shelby told the commissioners something needs to be done with extending the parking area of the wellness center so members will not be parking in other business parking lots. The commissioners suggested she speak with Jeff and see what can be done. Shelby requested a credit card for the wellness center to pay fees to the company that handles gym membership auto-pay services.

Joe made a motion to allow Shelby to obtain a county credit card from Citizens State Bank with a maximum limit of \$3,000.00 for the wellness center. Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

Rex informed the commissioners D.V. Douglass Roofing will begin September 24th on the Memorial Hall roof and should take five (5) days to complete. Once the roof portion is complete, the flashing will be installed.

Sheriff Ted Heaton and Undersheriff TJ Steers were in attendance and said they have an employee who is currently battling serious health issues and at this time is unable to work. Ted expressed his need for a replacement for the employee for the time being.

Tron said he would like to offer Jim Kraisinger two (2) extra years on his land contract due to unforeseen issues.

Shannon made a motion to extend Jim Kraisinger's contract for the land lease on plot three (3) for an additional two (2) years. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman