

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 9, 2026

- Agenda: 8:30 – Bills
 8:45 – Shelby Martin – Bids/Quotes Equipment
 9:00 – Joshua Grubbs – Pioneer Lots
 9:15 – Robert Davis – Airport Projects
 9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works
 9:45 – Jayme Rich – Salary
 10:00 – Kayla Janko – Cimarron Basin

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in a regular session with all members present. Deputy County Clerk Amy Rich was 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 Deputy County Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

General	\$	71,379.35
Judicial District	\$	726.89
Road & Bridge	\$	107,242.51
Airport	\$	2,730.42
County Building	\$	195.36
Noxious Weed	\$	4,599.74
EMS	\$	8,173.74
Fire	\$	2,726.00
Community Health	\$	13,185.95
Highway Improvement	\$	38,069.19
Reg of Deed Tech Fund	\$	8,231.00
Equipment Fund	\$	1,737.75
Emp Misc W/H	\$	-
Sheriff	\$	53,193.13
<u>TOTAL:</u>	\$	<u>312,191.03</u>

Rex Evans popped in to inform the commissioners a new 5 year contract was signed with Trane for the courthouse HVAC system and it ends in March of 2030. He relayed that Wolters would begin removal of the transfer station this week, and that he brought in a locksmith for both the door of the office Judge Gilmore is using and for the Moscow fire station.

Shelby Martin was first on the agenda, but did not come in.

Next was City Inspector Joshua Grubbs who spoke to the commissioners regarding a barndominium style residence someone is wanting to build in the Pioneer development. If the option were to be selected to build outside the already platted area the owner would be responsible for assessment of

any improvements and that could be considered quite a lot to develop. Josh explained that he can only write a permit on contiguous 5 acre lots, so it may need to be replatted. A main concern lies with the use of the structure, rather than the type of structure. Consideration would need to be given by the commissioners to covenants regarding barndominiums, as the city does not enforce covenants. Josh said he would get some photos of the proposed structure as well as the intended use of the property.

Airport board members Robert Davis, Dax Gaskill, and Matt Rome attended to report on the runway light project. One runway will be shut down for about two (2) weeks. Robert informed the commissioners that they have been in communication with the hospital regarding instructions for the medical transport planes while the one runway is shut down. Robert explained the need for a new entrance road, relaying that for several years the road continues to be patched only, so they feel it is really time to replace it. They looked at considerations to keep the cost lower, such as asphalt versus concrete, and presented the commissioners with the five (5) year proposed improvement plan that includes breakdown of costs, and grant proposals. This also included the land acquisition for runway extension. The commissioners agreed it is time to have the entrance road completely reconstructed.

Tony Martin and Jeff Cox were in attendance. Tony submitted an encumbrance letter for approval. He asked if they could go through the process of getting Jeff a credit card so when Tony retires and cancels his, Jeff will already have his own.

Shannon made a motion to allow the application for a credit card for Jeff Cox through Citizens State Bank. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Tony requested a ten dollar (\$10) / month increase for Jeff's phone allowance, stating the current amount of forty dollars (\$40) had been set several years prior and feels it is due an increase to at least fifty dollars (\$50) / month. Commissioners said they would think about it. Tony informed of a proposed conditional use permit for ground outside of Moscow.

Amy stated that due to Jeff remaining an hourly employee until transitioning to the supervisor position in June, she would need an hourly wage amount for Jeff. After the last commissioner meeting, she was informed of the new annual wage for Jeff as \$80,000 starting February 1, but she explained that since his current job duties do not meet the criteria of Administrative Salary Exempt classification, an hourly amount would need to be determined. She explained that if a straight yearly 2080 hours is used, which is the number for an eight (8) hour / day employee, his earnings would actually exceed the amount that will be the set bi-weekly salary amount in June. This is because salaried employees are not paid based on the number of physical hours worked, and hourly paid employees typically do not work an exact eight (8) hour day, as clock in / out times vary here and there with a few minutes early and a few minutes past, adding up to overtime. Amy wanted Jeff to be aware and prepared that once he officially becomes a salary paid department head as to why his amount would decrease if this formula was used to figure his hourly rate. The other option that was considered, and the one the commissioners ended up deciding to use, is to take Jeff's past four (4) years to figure his average annual number of hours worked and divide \$80,000 by that number to stay as close to the bi-weekly payroll amount that equates to \$80,000 annually.

Rodney Kelling was in and discussed with the commissioners about employees and KWORCC rules of coverage. Amy said she would check with KWORCC for some detailed information Rodney inquired about.

Kayla Janko with Cimarron Basin presented the commissioners with their annual request for continued support. She reported that KDOC caseloads are down and she is down three (3) employees.

Jayne Rich came down and explained that she should have a salary increase because her motor vehicle pay should not be included in the total salary when figuring the amount she should be on the pay plan since motor vehicle pay is state funded. She said she would use the state funded motor vehicle fund to support the increase rather than use county funds. The commissioners said they would like to table it and find out more information regarding the different funds for salary support. Jayme presented a statute highlighting some information regarding motor vehicle compensation. Jayme informed the commissioners that after several emails she received receipts earlier in the morning from Shelby for the wellness center sales taxes that covered about a year's worth.

Ted Heaton came in and asked the commissioners to explain to him why they decided to implement salary caps and how they came up with the figures. Joe answered that it started with the realization that a certain department head salary in the past had become very high and that they took average amounts of surrounding similar size counties to determine start wages and capped wages. Ted expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the caps and asked the commissioners not to do that to his department. He questioned why the COLA amounts varied and Tron explained that even though he is not in agreement with caps, he came up with the idea of 3% of \$45,000 as an annual COLA amount for full time employees and a set 3% increase for part time employees. This would give lower wage earners a little more significant boost in pay while keeping higher wage earners from getting too much of an increase and potentially getting out of control as seen in the past.

Angela Eichman gave an update that she received guidance regarding the Seaboard appraisal and held discussion with the commissioners about valuation and fee appraisal.

Attest: Amy Rich, Deputy County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman