

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
JANUARY 12, 2026

Agenda:        8:30 – Cammie Heaton – Grant  
                    8:45 –  
                    9:00 –  
                    9:15 –  
                    9:30 – Tony Martin - Updates  
                    10:30 – Shelby Martin - Grant

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. Joe moved to approve minutes from the last meeting. Shannon 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	\$	174,321.79
Fair Funds	\$	-
Judicial District	\$	2,520.49
Road & Bridge	\$	124,601.65
Airport	\$	8,763.20
Airport Grants	\$	185,572.05
County Building	\$	3,608.42
Insurance Agency	\$	343,011.00
Landfill Closure	\$	917.50
Noxious Weed	\$	6,927.76
EMS	\$	10,368.43
Fire	\$	19,272.75
Community Health	\$	20,830.95
Sheriff	\$	86,160.90
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>986,876.89</u>

Cammie presented the commissioners with a workforce development grant the Community Health Department was awarded, in the amount of \$105,964.32. There is a bill from the Animal Health Center concerning a wild cat bite in which Cammie is unsure who is responsible for the costs to determine if the cat had rabies. Amy was tasked to find out if the county is responsible for that bill or who is. As of today, there are not many flu cases, but the county could start seeing more. Cammie will be attending the governor's conference on April 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the measles update.

Tony Martin informed the commissioners he does not approve of the amounts on the newly implemented employee pay-scale for increases for his employees. He said some of the employees received a raise according to the pay plan, but he did not sign the pay rate verification forms. The commissioners stated the employees should not have received the raise without the department head's signature and made the decision to retract those increases but would not require those employees to pay it back to the county. Amy said pay rate forms were sent out with a request to respond by a deadline and last she was aware there had been no communication disapproving the R&B rates. Commissioners asked if there was communication from other department heads and she replied, yes, there had been. Amy Jo said she would take care of the situation on her end and make sure the employees receive a letter of apology regarding the error.

Tony said there was another loader down as it was out of oil and will be repaired. Once it is repaired Tony expressed his intention of putting it up for bid to be sold.

Rodney was present and told the commissioners he is under the assumption he should have an increase in pay according to the pay plan. The commissioners said they will discuss it at the next meeting when the road and bridge pay is sorted out. Rodney told them he would like to know a yes or no answer and not keep having his salary request tabled. The commissioners responded that they would decide at the next commissioner's meeting if there was an issue with his salary and if they will adjust his cap.

Joe requested a ten (10) minute executive session over non-elected personnel policy. Shannon seconded. Executive session began at 10:15 AM and concluded at 10:25 AM. No action taken.

Amy reminded the commissioners of the special meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> to dispose of county property around the museum to be given to the museum if no one comes in and contests.

Joe made a motion to approve ***Resolution 26-01, financial statements and reports for year end 2025 confirm GAAP requirements.*** Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

Shannon made a motion to accept ***Resolution 26-02 for the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ).*** Tron seconded. Motion carried.

Shannon made a motion to appoint Tron Stegman as the commissioner chairperson. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Shannon made a motion to appoint Joe D. Thompson as the commissioner vice-chairperson. Tron seconded. Motion carried.

Tron made a motion to appoint The Hugoton Hermes as the official county newspaper for Stevens County. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Tron made a motion to appoint Citizens State Bank of Hugoton to be the primary depository and Dream First Bank in Hugoton as the secondary depository. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Shannon made a motion to appoint Nancy Johnson to replace Jo Lynn Harrison on the Stevens County Foundation Board. Joe seconded, motion carried.

Amy said she has received all signed paperwork for the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and has forwarded all the pages to the attorney who is working on it. She stated she is waiting to hear back to find out if it is now in completion and ready to be started.

The commissioners agreed to make a payment to the City of Hugoton from the alcohol treatment fund in the amount of \$1,200.00 to help with the utilities for AA.

The commissioners instructed Amy to take thirty (30) acres off the land lease agreement for Jim Kraisinger before sending out the 2026 billing. This adjustment is because the thirty (30) acres are no longer accessible.

The commissioners instructed Amy to contact Plunkett's Pest Control and have them take the transfer station off the list to be treated.

The commissioners approved three percent (3%) of \$45,000.00 as a COLA, which is \$1,350 for the year, for full time employees who have not reached their cap amount. Part time employees will receive a COLA of three percent (3%) of their wage.

Shelby presented the commissioners with a quote in the amount of \$32,035.60, from Mid-States Fitness Equipment. This quote is for two (2) treadmills, a stair climber, three (3) Peloton bikes, a rower and multiple dumbbells, along with install and trade in on old equipment. Shelby also said she is purchasing some equipment from Rogue and CTX to complete her \$50,000.00 grant. Tron asked Shelby if she had been processing sales taxes like she is supposed to and she said she had been paying them. Amy Jo informed that Jayme is still missing the paperwork that coincides with the payments. Tron instructed Shelby to get the paperwork to Jayme by end of day.

Joe made a motion to bypass the bidding process and accept the quoted amount of \$32,035.60 from Mid-States Fitness Equipment. Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

Amy updated the commissioners on the approved scanners, reporting that she is planning on ordering a scanning device for bulk scanning and a large scanner to scan books so the permanent records the treasurer and clerk are required to keep may be digitized. This is a goal to help free up space in the courthouse. She explained the equipment will be over the \$5,000.00 threshold and will be using tech funds for the purchases. The commissioners agree with the idea and have approved, depending on the costs.

Added and Abated Orders were reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer for tax year 2025 number 15 with a total valuation removed of 140,318 and tax assessed -\$22,809.53. Valuation added for tax year 2025 numbers 13 through 14, a value of 17,745 and a relief assessment of \$2,148.10. Total valuation of -122,573 and total tax assessed -\$20,661.43.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Tron Stegman, Chairman