

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
MAY 12, 2025

Agenda: 8:30 – Bills
 8:45 – Cammie Heaton - Community Health
 9:00 – Soil Conservation District – Luke Grubbs/Sheena Shuck
 9:15 –
 9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works
 10:00 – Neighborhood Revitalization Plan
 10:30 – Shelby Martin – Wellness Center
 11:00 –

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in a regular session. 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	\$	62,806.20
Judicial District	\$	4,256.35
Road & Bridge	\$	65,681.33
Airport	\$	13,987.21
Co Building	\$	-
911 Wireless	\$	-
Noxious Weed	\$	4,494.39
EMS	\$	9,874.43
Fire	\$	2,743.88
Community Health	\$	22,190.44
Community Health Grants	\$	-
Airport Grants	\$	-
Employee P/R Misc W/H	\$	-
Sheriff	\$	64,739.88
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>250,774.11</u>

Rodney Kelling came in and told the commissioners he had spoken with Sourcewell which is a company that obtains bids/offers from other companies for items Kansas counties need. They provide a list of these items and costs by various companies. Rodney said in the list were SCBAs from MES at less of a cost than what he was originally quoted by MES. The cost for the compressor was listed at \$87,749.00 and the SCBA packs and assembly items total \$196,944.00. This would make him short by roughly \$24,000.00 instead of \$50,000 to \$80,000.00 from the original quote by MES. Rodney stated he is getting a grant from the foundation board and funding from the general equipment fund but would like to fund the remaining \$24,000.00 out of the fire and EMS equipment funds. Joe asked if the county needs to go through the normal bidding process or if it would be okay to use the

Sourcewell list of bids/offers. Paul said using Sourcewell on specialized items should be fine but regular items a department can get through local businesses should require the normal bidding process. Rodney said the good part about Sourcewell is they obtain multiple costs from various providers so county departments can see what a good cost should be. For SCBAs, instead of paying \$350,000.00 to \$400,000.00, the county is only paying \$284,693.00 through the MES listing by Sourcewell. Further discussion regarding purchasing the SCBAs in increments, finding cheaper solutions, what is needed to keep the firefighters safe, and understanding that the cost and equipment could change on an annual basis, had the commissioners agreeing to a solution.

Shannon made a motion to waive the traditional bidding process for the SCBAs for the Stevens County Emergency Management department. Joe seconded; motion carried.

Shannon made a motion to approve the purchase of the SCBAs through MES via Sourcewell for a total of \$284,693.00. Joe seconded; motion carried.

Tony Martin was in attendance.

Cammie Heaton arrived to inform the commissioners the WIC management evaluation was approved so the community health department will continue to receive WIC grants. KDHE has lost several employees which will cause the grant approval process to be hindered and the COVID grant money is gone which was set aside to purchase a new server. The family planning and other grants the county is to receive are still in good standing. Cammie informed the commissioners that the measles cases are declining, and Stevens County ended with seven (7) known cases. The Public Health and Preparedness event led Cammie to draw up a sheltering plan which was approved by the state. The Parsons Trust has granted the community health department \$10,000.00 to make improvements to the front doors, so they are accessible with a push button. Cammie received a quote from Kinney Glass, Inc. in the amount of \$6,900.00 to install the hardware for the wiring of an outside electrical unit to become ADA compliant. Cammie presented the commissioners with a quote from Hanks Striping LLC to get the parking lot areas marked off and to redo the markings for ADA accessibility. Joe asked Tony if road and bridge could do the striping and markings for ADA accessible areas and Tony said they would be able to do the work instead of hiring a company. Cammie also informed the commissioners there was a rabies case in Stevens County from a bite someone received from a feral cat. Cammie advises people to make sure their pets are vaccinated for rabies. The gazebo at the health department needs some upkeep and the commissioners suggested having Rex look at it to see what can be done. The first Little Eagle Dash Day this year will include adults, and Cammie is hoping for a good turnout to be able to educate people about the importance of vaccinations for school.

Luke Grubbs and Sheena Shuck with the Soil Conservation District were next on the agenda and presented the commissioners with their 2026 request for a \$30,000.00 appropriation. Luke and Sheena also expressed they might need help with additional funding for a new DOC technician at least by the end of the year.

Tony Martin said once Stoppel Dirt begins moving soil and vegetation at the landfill, that will begin their ninety (90) day contracted time. Tony presented the commissioners with two (2) supplemental agreements from Terracon:

1. \$51,000.00 for inspections of landfill, surveys and approvals
2. \$19,000.00 for inspections on gas lines

Shannon made a motion to approve the two (2) supplemental agreements on inspections for the landfill from Terracon in the amounts of \$51,000.00 and \$19,000.00. Joe seconded; motion carried.

Tony hired another employee for the road and bridge department which brings them up to a full crew of nineteen (19). The road and bridge department began their four (4) ten (10) hour days last Monday for summer work and will begin blading and weed spraying today. While in the meeting, Tony received a message that Stoppel Dirt will begin moving dirt, and the pre-cast caps for the pipeline bridges will have to setup for thirty to forty-five (30 – 45) days before being used.

There was discussion with Tony and the commissioners about the 4-H students' livestock pens. The fair is currently funding the utilities for those pens and will continue until the fair/4-H board can come up with a structured payment plan as this is only going into the second year the pens have been in place.

Angela Eichman came in and told the commissioners she just spoke with Seaboard's attorney, and they would like to come out next week and do a walk-thru of the plant to determine what is real estate and what is personal property. Angela will have to leave the valuation as "no change" since hearings need to be turned in by Friday. After the walk-through of the plant, Angela said a decision will be made on Seaboard's valuation and she will inform the commissioners. She asked if at least one (1) commissioner would accompany her to the Seaboard plant, and it was agreed that at least one (1) commissioner would be in attendance.

Amy Jo mentioned when Amy Rich took minutes for the February 10th meeting, Paul stated the whole county cannot be included in the neighborhood revitalization plan (NRP). Amy Rich had asked Amy Jo to get clarification on that, because an email Amy Jo received from Gilmore & Bell asked if the commissioners wanted to include the whole county or just the parcels previously sent, and at the meeting on April 28, 2025, the commissioners stated they do not see why this should not be eligible for all of Stevens County. Paul replied he spoke with an attorney from another county about the NRP and they suggested not having the whole county included. The commissioners tabled the discussion.

Shelby Martin was in attendance.

Joe made a motion to go into executive session for ten (10) minutes over non-elected personnel work related issues with the county clerk and county attorney in attendance. Shannon seconded. This executive session began at 10:18 AM and concluded at 10:28 AM, with no action taken.

The open meeting resumed.

Shelby handed the commissioners quotes for the A/C unit stating one (1) of the units had quit working and the repairman used parts from it to do work on the other units for a discounted cost.

Tron made a motion to go into executive session for twenty (20) minutes over non-elected personnel work related issues. Shelby Martin and the county attorney were requested to be in the executive session. Joe seconded. The executive session began at 10:30 AM and concluded at 10:50 AM, with no action taken.

The open meeting resumed.

Discussion began regarding Shelby's hours and comp time. Joe asked how her hours are tracked, and that Shelby would like to use comp time. Shelby explained that during some pay periods, for example, she may work fifty (50) hours in one week and would like to use comp time the following week. Amy said Shelby's job description states she is required to work a minimum of forty (40) hours a week and suggested the commissioners speak with Amy Rich about how comp time applies to Shelby. Joe spoke with Amy Rich on the phone about comp time and Joe read a portion of the comp time paragraph from the Stevens County Rules and Regulations.

Tron asked if it would help Shelby to hire a part-time person for the wellness center to assist with the paperwork aspect of the department and a new system to help keep track of the memberships as well as other issues pertaining to the door system. The commissioners discussed several possibilities but stated whatever decision is made must fit into the wellness center budget. Decisions have been tabled for now. The commissioners informed Amy that the wellness center is expected to make deposits and turn in bills for payment every Tuesday.

Amy said while the commissioners were in the executive session with Shelby and Paul, she spoke with Kevin at Gilmore & Bell about the NRP and the parcel issue. She told them after discussing the issue of allowing or not allowing all parcels to be included in the NRP, Kevin did some research and found the statute which he said was vague. He found an attorney general's opinion that stated "...unlikely entire areas of a city or county would qualify, and in their opinion, can only designate to one (1) or more areas." Amy further stated once the NRP has been approved by the commissioners, Gilmore & Bell will work on the interlocal agreement to be worded to accept any amended changes.

Shannon made a motion to approve the NRP with the selected parcels listed. Joe seconded; motion carried.

Amy discussed with the commissioners about the leaks in the courthouse when it rains since Rex was unable to attend the meeting. She said Rex has AK Roofing and Aqua Shield coming to check the roof but wanted to know what the commissioners want to do about the cracks. Joe said the cracks in the GIS room are substantial and feels there needs to be a commercial building inspector to check out the integrity of the courthouse. Amy also informed the commissioners Sheriff Ted Heaton spoke with her on Friday saying the recent rains had water dripping into the dispatcher's office and onto the computers. Ted also told Amy that years ago, Dave Bozone gave Ted a letter stating the county would provide a new roof for the sheriff building if ever needed. The commissioners told Amy to have Rex tell AK Roofing and Aqua Shield to check out the sheriff building roof to see if it needs repaired.

Amy informed the commissioners she is submitting specs and requests for sealed bids for the county website to the paper and to other businesses, as most of the start-up costs are \$5,000.00 or more, which falls into the threshold amount requiring bids. The sealed bids for the website will be opened at the next commissioner meeting on May 27th, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman