

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
JUNE 23, 2025

Agenda: 8:30 – Bills
 8:45 – Cammie Heaton – Comm Health Updates
 9:00 –
 9:15 – Thea Schnittker – VFW Monument
 9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works
 10:00 – Marshall Lewis – SW Guidance Center
 10:30 –
 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. 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	\$	91,894.13
Judicial District	\$	921.01
Road & Bridge	\$	37,566.06
Airport	\$	10,227.15
Co Building	\$	-
911 Wireless	\$	113.75
Noxious Weed	\$	4,129.51
EMS	\$	6,607.75
Fire	\$	2,355.53
Community Health	\$	10,569.81
Fire Bequest	\$	84,999.00
Comm Hlth Grants	\$	8,042.71
Special Law Enforcement	\$	4,628.70
Sheriff	\$	36,666.96
TOTAL:	\$	298,722.07

Tron asked Joe how the walk-thru with Seaboard Energy went. Joe said Angela received a list of the items Seaboard is wanting to include in the exemption and he feels Seaboard's attorney is going to try to get all those items exempted. The current estimated valuation is 129,112,943 and it was explained that if Seaboard is granted the exemption, it could potentially drop the value by 40 mils.

Bob Brunson was in attendance.

Rodney Kelling was present and told the commissioners the compressor was received and installed. Rodney also relayed that AES contacted him and said they would like to help fund the SCBAs. The company that tests tornado sirens were in town and did a survey of the City of Hugoton. They gave Rodney some quotes in the \$64,000.00 to \$65,000.00 range for two (2) sirens, stating a grant is possible to help cover most of the expenses. Rodney stated he would like the City of Hugoton to help fund some of the costs of the sirens. Verizon contacted Rodney wanting to hook up GPS trackers on the fire vehicles at \$14.95 per vehicle which will cost roughly \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00 per year. Rodney said it would be nice to have them on the fire trucks, although he believes GPS tracking is not a need, and is not sure it would be worth the cost. There is currently a promotion for the GPS trackers which includes free installation, and the first three (3) months free.

Cammie Heaton was next on the agenda and shared with the commissioners that the server with installation and transfer of files is now \$19,182.96, due to inflation, which is higher than the original quote from May 28th of \$17,828.34. Cammie stated she has a grant for the cost of the server and several other items totaling \$105,964.32. However, she received differing opinions regarding spending of the grant. The regional public health nurse advised Cammie to spend it quickly, but the resource officer suggested not spending it all just in case some of the grant is retracted. There is a fence around the Trane unit to try and prevent public access and potential damage to the unit. Cammie noticed mold around the vent in one of the exam rooms, and upon further inspection discovered water pooling in the vent, possibly due to condensation. Trane will need to inspect it but at this time she has a dehumidifier drying the room out and trying to prevent further spreading of mold. Items from the room have been sterilized and relocated until the problem is resolved. There are fifty (50) children who signed up for Dash Day in which the Hugoton Recreation donated shirts and Farm Bureau donated water and funding to purchase medals.

Amy informed the commissioners the airport grant fund has not received any income so far this year and has a negative balance. She said due to the negative balance she will be unable to pay any invoices until appropriate funds are available. Amy presented the commissioners with airport projects AV-2025-18 (crack-seal runway) and AV-2025-19 (T-Hangars and terminals) for signatures.

Amy said the hearing notice for the neighborhood revitalization plan (NRP) has been in the paper once, and this week will be the second publication. The hearing for the NRP will be held on June 30th at 8:00 am in the commissioner meeting room.

The commissioners discussed the firework issue from the previous meeting, and they have decided to follow the City of Hugoton's guidelines. In 2025, the discharge of fireworks is legal from July 2nd through July 5th at midnight, and the sale of fireworks is prohibited throughout the year except for July 2nd through the 5th. After 2025, the sale and discharge of fireworks will be from July 2nd through July 4th.

Thea Schnittker informed the commissioners the memorial on the southwest corner of the courthouse lawn needs to have additional names added. She explained the name plates for the memorial had

previously been overseen by the VFW. She has been unable to find proof that the VFW is currently active in Stevens County. Therefore, Thea believes the county should now be responsible for the upkeep. Thea went through their DD214 records which are recorded and filed with the register of deeds and discovered fifteen (15) names that need to be added. She spoke with Jones Monument Liberal KS Inc., and they suggested having the monument polished and resealed. The monument company said they can add fifteen (15) names in one (1) day, and the cost will be \$120.00 per name totaling \$1,800.00. Thea said she is going to speak with the Stevens County Foundation and ask if they will be willing to grant funding for the names. The commissioners agreed to the addition of names to the monument and the county now being responsible for the upkeep.

To ensure availability of funds, Tony Martin asked Amy to inform Jayme Rich there would be large bills coming in for the landfill pit. The road and bridge department will be chip sealing twelve (12) miles from the Nex-Gen feedlot and radio tower area toward the City of Moscow, beginning on July 7th. The 2013 road grader is down, and the repairs will cost more than a re-manned engine. Tony also informed the commissioners that the state mandates the placement of weight limit signs at county bridges as well as the intersection leading up to the bridge. Tron asked Tony if the noxious weed department had been spraying at the airport and Tony replied, at least twice. Tony informed the commissioners there is a carnival currently at the fairgrounds and reminded of the Stevens County Fair coming up at the end of July.

Dr. Marshall Lewis with Southwest Guidance Center was in to report that the center is now fully certified with the state on CMHC (Community Mental Health Center) and CCBHC (Community Behavioral Health Clinic) and they can now conduct drug and alcohol evaluations. The Southwest Guidance Center appreciates the funding Stevens County has provided in the past and is requesting appropriations of \$37,975.00 for 2026. Dr. Lewis stated they still have grant funding for payroll and hiring new staff, but the grant will be completely diminished this year.

Joe made a motion to go into a ten (10) minute executive session over job duties of non-elected personnel. Shannon seconded. Executive session began at 10:22 am and ended at 10:31 am. No action taken.

Shelby Martin and Adam Mendoza came in to discuss updating the wellness center's membership software. Shelby reviewed several companies and said Glofox has all the requirements needed and will be the vendor for all items such as credit card and door unlocking system, alerts, and other issues the wellness center has faced. Adam said the cost for the system is almost \$7,000.00 per year and the initial set up is \$1,328.00. The commissioners agreed to the updated software. Shelby said she would like to give Adam more hours through the summer months before he goes back to college. The commissioners are okay with it contingent upon checking with Amy Rich first on KPERS rules regarding employee status and number of hours worked, as this is not to be a KPERS eligible position.

Amy requested a five (5) minute executive session over job performance of non-elected personnel.

Joe made a motion to go into a ten (10) minute executive session over job performance of non-elected personnel. Shannon seconded. Executive session began at 10:55 am and concluded at 11:05 am, with no action taken.

Amy discussed with the commissioners about setting start wages. She emphasized the importance of having a starting wage for each department position and how it would greatly benefit the county by having a more structured system, emphasizing consistency, fairness to employees, and assistance to department heads hiring new employees. The commissioners agreed and instructed Amy to contact all department heads and have them submit by the July 28th commissioner meeting what they would suggest as an hourly start wage for all positions they oversee in their department.

Jayne dropped in and said she spoke with Tony about the landfill closing costs and assured the commissioners and Tony the funds would be available, but the process cannot run through as an ACH.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman