

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS  
JUNE 9, 2025

Agenda:      8:30 – Bills  
                  8:45 – Cammie Heaton  
                  9:00 –  
                  9:15 –  
                  9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works  
                  10:00 –  
                  10:30 –  
                  11:00 –

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in a regular session except for Commissioner Tron Stegman. County Attorney Paul Kitzke, and County Clerk Amy Jo Tharp were also present. Joe 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	\$	70,505.40
Judicial District	\$	244.95
Road & Bridge	\$	72,163.52
Airport	\$	2,748.52
Co Building	\$	1,386.00
911 Wireless	\$	-
Noxious Weed	\$	7,628.34
EMS	\$	7,257.20
Fire	\$	2,872.07
Community Health	\$	13,495.46
Insurance Damages	\$	1,770.00
Comm Hlth Grants	\$	330.98
Equip Fund	\$	23,000.00
Sheriff	\$	41,153.27
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>244,555.71</b>

Rodney Kelling was in attendance and told the commissioners the LEPC meeting was held last week and after the meeting he met with AES and another solar company. The solar companies discussed the timeline and security for solar projects. They expressed their desire to help the fire department with donations. Rodney told the solar companies he is working on getting SCBAs for the fire department and they said they would like to donate some funds to help. Rodney also stated the solar

companies will be bringing in around 250 to 300 contract workers and hiring local people to get the solar fields installed.

Amy said the Hugoton City Clerk, Carrie Baeza, called and informed her of the new Kansas State Statutes regarding fireworks. Amy told the commissioners the state is now allowing firework distributors to be open year-round and is allowing the cities and counties to make their own ordinance or resolution regarding the sale of fireworks by distributors. Amy also said Hugoton is allowing fireworks to be discharged on the 5<sup>th</sup> until midnight, but unclear if it is just for this year, until further notice. Rodney said he did not have an issue with fireworks but would like to see the county require a permit to discharge fireworks for special events. He said the permit should be signed by the emergency management director, sheriff and possibly the county inspector. Paul suggested seeking guidance from other counties as far as the State's new statute and placing a hold on the discharge of fireworks if there is a burn ban. Paul also said those who are vendors and not distributors can only sell fireworks from June 20<sup>th</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup>. The commissioners tabled making any decisions until they find out what the City of Hugoton is doing.

Cammie Heaton came in and informed the commissioners the WIC grants will be reduced starting this year by approximately \$13,500.00. She said there will be cost cutting for WIC families and the WIC dietician, Susan Lukwago, will be coming to Stevens County less frequently to help cut costs as well. Cammie attended the LEPC meeting last week and said Jennifer Featherston asked her about the pharmacy administering vaccines. Cammie said she is not interested in the pharmacy doing vaccines as that is the main income for the health department. She relayed the pharmacy only gives shingles vaccines in a dry formula which requires the person to still go to the health department to get the vaccine mixed and put into shot form. Cammie also stated her concerns regarding this type of shingles vaccine coming from one location to another. The person receiving the vial from the pharmacy may not get it administered in time or keep the vaccine in unsuitable conditions which will make the vaccine unusable.

Cammie expressed her concern with her budget last year informing the commissioners she went over the budget due to the large number of RSV vaccines she had to purchase and has since expanded that line item in her budget to compensate for next year. Cammie has received the grant money from the Parsons Trust to purchase a new vaccine refrigerator and asked for their opinion on what to do with the broken vaccine freezer. The commissioners, Paul, and Cammie discussed the different ideas with the broken vaccine freezer, and it was decided to let Helmer Scientific dispose of the freezer. Cammie went over the current bill she received from Pryor Automatic Fire Sprinkler, Inc., and said the inspection showed the sprinkler system was out of compliance and will cost roughly \$1,969.00, the labor being the most expensive in the bill. Cammie also received bills from Pioneer Communications for warranties and updates to the health department's phone system which will be roughly \$1,500.00. Cammie stated she is not interested in updating the warranty. She informed the commissioners the health department is now getting their new server and has some grant funding for the server as well as using data processing funds and possibly some of the equipment funds to cover the cost of \$17,828.34.

Tony Martin said Stoppel Dirt is beginning their dirt moving work and most of the gas pipeline bridge has been completed and will be installed soon. The new employee at the road and bridge has received his CDL. Tony also informed the commissioners the property south of town has the concrete pad poured and there appears to be progress on the house.

Rex Evans came in and expressed his thanks to the commissioners for allowing him to finish out his coaching career as a golf instructor for the USD 210 school district. Rex said AK Roofing showed up to check the roof of the courthouse and sheriff's department and he is waiting on the report. The foundation assessment of the courthouse has been completed, and it showed the foundation has not been compromised by tree roots, but the cracks are caused by the courthouse settling. Rex is waiting for the complete report on the foundation findings so he can give a detailed report to the commissioners. Rex said he went to the health department and made repairs to the gazebo structure but noted the roof will eventually need repaired as well. The drain issue at the community health department has been remedied and the batteries for the fire alarm were replaced. Rex reported due to the current rains, he had come into the courthouse to check for leaks and noticed in the Memorial Hall hallway the water was minimal but also noticed some leaks on the third floor. Rex is working on getting the floors cleaned and is assessing what will work best before stripping and waxing the floors. He also mentioned he is working on toilet leaks in the main floor and Memorial Hall bathrooms. Discussion over Rex's salary due to coaching being over was tabled until Tron could be present.

Amy presented the commissioners with a KWORCC award the county received for taking first place for exceptional loss in 2023.

Amy asked the commissioners to review / approve the amended wording for a paragraph regarding comp time in the Personnel Rules and Regulations, stating it has been revised for better clarification. (highlighted):

E-13 (i) Comp Time. As previously decided, the commissioners have directed no comp time will be acquired **for hourly employees** without each department head authorizing said comp time. As a general rule, the County pays overtime and does not deal with comp time unless the department head wishes to do so at their discretion. If an occasional, unforeseen circumstance requires a department head to work outside normal business hours (e.g., weekend), **or hours in excess of their minimum required number of weekly hours (if the department does not have set business hours)**, they may use those hours as comp time by taking off the same number of hours during **another work week within one (1) month**. This policy is not to be overused.

Joe made a motion to approve the revision on E-13 (i) in the Personnel Rules and Regulations. Shannon seconded, motion carried.

Amy said after the prior meeting she had questions about the airport and their grant processes. She stated she did not see anywhere in the insurance information that would indicate the board would not be covered by the county. The airport board is appointed by the county and since they work for the commissioners in an advisory capacity, this should protect them through the insurance plan for errors

and omissions. She has emailed the insurance company to get clarification and to find out if the airport board is covered or not. Amy also stated, if the county clerk takes over the grant drawdowns it would place the clerk in a position of handling other department's grants which she does not advise due to each department being responsible for their own funding.

Abatement Orders for 2025 taxes numbered 47 through 48 were reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer; total valuation removed 5,892 with a relief assessment of \$9,634.67.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

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Joe Thompson, Vice Chairman