

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
JULY 29, 2025

Agenda: 8:30 – Bills
 8:45 –
 9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works
 10:00 – County Business

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in a regular session with commissioner Joe D. Thompson present via phone. County Attorney Paul Kitzke and County Clerk Amy Jo Tharp were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Shannon moved to approve the previous commissioner minutes. Tron seconded. Motion carried. Shannon moved to approve the county vouchers. Tron 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	\$	89,028.97
Judicial District	\$	444.73
Road & Bridge	\$	70,877.04
Airport	\$	13,355.71
911 Wireless	\$	120.66
Noxious Weed	\$	4,088.65
EMS	\$	9,101.48
Fire	\$	3,198.58
Hospital	\$	-
Community Health	\$	14,829.56
Sheriff	\$	41,905.06
Landfill Closure	\$	343,360.76
<u>Employees P/R Misc.</u>	\$	-
TOTAL:	\$	590,311.20

Amy asked about medical bills for inmates and how to determine if they are the responsibility of the county or city. Paul said if it is a felony the county is responsible. If the city takes someone to jail and that inmate needs medical attention and it is a misdemeanor or non-felony the city will be responsible if the charges are in the city court. Paul also stated the jail has the following regulations. If an agency takes someone to jail, and the jail staff deems the person to be inebriated or other possible medical issues, the inmate will need to have a medical check before being incarcerated. If a clinic or hospital bill is incurred from the medical checkup then the county is responsible.

Amy presented the commissioners with a contract for the airport's apron and taxi lane rehabilitation in the amount of \$263,280.00 to be signed and approved. Shannon made a motion to approve the contract for the apron and taxi lane rehabilitation at the airport. Tron seconded. Motion carried.

Amy had the commissioners sign the National Flood Insurance Plan (NFIP) and will start the process to get Stevens County accepted.

Rodney Kelling was in attendance and presented the commissioners with Resolution 25-08 adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region C Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Shannon made a motion to approve ***Resolution 25-08 Adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region C Hazard Mitigation Plan.*** Tron seconded. Motion carried.

Rodney told the commissioners for ambulance transfers he can utilize nurses from the hospital to be in the back with the patient if he needs to, as well as just having someone CPR Certified to drive the ambulance. These changes could help when there is a transfer that needs to be done and an EMT is not available to do the transfer. Joe asked Rodney if it will affect private EMS transportation. Rodney said he will check into it. Currently there is Critical Care out of Ulysses and Eagle Med in Liberal that do private transfers.

After discussion of county property for lease, commissioners determined that even if property cannot currently be used, it will still need to go up for public bid instead of just extending the term of the contract.

Paul asked the commissioners if they wanted to discuss possibly seeing if the cotton gin wanted to settle the dispute; however, it will mean less tax and the county cannot raise taxes on it more than five percent (5%) in two (2) years. Joe said he is interested in finding out more about a possible settlement. Shannon and Tron would like more information as well.

Thea Schnittker and Rex Evans were in attendance.

Tony Martin was present and stated a citizen called noxious weed and asked if noxious weed would spray county leased land for weeds. Tony said the individual can purchase the chemical but would be responsible for spraying the weeds themselves. Tony relayed that the county will not spray property as it is the lessee's responsibility. Tony said the landfill is approximately two-thirds (2/3) complete and has paid approximately \$600,000.00 so far. The chip/seal has been put on hold as KDOT is working on repairing a road that crosses where the county wants to chip/seal. Road and Bridge will be patching areas as they wait to chip/seal. There was a complaint by a citizen that there was a bunch of grass cuttings on the black top at the crossing of Road 12 and Road M which could be proven hazardous for motorists. The sheriff department went out and swept the intersection to eliminate any road hazards.

Thea gave the commissioners an update on the memorial stating the county foundation has granted \$900.00 towards the memorial repairs and additional names to be added. The company hired to add names to the memorial will be able to work on it in about two (2) to three (3) weeks. Thea said since the county is now responsible for the memorial, any names added will have to go by the county rules. The register of deeds scanner (which scans the large books and volumes) has gone down and estimated costs for a new one range between \$6,200.00 to \$6,400.00 as it is a specialty scanner.

Tron made a motion to bypass the bid process and allow register of deeds to use their tech fund to purchase a new scanner as it is a specialty item. Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

Rex came in and told the commissioners D.V. Douglas Roofing out of Garden City came down to do an inspection of the courthouse roof. The roofing company showed areas where the seals around vents and seams were cracked sufficiently and made a few repairs to help stop the issue while they were inspecting. The roofing company also showed areas on the roof where rain is getting in and causing leaks when wind blows. Rex also mentioned he contacted Sparkle Cleaning Services out of Liberal to see what it would cost to come twice a week to clean the courthouse. The estimated cost for cleaning is \$680.00 per week. The commissioners recommended finding someone local and getting quotes. Amy said there are some current employees who clean other county buildings, and she will contact them to see if any of them are interested.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman