

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
AUGUST 25, 2025

Agenda: 8:30 – Bills
 8:45 – Cammie Heaton
 9:00 –
 9:15 –
 9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works
 10:00 – John Gerdes, atty- Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC
 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	\$	50,258.60
Judicial District	\$	1,396.89
Road & Bridge	\$	142,300.07
Airport	\$	20,839.67
Co Building	\$	2,117.04
911 Wireless	\$	117.05
Noxious Weed	\$	4,164.84
EMS	\$	5,978.52
Fire	\$	2,458.99
Community Health	\$	11,127.38
Alcohol Treatment Fund	\$	70.84
Landfill Closure	\$	214,708.33
Non specific Equip Fund	\$	38,703.35
Sheriff	\$	37,499.82
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>531,741.39</u>

Amy informed the commissioners Cammie had reached out and will not be able to attend the meeting today.

Rodney was in attendance and told the commissioners Stryker Sales Corporation (Stryker) will be fixing a cot on one of the ambulances that is not working and doing their annual inspection at the same time. Rodney said he spoke with Morton County, and their 911 funding helps pay for the cell phone paging system. Their Sheriff, Fire and EMS departments all use the service and have access to the funds.

Joe had Angela Eichman on the phone and Tron asked about the Seaboard situation if she has heard anything from them yet. She said she still hasn't heard anything but will reach out to them again. Tron said he will try to make contact as well. Angela said the Seaboard insurance appraisal person is supposed to get information to her by October. She stated Conestoga is going to the Kansas Supreme Court, but it is three hundred to six hundred (300-600) days out before the court will review the issues. The commissioners asked Angela if she would be available by phone at 10:00 AM so she can be in on the conversation with John Gerde. Angela said she would be available.

Amy discussed the airport board minutes for June and August, stating the airport board had an individual spray for weeds, and the City of Hugoton delivered gravel to fill in low spots by the fuel farm. The AWOS system was struck by lightning and was getting repaired, which Robert Davis previously discussed with the commissioners. The airport had a security camera system installed as well. The airport board spoke with Shila and Pam about the GasCapades and the airport board agreed to help sponsor some things for the event. Jordan Air is currently in the process of selling their business and the new owner will be replacing the old T-Hangar south of the airport office.

Thea Schnittker was in attendance.

Tony informed the commissioners that a person had called in complaining about Road 3 south of town. Tony had Jeff check out the road and it was reported the road was in excellent condition and did not notice any issues. Tony said the landfill should be completed in about two to three (2-3) weeks. The chip and seal on the county road are almost completed and Morton and Staton County have called needing more asphalt. Tony asked if the county will have to bid out planting wheat on the old landfill area to keep the dirt from blowing as the State will not allow manure to cover the soft dirt. There will also need to be a fence around the new landfill and Tony suggested barbed wire if the State will allow it. Tony discussed the transfer station and it was decided to have the transfer station rebuilt as it could come into use in the future. The commissioners will have Rex get some quotes and put out bids for the repairs at the transfer station.

Tony said there is a concrete company looking to purchase property near Moscow which is currently zoned agriculture but will need to be zoned business if the commissioners approve.

Thea came in and informed the commissioners the register of deeds tech fund will be purchasing computers for the EMT trainer and another one for one of the ambulances.

John Gerdes, attorney with Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC, was in the meeting via phone and Joe called Angela Eichman.

Joe made a motion to go into a fifteen (15) minute executive session over pending legal issues contemplating litigation with Angela Eichman, John Gerdes, and Amy Tharp in attendance. Shannon seconded. The executive session began at 10:02 AM and concluded at 10:17 AM. Shannon made a motion to allow John Gerdes to enter settlement negotiations with Northwest Cotton Growers. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Thea appeared and requested approval to purchase a regular commercial vacuum for the courthouse. The commissioners approved the purchase of a vacuum with a cost of up to \$500.00.

Shannon asked if Amy was ready to present the salary and wage information, stating the county needs to be more structured. Amy handed the commissioners a copy of salary and wage information she had gathered from several other counties who are comparable to population showing the highest and lowest of what their employees make as well as what Stevens County employees currently make. The commissioners approved of the start pay and salary/wage caps that were presented, stating at this time they are not changing any pay for current employees and the longevity amounts will be up to the department heads.

Abatement Orders for tax year 2024 numbered 49 and 50 were reviewed and approved by commissioners and given to the County Treasurer; total valuation removed 4,928 with a relief assessment of \$804.86

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman