Jewell County Commissioners Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Commissioners Present: Ed Duskie, Brent Beck, Ervin Underwood
Also Present: Myka Zadina, County Clerk

Department Head Updates

Vincent Urbaniak- Ambulance Director

- Attended a disaster drill training at NCK Technical College in Beloit.
- EMT classes are done and a new EMT started this weekend.

Tonia Underwood- Post Rock Extension District

- Theresa Shipley is retiring February 27th, and Tanya Underwood will be taking over the office.
- Nora Rhoads job position will be changing

Chris Petet- Custodian

- Stated that everything at the courthouse has been going good

Don Jacobs- Sheriff

- Presented stats for the month
- Working with Nex-Tech to get the laptop stand in the patrol vehicle fixed.
- New hire starts on February 16th.

Anna Porter- Appraiser

- Received the official agricultural values
    - Dry land going down 10%
    - Range land going up 4%
    - Irrigated land going down 20%
- Anna wanted to say thank you to all the guys who have been cleaning the snow at the courthouse, and that Chris Petet was shoveling snow on Sunday.

Kevin Peroutek- Emergency Preparedness

- Attended the statewide Health Care Collation
- Attended a disaster exercise in Beloit

Kevin Peroutek- Noxious Weed

- Attended the monthly directors meeting in Salina

Jay Johanek- Road and Bridge Superintendent

- New motor grader will be delivered this week
- Working on a grant application for bridge projects

Cindy Becker- Health Administrator

- Have had a lot of sickness going around
- Two avian flu investigations
- Working on grants from the state that are coming due for 2027

Myka Zadina- County Clerk

- Working on end of the year checklists
- Preparing for the March 3rd election
- Working on a grant that Cindy Becker helped apply for.

Ervin Underwood- Commissioner

- Attended the JCCDA annual meeting last week
- Still trying to get around the guest accompany tax, County will have to do a charter to get our 2%
- Talked to Anthony Roy, City Administrator, about getting a light post out front of the courthouse

Ed Duskie- Commissioner

- Attended the Regional Planning meeting on the 29th

Brent Beck- Commissioner

- Attended the Dentition Center meeting in Junction City
- Will be attending the Hospital Board meeting this week

Road and Bridge updates

- Opening up some new rock pits and the landowners wanted to sign simple agreements for a lease
    - The County Commissioners signed the agreement for Roger & Neely Kohmetscher.
    - The County Commissioners signed the agreement for Shawn Berry.

- Cody Volker-
    - Dozer started leaking oil last week, ordered a new part, under warranty
    - Once dozer is repaired, Cody will be focusing on opening the Berry pit and work on training some of the new hires on the dozer.
- Brent Beck & Ed Duskie-
    - Discussed that many tubes were not put in correctly in the past and the Road and Bridge Department stated they will work on getting those tubes repositioned.
    - Brent Beck stated he was very impressed at the last safety meeting.
    - Ed Duskie stated he sees a lot more organization
    - Ed Duskie asked about getting the road rocked in Dispatch area. Randy Fogo stated as soon as the weather lets them, they will be there.
- Randy Fogo-
    - Stated it will take time, but they will see the change with 12 motor graders

Sherry Koster- Jewell County Conservation District

- presented invites for the annual meeting on February 11, 2026

Motions & Executive Sessions-

- *Motion:* **Ed Duskie moved, Ervin Underwood seconded** to go into **executive session for 15 minutes** starting at 9:13 a.m. to discuss non-elected personnel with **Jay Johanek, Eldon Dunstan and Myka Zadina** present. Motion passed unanimously.
    - *Regular session resumed at 9:28 a.m. with no action taken.*
- *Motion:* **Ed Duskie moved, Ervin Underwood seconded** to go into **executive session for 5 minutes** starting at 9:44 a.m. to discuss non-elected personnel with **Vincent Urbaniak** present. Motion passed unanimously.
    - *Regular session resumed at 9:49 a.m. with no action taken.*
- *Motion:* **Ed Duskie moved, Ervin Underwood seconded** to approve abetment 2660 & 2661 Motion passed unanimously.
- *Motion:* **Ervin Underwood moved, Ed Duskie seconded** to approve abetment the January 12th minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ed Duskie moved and Ervin Underwood moved to approve the transfers from the auditor.
- *Motion:* **Ed Duskie moved, Ervin Underwood seconded** to approve the transfers for the auditor. Motion passed unanimously.

Cindy Becker-

- Stated FEP Grant increased another $2000.00
- Working on getting EMP memorandum
- Cindy stated she has run into problems with the school. She stated that the state requires the Health Department to do a school inspection and that they do not have to tell school they are doing it.
    - The school is worried about the water in the old elementary school, so the Health Department recommend having it tested for lead.
    - Cindy stated that Mr. Sells was not happy about them doing the inspection and wants the health department to stay out of the schools.

Carla Waugh-

- Discussed her concerns with the amount being charged to Solid Waste for trash hauling.

Adjournment-

- The meeting adjourned at **10:54** a.m.

Brent Beck, Chairman

Ervin Underwood, Vice-Chairman

Myka Zadina, County Clerk

Ed Duskie, Member