

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

May 26, 2026

The Jewell County Commissioners met Tuesday, May 26th, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Brent Beck, Ervin Underwood, and Ed Duskie were present. Myka Zadina, County Clerk, was present for the meeting.

The following were present for the office head meeting and provided an update for their department: Myka Zadina, County Clerk; Vincent Urbaniak, Ambulance Director; Cindy Becker, Health Administrator; David Walton, Solid Waste Director; Jay Johanek, General Superintendent; Chris Petet, Custodian; Amanda Davis, Register of Deeds and Kevin Peroutek, Noxious Weed Director, Emergency Preparedness Director. Those absent: Don Jacobs, Sheriff; Anna Porter, County Appraiser; Brenda Eakins, Treasurer; Nora Rhoades, Post Rock Extension District Director; and Scott Wright, County Attorney.

Jay Johanek, General Superintendent, gave an update on road projects and discussed repairs for an insurance claim involving a county truck.

Cindy Becker, Health Administrator, stated that Jewell County received a grant that Dakota Alvarez applied for. The grant money will be put toward a breastfeeding trailer that Jewell County and Republic County will share. She also stated that Dakota and herself attended a two-day immunization training in Wichita.

Chris Petet, Custodian, stated that two fire alarms failed the semiannual fire alarm inspection and presented a quote for the repairs. He noted that the alarms must be installed by a certified company to meet the fire marshal's certification requirements. Brent Beck moved and Ervin Underwood seconded to approve Tech Electronics to install two fire alarms for \$812.67. The motion passed unanimously.

Vincent Urbaniak, Ambulance Director, stated he attended an EMS training in Grand Island and has been preparing for the annual EMS inspection.

David Walton, Solid Waste Director, stated he reached out to Cockroft to remove trees behind the solid waste facility. He also reported storm damage to the shed behind the main building. He noted that he went out on Sunday and planned to stay open today so residents could haul tree limbs.

Kevin Peroutek, Emergency Preparedness Director, stated he helped with the Dispatcher and EMS Appreciation Days. He noted he has also been working on an emergency operations plan with the Region and would be attending the Homeland Security meeting this morning.

Kevin Peroutek, Noxious Weed Director, stated that David Gagne completed and passed the general portion of one of the three testing phases required to become certified. He also noted that he has started to receive thistle reports and that chemical sales are going up. Additionally, he expressed appreciation for the Road and Bridge Department's work in resurfacing the entrance.

Amanda Davis, Register of Deeds, stated everything is going well in her office and she received new chairs and paper for her books. She also noted that Gail Miller will be working in the office from June 9th through the 12th while Amanda and Briana attend a seminar in Colby.

Myka Zadina, County Clerk, stated she completed an online budget class and sent out budget requests to county departments, townships, fire districts, and cemetery districts. She also attended the County Clerks Conference in Garden City and has been preparing for the Primary Election. Finally, she noted that Tonia Underwood has been training on the new time clock system and will let departments know when they plan to implement it.

Ervin Underwood stated he attended the JJCDA monthly meeting, where they discussed the county-wide 250th Fourth of July celebration.

Ed Duskie stated he will be attending the NCKRP meeting on the 28th and noted that he inspected a road in Irving Township. He added that the commissioners would be looking at roads in the northeast part of the county today.

Brent Beck attended the Juvenile Detention Center meeting in Junction City and will be attending the hospital board meeting this week.

Brent Beck discussed with Kevin Peroutek and David Walton how communication is key when we have storms and a plan needs to be in place when it comes to county wide clean up. Brent also mentioned new locks were placed at the C&D pit.

Ervin Underwood moved and Ed Duskie seconded to approve the May 18th minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Darren Booth of FCMI Theel Insurance reviewed insurance claims and the first three months of 2026. The commissioners and Darren discussed the rising cost of health insurance.

The meeting recessed at 10:21 a.m.

Brent Beck reopened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Jewell County Courthouse to head to Webber to meet with residents of Jackson and Montana Townships. County employees present in Webber for the discussion were Brent Beck, Ed Duskie, Ervin Underwood, Myka Zadina, Jay Johanek, Randy Fogo, Cody Volker, and Johnathon Ruthstrom. Residents present for the meeting were Randal Bay, Bob Tipton, Brad Bouray, Brad Purcell, Richard Behrends, Ed Van Mela, Darrell Hanson, Brett Behrends, Scott Cleavland, Darwin Ehlers, Jason Bush, Jack Clark, Ken Heitman, Lannin Zoltenko, Steve Gunn, Mike Worm, Richard Barry, Glen Behrends, Kyle Bouray, and Blake Kirchhoff. Discussions were held regarding culverts, load limits, the Webber blacktop speed limit, Webber blacktop road markings, and general road concerns. The discussion at Webber ended at 2:37 p.m., and the County Commissioners then departed to view bridges in the area that PEC recommended repairing in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Brent Beck

Brent Beck, Chairman

Myka Zapina

Myka Zapina, County Clerk

Ervin Underwood

Ervin Underwood, Vice-Chairman

Ed Duskie

Ed Duskie, Member

