COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
September 8th, 2025

The Jewell County Commissioners met on September 8th, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners Ed Duskie, Brent Beck and Ervin Underwood were present. Myka Zadina, County Clerk, was present at the meeting.

Vincent Urbaniak presented the August monthly report, noting a busy month with numerous transfers. He reported progress on the billing process and said he feels confident about recent improvements. He is working through previous write-offs and discussed challenges in procuring new ambulances, stating that delivery is currently estimated to take one to two years. He also noted that due to dealership restrictions, the county cannot purchase from their previous supplier. He also stated Road and Bridge employees Brett Ernst and Jeff Cheek completed dirt work at the ambulance building.

Joel Elkins presented the 2026 bridge inspection contract with PEC, which was signed by Commissioner Duskie. A motion to approve the contract was made by Ervin Underwood and seconded by Brent Beck; the motion passed unanimously. Joel also provided an agreement between Jewell County and Professional Engineering for the Commissioners to review and stated that Brian Engelke would be in next week to discuss it. He also provided updates on road maintenance activities, including gravel hauling, equipment repairs, and ongoing tube work. Finn Kool delivered parts for the county's tree shredder, and they are currently waiting on an electrical wire from John Deere to complete repairs on the brush shredder.

Don Jacobs discussed the status of the K-9 unit and that the interested party has been delaying the pickup of the dog and is unable to pay the kenneling fees. The commissioners agreed that any purchaser must pay those fees. Don mentioned he had another person who would be interested in paying those fees and picking up the dog. He also shared updates from the Jewell City Council, which voted last week to deduct $500 per month from the pay they give to the county due to the reasoning of the contracted 20 hours per week not being met. Don stated to make sure this doesn't happen again a spreadsheet is being developed to track compliance, and he plans to attend the Jewell City Council meeting on October 6 to address the issue. Deputy Brandon Wilson is also scheduled to leave for the academy on October 13 and will be gone for 14 weeks.

At 9:12 a.m. the Rock Hills High School Life Skills class joined the meeting. Those present were Kristen Underwood, Emma Strnad, Sadie Greene, Karley Garst, Dacey Beck, Ally Beck, Alivia Lindberg, Haylee Bledsoe, Kaylee Jacobs, Mickayla Hanson, Miranda Pennington, Spencer Lindberg and Blake Fultz. The County Commissioners spoke with the students about how local government works and the role of county commissioners. Myka Zadina also discussed her role and the roles of other elected officials in the county. The group had recently finished a unit on taxes and discussed how tax rates are applied within Jewell County.

Karen Boden from Pawnee Mental Health read the Recovery Month proclamation. Ed Duskie moved, and Brent Beck seconded to proclaim September 2025 as Recovery Month. Motion passed unanimously.

The Rock Hills High School Life Skills class left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

The commissioners also discussed pay for the road supervisor position, interim roles, and the possibility of contracting out jobs such as tree cutting and tube installation.

Ervin Underwood moved, and Ed Duskie seconded to accept Jeff Cheek's resignation effective October 1, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Cindy Becker sent a message asking if she could obtain quotes for tree trimming at the health department.

Ervin Underwood also reported that the railroad is working on the crossing on Webber Road.

Ervin Underwood moved, and Brent Beck seconded to approve August 25th, 2025, commissioner minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners priced items for resale, with the price of $100.00 for the metal filing cabinet, $50.00 for the office desk and $5.00 for each office chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Ervin Underwood, Member

Ed Duskie, Chairman

Myka Zadina, County Clerk

Brent Beck, Vice-Chairman