COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
June 22, 2026

The Jewell County Commissioners met Monday, June 22nd, 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.

Jay Johanek stated they are hauling gravel and starting to rock a 3-mile stretch on 250 Road. Johanek also reported that the PJ trailer will be going on the AuctionTime website in the next couple of weeks. He has also looked at quotes for trucks. He also stated that Steve Gunn spoke with Elaine Bowers, and the state is going to fix the roads in the cabin area of Lovewell State Park.

Jay Johanek and Cody Volker discussed how adding a second dozer would be a big push to get things accomplished, as they struggle to keep enough rock pushed up to stay caught up with rock projects. They have had John Deere and CAT bring up dozers to test run. The John Deere seemed heavy and its oil consumption was high, while the CAT had a lot more power. Currently, when a motor grader is down, it is because they are having to use it as a dozer to get jobs done. Johanek wanted to know if they could rent the CAT for 30 days to get enough rock pushed up to last through the summer, which would cost $15,000.00. The Commissioners would like them to reach out to Komatsu to test run one of their dozers also.

Don Jacobs stated that Judge Phillips is interested in the air cleaner in the lobby of the sheriff's office. He also stated that he ordered a new taser and 12 cartridges so that every deputy now has a taser. Additionally, he requested to add a $0.50 pay increase for the dispatcher who works with registered offenders monthly. The Commissioners stated they will discuss the matter and let him know.

Ed Duskie moved and Ervin Underwood seconded to approve the June 8th minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Ed Duskie moved and Ervin Underwood seconded to approve abatements 2669 and 2670. Motion passed unanimously.

Ervin Underwood moved and Ed Duskie seconded to approve the June 15th minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Tanya Paul, outreach specialist for DVACK, stated that June 2026 is Elder Abuse Awareness Month and read the Elder Abuse Awareness Month Proclamation. Ed Duskie moved and Ervin Underwood seconded to proclaim June 2026 as Elder Abuse Awareness Month. Motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners reviewed resolutions from the Health Department and stated they would like the attorney to review and advise on them.

The board phoned Randy Hofmeier, CPA with Lindburg Vogel, with questions regarding the budget transfers.

Brenda Eakins discussed her FY2027 budget request. She stated that currently the state applies $0.50 fee on transactions that brings in $23,000.00. She stated that the state allows the Treasurer to add up to a $5.00 fee to motor vehicle transactions. The extra fee could help pay for a portion of the treasurer's salary in the Special Treasurer fund and help cover raises for employees. Eakins stated that adding a $2.50 fee will bring in another $16,000.00 to help fund the motor vehicle department, noting that neighboring counties are charging $2.50 and Smith County is charging the $5.00 fee. If the commissioners implement raises for the treasures office and apply the $2.50 fee, they can lower her budget below what she has budgeted for 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Brent Beck, Chairman

Ervin Underwood, Vice-Chairman

Myka Zapina, County Clerk

Ed Duskie, Member