

Jewell County Commissioners Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Ed Duskie, Brent Beck, Ervin Underwood

Also Present: Myka Zadina, County Clerk

Department Head Updates

County Clerk – Myka Zadina

- Attended the multi-county meeting in Beloit, a November abstract training in Salina and the North Central Kansas County Clerk meeting in Belleville.
- Preparing for the upcoming election on November 4th.

County Appraiser – Anna Porter

- Acquired a vehicle for the Appraisers office but will be available for official travel to trainings and meetings for other departments.
- Working on the remaining 17% assessments and preparing values for the coming year.

Custodian – Chris Petet

- Mentioned that the front door needs finished.
- Discussed options for ice melt on the new steps.

Ambulance Director – Vincent Urbaniak

- Wrapping up EMT class.

Solid Waste Director – David Walton

- Submitted the September tonnage report.
- Construction & Demolition (C&D) pit work ongoing, aiming to start covering it next week.
- State inspection revealed the hazardous waste drainage system hasn't been used or maintained in at least 8 years.
 - Pipe (~20 ft) is filled with dirt and requires cleaning.
 - Will notify the state and begin reactivation.
- Obtained CDL.

Noxious Weed Director – Kevin Peroutek

- Attended a director's meeting in Minneapolis.
- Jewell and Mitchell Counties to co-host the October directors meeting in Beloit and are seeking a speaker.
- Fall spraying is going well.

Emergency Preparedness – Kevin Peroutek

- Attended KEMA Conference; discussed FIFA 2026 event in Kansas City.
- Homeland Security coordinating a multi-regional exercise in Salina for February.

- County received four gas leak detectors to be distributed among Sheriff's Dept., EMS, and Search & Rescue.

Register of Deeds – Amanda Davis

- All operations are running smoothly.

Sheriff – Don Jacobs

- Two dispatchers attended the APCO conference and training.
- Hosted free mental health class: 80 online participants, 10–15 in person.
- Presented a \$1,200/month contract with **Trilio AI** for reporting assistance (reviewed by County Attorney).
 - Two licenses will be free for ex-military staff.
 - Contract approved
 - Motion by Ervin Underwood, seconded by Brent Beck. **Passed unanimously**
- Hired one part-time employee starting October 7.
- Presented 3-month department activity report.

Health Administrator – Cindy Becker

- Organizing a food drive; coat drive planned for next month.
- Conducting first aid class for RHHS Life Skills students.
- Working on grant reporting and updating emergency preparedness plan (last update was in 2006).

Interim General Superintendent – Jim Foster

- Rocking roads in the southwest part of the county; 4 miles on county line up next.
- Highlighted issues:
 - FAS routes need rock.
 - Equipment needing repairs:
 - John Deere loader (axles), 140H (cylinders), 120M (needs motor).
 - Interviewed a possible hire with a CDL and is a certified welder.
 - Short-staffed: need excavator, dozer, and loader operators.
 - Many short-term jobs to complete in the SW county.
 - Need new signs for load limits on bridges.

Commissioner Reports

- **Ervin Underwood:**
 - Attended the Jewell County Economic Development meeting.
 - The Group is working on grants and hosting a community event at the park on Saturday.
- **Brent Beck:**
 - Meetings attended:
 - Multi-county meeting in Beloit
 - Detention Center meeting in Manhattan
 - Hospital board meeting.
 - Brought up citizen road complaints.
- **Ed Duskie:**
 - Meetings attended:
 - Multi-county meeting in Beloit.
 - Golden Years Club in Mankato.

- Phone calls with LEPC.
- Reviewing roads

Business Items

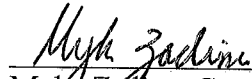
- **Vehicle Use Policy:**
 - Motion to adopt by Ervin Underwood, seconded by Brent Beck. **Passed unanimously.**
- **Approval of Previous Minutes:**
 - **September 15th minutes:**
 - Motion by Ervin Underwood, second by Ed Duskie. **Approved unanimously.**
 - **September 22nd minutes:**
 - Motion by Brent Beck, second by Ervin Underwood. **Approved unanimously.**


Additional Discussions

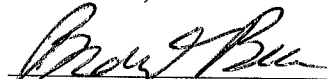
- **Road & Bridge Superintendent Position:**
 - Discussed by Nate Blair and Jay Johaneck.
- **Courthouse Steps Photo:**
 - Julia Hancock (Jewell County Newspaper) requested a photo of the newly completed steps with the County Commissioners.
- **Zoom Call:**
 - Held with Brian Engkee from PEC to review an on-call agreement contract.
- **Entrance Issue:**
 - John Stober discussed a field entrance issue with a neighbor.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:43 a.m.


Ervin Underwood, Member


Myka Zadina, County Clerk


Ed Duskie, Chairman


Brent Beck, Vice-Chairman

