COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
June 29, 2026

The Jewell County Commissioners met Monday, June 29th, 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; Anna Porter, County Appraiser; Chris Petet, Custodian and Kevin Peroutek, Noxious Weed Director, Emergency Preparedness Director. Those absent: Don Jacobs, Sheriff; Brenda Eakins, Treasurer; Amanda Davis, Register of Deeds; Nora Rhoades, Post Rock Extension District Director; Jay Johanek, General Superintendent; and Scott Wright, County Attorney.

Vincent Urbaniak, Ambulance Director, reported that the state EMS inspection last week went well, and he extended a special thanks to his employees. He noted that an Advanced EMT class will be held in Beloit this fall, which might draw some local interest, and there is also interest in a future paramedic class.

David Walton, Solid Waste Director, reported that the department's backhoe is experiencing mechanical issues, including a blown back tire. Additionally, the old plates on the trailer fell off and will need to be replaced. Despite these equipment issues, Walton noted that the crew is doing great, recycling is scheduled to go out this month, and a recent state inspection went well. Trash hauling operations with Dunstan Trucking also continue to go smoothly.

Kevin Peroutek, Emergency Preparedness Director, stated that he attended last week's regional Homeland Security meeting via Zoom, noting that the new sheriff's office is an excellent facility for virtual calls. He reported that regional Homeland Security discussions are heavily focused on search and rescue organization. He also continues to work with the region on the emergency operations plan and is currently waiting to hear back from the state.

Kevin Peroutek, Noxious Weed Director, reported on a monthly meeting held at Wilson Lake two weeks ago, where discussions included adding honeysuckle and teasel to the official noxious weed list. He mentioned that the department's four-wheelers have been undergoing repairs in Superior and can be picked up this week. In personnel updates, employee David took his certification testing and passed the first of three sections, and he has been actively spraying, and reports are being monitored for thistles showing up following recent rains.

Anna Porter, County Appraiser, delivered values to the clerk showing a 3 percent decrease on assessed values and an 8 percent decrease on appraised values. A new department hire is starting today, and Barry Porter is on-site this week to provide field training. She noted that the department needs to inspect 17 percent of the jurisdiction, which includes Center Township and the city of Mankato.

Chris Petet checked in to report that everything is going smoothly with no big problems.

Cindy Becker, Health Department Director, announced that the county secured a Kansas Fights Addiction grant totaling $450,000.00 distributed over three years. She is also working with Republic County on a grant for WIC clients that would be divided among six counties. In personnel, Shena Colson has been hired as RNR. Preparations are also underway for the upcoming National Night Out event on August 4th.

Myka Zadina, County Clerk, stated that the county received a $20,000.00 grant to reimburse expenses for the front steps of the courthouse. She successfully completed the July abstract, which has been signed off by the Kansas Department of Revenue. Zadina has also completed programming and ordered ballots for the August election, sent all county budget information to the auditor, and is currently focused on preparing township budgets. Later in the meeting, she noted that a bill for $6,256.16 was submitted to USD 107 for the March 3rd special election.

Ervin Underwood reported on his attendance at the quad meeting, noting that Jewell County Community Development is sponsoring the upcoming 250th celebration.

Ed Duskie also attended the quad meeting and reported that he has been in contact with the Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPG).

Brent Beck attended the quad meeting, the detention center meeting in Salina, and a hospital board meeting. He is currently working on county budgets.

Ervin Underwood moved and Ed Duskie seconded to approve abatement 2669 and 2670. The motion passed unanimously.

Ervin Underwood moved and Ed Duskie seconded to approve the June 22 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Don Jacobs presented the Sheriff's Office monthly report, noting that the department made 15 arrests this quarter. He requested a $0.25 per hour raise for the state-required assistant TAC, to be applied on top of their registered offender duties pay. Jacobs noted the department received a new drone last week to assist in locating people, and two officers are currently certified to operate it. Additionally, he delivered a quote from the KBI for a new fingerprinting machine totaling $18,225.00 with annual maintenance costs of $2,278.00; he noted the department does not need one immediately but will require it in 2027.

Jay Johanek stated that crews are currently hauling gravel and working on repairs for the tree mulcher. Both department excavators will be needed on Thursday to place a large tube and discussed a canal bridge on 260 Road that is needing repairs. A new mower is scheduled to arrive today, and speed limit signs will be going up this week on the Webber blacktop. Johanek spoke with Airgas about a lease rental, confirming it is a 5-year rental agreement. He also spoke with Richard Boyles regarding the rural water district keeping a storage trailer on county property, and Boyles stated they would draft an agreement. Equipment testing is ongoing; crews are still testing the CAT dozer, John Deere will be bringing out another model of dozer to use, and Komatsu will bring a dozer up next week for evaluation.

Ed Duskie moved to recess to executive session under the personnel exception to the Open Meetings Act to discuss the quarterly write-off for 10 minutes, starting at 9:48 a.m. and reconvening at 9:58 a.m. in the commissioners' meeting room with Vincent Urbaniak and the commissioners present. Brent Beck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Following the session, Ervin Underwood moved and Brent Beck seconded to approve the ambulance write-off for $7,706.16. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Duskie moved and Ervin Underwood approved resolutions 26-16, 26-17 and 26-18 for the health department. Motion passed unanimously.

Brent Beck moved and Ervin Underwood seconded to approve the Time Clock Plus Agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Brent Beck, Chairman

Ervin Underwood, Vice-Chairman

Myka Zodina, County Clerk

Ed Duskie, Member