

## COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

August 25th, 2025

The Jewell County Commissioners met on August 25th, 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.

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

David Walton, Solid Waste Director, said that they have been using the new trash trailer and gave a monthly report for August. He also stated that he emptied the boy scout trailers last week and burned the burn pit.

Joel Elkins, General Superintendent, stated they hauled asphalt last week up to Webber and will finish hauling this week and when done hauling asphalt they will start hauling rock again.

Vincent Urbaniak, Ambulance Director, stated he is in the process of looking at new ambulance and is working on getting quotes. He stated that once ordered it will take an estimated two years to receive.

Anna Porter, Appraiser, stated she received a letter from Department of Revenue stating she is in compliance. She also stated she attended a class conference in Dodge City last week. The weather slowed down data collection and they are now working on finishing that up. She stated she also received replacement costs from the state.

Cindy Becker, Health Administrator, stated that last week they had Vive18 speak at the high school and Cindy thanked Ed for coming and showing support. She stated they are also working on a suicide prevention month walk with the suicide grant they received. They are also working on getting flu vaccines.

Kevin Peroutek, Emergency Preparedness Director, handed out an updated county wide and city emergency contact list. He stated he has been working with the sheriff's office and Ed Fiehler on the contact list. He also reminded everyone that he has road signs by the solid waste facility and in Jewell that he can put messages on.

Kevin Peroutek, Weed Director, stated they have had good spraying weather in the morning but with harvest coming up they will be limited with spraying. He will also be attending a Weed Directors meeting this Thursday in Minneapolis.

Brenda Eakins, Treasurer, stated they have been preparing for tax roll.

Myka Zadina, County Clerk, stated that they have been working on the county budgets and township budgets. She also stated they are having the RNR hearing today for the County and she has been preparing for the city/school election.

Ervin Underwood stated he attended the Jewell County Community Foundation grant writing workshop and stated if you have any questions about writing grants to contact Jennifer Urbaniak.

Brent Beck stated he went to Junction City for the detention center meeting, and he has the hospital board meeting this week.

Ed Duskie stated he went to the North Central Kansas Regional Planning meeting, and he also went to the Vive18 speaker at the High School. He has also been working with the LEPG board.

The following was present to express concerns; Jamie McElroy, Keri Smith, Lori McElroy, Darrell Anderson and David Reiter. They expressed concerns about how law enforcement handled a case last week. They stated they feel that certain groups should be looked at more and they feel there is a group that can get away with things. They feel the man involved was not treated fairly and that he was on his own property. They also stated that they felt that the County Attorney acted like he did not care. They also stated they understand commissioners are limited on what they can do. The commissioners said they understand the concerns and appreciate them coming in to voice them. They also mentioned that they would like to see more cops patrol Randall and the commissioners stated to contact their City Council so the city can negotiate more with the sheriff's office.

Ervin Underwood moved, and Ed Duskie seconded to approve the August 18<sup>th</sup> commissioner minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Joel Elkins discussed road complaints and complaints of grass being in the road from mowing. Joel Elkins also delivered his 30-day notice of resignation to the commissioners.

Brent Beck discussed with Cindy Becker about her employee Jenny Scarrow going to the EMS department on Fridays to help with billing. Cindy stated that she was okay with that and would discuss it with Vincent Urbaniak.

Ervin Underwood stated Jennifer Urbaniak said there is a Heritage Fund Grant for historical buildings.

Brent Beck moved and Ed Duskie seconded to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes starting at 9:12 a.m. Motion passed unanimously with regular session resuming at 9:22 a.m. Ed Duskie moved to accept the resignation of Joel Elkins effective September 23, 2025. Brent Beck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Scott Wright stated that he was there for education regarding cases. He stated that there is a system that has to be followed and that the appropriate place to discuss a case would be with a client's attorney. He stated that in the process of an arrest, law enforcement makes a determination of arrest and after the arrest a person can sit in jail for 48 hours. Then they go in front of a Judge to find out what they are being charged with. The client's attorney will then receive discovery. Then they will go to court, and they can plea and the way they plea determines how the trial goes. Ervin Underwood stated that it's not his job as a commissioner to handle cases and Scott Wright agreed. Scott stated he will continue to work with law enforcements and encourage interviews for every defendant. Brent Beck stated we need to stay in our lanes and do our jobs.

Scott Wright requested an executive session regarding statute 75-4319 B2, for consultation with an attorney for the public body or agency which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. Ervin Underwood moved, and Brent Beck seconded to go into executive session for 10 minutes starting at 9:42 a.m. for the subject of statute 75-4319 B2 with Myka Zadina and Scott Wright present. Motion passed unanimously with regular session resuming at 9:52 a.m. with Ervin Underwood moving to return to executive session for 5 more minutes starting at 9:53 a.m. to continue the discussion of statute 75-4319 B2 with Myka Zadina and Scott Wright present. Ed Duskie seconded. Motion passed unanimously with regular session resuming at 9:58 a.m. with no action taken.

Chairman Duskie opened the RNR Hearing for public comment on the 2026 Jewell County Budget. No public comment. Fire District No. 6, Fire District No. 4, Laurel Hill Cemetery and Fairview Cemetery conducted their RNR hearing. Ed Duskie moved to pass Resolution 25-10 to exceed the RNR for the 2026 Jewell County Budget. Brent Beck seconded the motion. Chairman Duskie called for a roll call vote with Underwood, Duskie, and Beck voting in favor of the motion and no one voting against the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Duskie closed the RNR hearing and opened the 2026 Budget Hearing for public comment. Brent Beck motioned to approve the 2026 Jewell County Budget as presented. Ervin Underwood seconded the

motion. Motion passed unanimously. Brent Beck moved to close the 2026 budget hearing at 10:30 a.m. Ed Duskie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Carla Waugh, Steve Spiegel, Neil Bonjour, Jarrod Nelson, Lane Ehlers, Charlie Smies, Judy Smies, Tom Marr and Paul Wilson were present for the RNR and budget hearing.

Ed Duskie moved to go into a recess from 10:35 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. Brent Beck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Session resumed at 12:30 p.m. with the commissioners driving to North Branch to meet with residents to discuss road concerns in Highland Township. Present for the road viewing was Aaron Shute, Beth Walker, Brett Walker, Tod Jeffery, Marty Jeffery, Tamera Jeffery, Mark Jeffery and Richard Boyles. Brett Walker presented a map of roads and tubes in Highland townships that need attention. They discussed that the safety of the bus routes is a concern. They stated that they understand that there has been many big rains this year, but general maintenance is not being done.

Brent Beck left the meeting at 2:15 p.m.


Ervin Underwood, Ed Duskie, Myka Zadina and Mark Jeffery drove roads in Highland township that were a concern for residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. in Highland township.

  
Ervin Underwood, Member

  
Myka Zadina, County Clerk

  
Ed Duskie, Chairman

  
Brent Beck, Vice-Chairman

1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various offices of the city of New York.