

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

April 27, 2026

The Jewell County Commissioners met Monday, April 27th, 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; Anna Porter, County Appraiser; Cindy Becker, Health Administrator; David Walton, Solid Waste Director and Kevin Peroutek, Noxious Weed Director, Emergency Preparedness Director. Those absent: Chris Petet, Custodian; Don Jacobs, Sheriff; Amanda Davis, Register of Deeds; Brenda Eakins, Treasurer; Nora Rhoades, Post Rock Extension District Director; Jay Johanek, General Superintendent and Scott Wright, County Attorney.

Vincent Urbaniak, Ambulance Director, stated they have finished the EMS annual license renewal, and he will be attending an advanced EMS training in Grand Island next month.

David Walton, Solid Waste Director, stated the backhoe is running great after repairs and he has been working at the C&D pit and got some of it covered. He stated he would be reaching out to the fire department so he could burn the brush pile at the C&D pit. He also stated that Dunstan Trucking is doing a great job at hauling trash for us.

Anna Porter, County Appraiser, stated all hearings all complete and they have personal property notices printed but don't have official count yet on renditions. She also said she doesn't have numbers on valuation loss yet will see an estimated \$100,000.00 in tax dollars lost due to the exemption on boats, ATVs and golf carts.

Kevin Peroutek, Emergency Preparedness Director, attended the KEMA meeting in Abilene last week. He also stated that Esbon reported their sign had gone down and the controller had gone out. He stated they will get it repaired and send the invoice to the county to pay. He also acknowledged Mark Stenson and said he did a great job on providing details on how to fix the sign.

Kevin Peroutek, Noxious Weed Director, attended the monthly directors meeting in Hays last Thursday the 16th. He reported that the weather man spoke at the meeting and stated Kansas is looking at drought conditions up until August or September. He also reported that they are actively spraying.

Cindy Becker, Health Administrator, stated she has completed state grant reporting and was notified that JCHD had been awarded \$50,000.00 for the suicide prevention grant. Cindy stated she also attended the Prevention Innovators Conference and the Annual Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting in Overland Park. She also stated that Jenny and Cindy will be attending the bill symposium in Wichita this week and Dakota will be attending a breastfeeding education and safe sleep education class in Mitchell County.

Myka Zadina, County Clerk, stated she attended Sanborn in Manhattan and received certificate for completing the second year of classes. She also stated she has started working on the 2027 budget and will be sending information to the department heads soon so they can prepare budget requests.

Ervin Underwood attended the Jewell County Community Development meeting and discussed new hire incentives available for people moving into the community. If anyone knows anyone that is interested, they can reach out to Jennifer Urbaniak. Ervin also stated he attended the Judicial Community Corrections meeting and stated that they have OPIOD settlement money that the sheriff department can use to purchase special equipment.

Ed Duskie looked at a bridge complaint and some road concerns. He also attended the dispatcher appreciation meal and will be attending the NRCC meeting coming up in May and they will be discussing the possibility of an area wide correction center.

Brent Beck stated the commissioners will start working on budgets soon.

Cindy Becker stated that Michelle Lindbergs last day will be August 31st when her contract is up and stated that Michelles wages are covered by a grant. She stated that she would like to hire someone part-time and have Michelle train them before she leaves. She was wondering if it would be okay to have a second part-time employee in the office with the employees' wages paid by the county. She stated she has the funds in her budget for this, and the commissioners stated that would be fine.

Ervin Underwood moved and Ed Duskie seconded to approve abatement #2668. Motion passed unanimously.

Ed Duskie moved and Ervin Underwood seconded to approve the purchase agreement between Jewell County and Dunstan Trucking for the sale of the 2007 Wilkens trailer for \$40,000.00 with Jewell County having right of repurchasing at fair market value. Motion passed unanimously.

Ervin Underwood moved Ed Duskie second to approve the Waste Hauling Service Agreement with Dunstan Trucking. Motion passed unanimously.

Brent Beck moved and Ervin Underwood seconded to approve the April 20th minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Jay Johaneck stated he advised his motor grader operators to stay off the main rock roads until we get a little more rain as most places only received an inch of rain and grading it will only take that inch of moisture away. He discussed an incident where a tractor went through the deck of a bridge on 250 rd. and stated a tube has been placed till they can get the bridge deck replaced. He stated that employees are doing shoulder work, working on ditches and staying ahead of weeds. He also discussed that signs are still being destroyed by people shooting them and that the sheriffs office has sent in shot gun shells for finger printing that were found north of Esbon by a destroyed stop sign.

Ed Duskie stated he had someone wondering if trees could be trimmed on N road between sections 25 & 36 in limestone township.


Ervin Underwood discussed a bridge south of Esbon that Randy Fogo stated a bridge was in poor condition and Jay stated that it is on the list.

Darica Hager and Andy Walker stated they have had a discussion with Vincent Urbaniak and Shannon Meier regarding blood draws being done by the Jewell County Hospital for toxicology in the case of a single vehicle accident where the driver was DOA. Andy stated that if they provided the kits at no charge and the county would pay the cost of running the test then they could save the county money by not having to transport the body to Kanas City for an autopsy as the Jewell County Hospital has a policy where they do not draw blood on someone who was DOA. The commissioners stated they would be okay with this process and Andy stated Darica would create a policy/procedure to follow and the commissioners will review it for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.



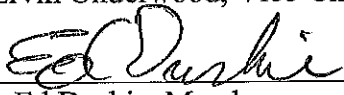
Brent Beck, Chairman



Ervin Underwood, Vice-Chairman



Myka Zadin, County Clerk



Ed Duskie, Member

