Jewell County Commissioners Meeting Minutes
November 3rd, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.
Commissioners Present: Ed Duskie, Brent Beck, Ervin Underwood
Also Present: Myka Zadina, County Clerk

Interim General Superintendent – Jim Foster

- Discussed the refurbished program that CAT offers.
- Currently working on the county line.
- Patched holes coming into Randall.
- Discussed the bridge west of Arnold Warners: it is a concrete box but beginning to crack; replacement will require a 10 ft tube.
- Will use a crane to set the tube at Deans' feedlot.
- Tom Marr reported that brush has been cleared at the railroad crossing at Webber blacktop and below the dam.

Sheriff – Don Jacobs

- Reported receiving new laptops in the last month, noting they are working very well.
- Attended a PSAP meeting via Zoom.
- A Dodge truck struck a deer; repairs will cost **$9,902**, with KCAMP covering all but the **$2,500 deductible**.
- Attended a Homeland Security meeting via Zoom.
- Attended the Jewell City meeting, delivered a new contract, and noted the city is not wanting to take care of dogs.
- Will attend the high school job fair this week.
- Discussed the need to purchase new cameras and SD cards.
- Discussed challenges in employee hiring. Brent Beck asked what the county may be missing; Don noted other counties offer higher starting wages. He also stated he would like officers to be certified in more areas to give them greater ownership.
- Discussed KPNF.

Health Administrator – Cindy Becker

- Presented two grants that can assist with bridge replacement.
- Reviewed various grant deadlines:
    - **All Hands on Deck:** September 2027
    - **PHIG:** November 2027
    - **KPCCI:** June 30, 2026
    - **Suicide Prevention:** June 30, 2026

Ambulance Director – Vincent Urbaniak

- Presented the October monthly report:
  - **41 responses**
  - **3 transfers**
- Medicare billing has been reinstated.
- Working with the state to complete fingerprinting and background checks for new EMTs.

Solomon Valley Transportation – Jen Urbaniak

- Reported that from **July 2015–June 2025**, the service has provided **364,000 miles** in rides.
- Preparing to submit a grant in November to purchase a new van.
- Requested a pledge for the **FY 2026** budget; last year the county pledged **$16,000**.

Economic Development – Jen Urbaniak

- Stated, she will contact a grant writer to assist with a bridge grant.

Business Items

- Discussed providing an additional **2% raise** based on performance evaluations.

Motions & Executive Sessions

1. *Motion:* **Ed Duskie moved, Brent Beck seconded** to enter **executive session for 15 minutes** starting at 9:51 a.m. to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion passed unanimously.
   - Regular session resumed at 10:06 a.m. with no action taken.
2. *Motion:* **Ed Duskie moved, Brent Beck seconded** to enter **executive session for 10 minutes** starting at 10:07 a.m. to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion passed unanimously.
   - Regular session resumed at 10:17 a.m. with no action taken.
3. *Motion:* **Ed Duskie moved, Brent Beck seconded** to enter **executive session for 10 minutes** starting at 10:23 a.m. to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion passed unanimously.

- Regular session resumed at 10:33 a.m. with no action taken.

4. *Motion:* **Ed Duskie moved, Brent Beck seconded** to enter **executive session for 10 minutes** starting at 10:34 a.m. to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion passed unanimously.
    - Regular session resumed at 10:44 a.m. with no action taken.
5. *Motion:* **Ed Duskie moved, Brent Beck seconded** to enter **executive session for 5 minutes** starting at 10:45 a.m. to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion passed unanimously.
    - Regular session resumed at 10:50 a.m. with the following motions.
        1. *Motion*: **Brent Beck moved, Ervin Underwood seconded** to hire **Jay Johanek** as Road and Bridge General Superintendent. Motion passed unanimously.
        2. *Motion*: **Ervin Underwood moved, Ed Duskie seconded** to hire **Jim Foster** as the Road and Bridge Road Supervisor. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **10:55 a.m.**

Ervin Underwood, Member

Ed Duskie, Chairman

Myka Zadina, County Clerk

Brent Beck, Vice-Chairman