

January 12, 2026

Commissioner Mayo, Commissioner Thurlow and Commissioner Carlson were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed.

Ryan West, County Maintenance, met with the Board to discuss the cleanup of the Courthouse Square after the yard has been used for an event. Mr. West stated that he understands having the public use the square for different events. But after the Christmas Festival the Maintenance Department spent many hours cleaning up items that cannot be left on the grass. There were t-post stakes left in the ground and laying on the ground, lots of pieces of wire, zip ties, and trash. All of these items will be harmful when we have to get the mower out later this spring. Also, people are messing with the timers on the lamp post and now part of the lamps will not work at all. Mr. West stated that he is in agreement to have everyone using the square for an Event to sign the document drafted for the use of the yard.

After reviewing the first half of the 2025 NRP Refunds in the amount \$36,596.63, the Board of Commissioner signed and approved the first half in the amount of \$36,596.63.

Abatement 2025A11 in the amount of \$93.84 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to nominate Commissioner Thurlow as the Chairman and Commissioner Carlson as Vice-Chairman of the Board for the year 2026. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Thurlow presented and signed the partial list of businesses for the annual meeting which is used for the reorganization of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-02 setting the salaries of the Elected Officials for the 2026 year. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03 setting the reimbursement of mileage at \$.67 per mile actually incurred in the performance of such duties by such official or employee effective January 1, 2026. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-04 setting the financial statements and the financial reports of the County of Clay to be prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements as adjusted to show compliance with the cash and budget laws of the State of Kansas. Commissioner Thurlow seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

A request was received from Scott Wheeler asking if the Board would provide a letter of support for the 70th Anniversary of "The Lawrence Welk Show". The National debut was July 2, 1955, its original run was for more than 25 years, and repeats shown to this day in many states across America. Commissioner Mayo drafted a letter of support and the Board of Clay County Commissioner signed the letter. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt the 2026 Clay County Wage Scale. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department worked on the ditch project on 4th Rd. between Navajo Rd. and Cherokee Rd. This involved cutting trees, in the ditch, around and under the bridges, weed eat around signs, under bridges, guardrail and intersections. This work will be done all within the right-of-way. The Department worked on several other tree jobs throughout the County, worked in the shop on equipment maintenance, and transported the rubber tire packer back to the shop from Topeka where repairs were made. They also prepped all equipment for the incoming snow if it hits our area. They purchased 8 – 11R22.5 drive tires from Kansasland Tires in the amount of \$5,050.08 to place on one truck and to have an extra set on hand. Mr. Shomper informed the Board that he tried out a woodchipper from Caterpillar for a couple of days but due to issues with it they only charged the County \$793.13. This chipper was insufficient for the task that they are wanting to use it for. The one that they feel would work would be more like a Morbark Eger Beaver 1821 chipper from Kirby-Smith. The monthly cost to rent this machine would be \$6,000 per month. The Board decided to wait on the rental from Kirby-Smith for they feel that is a lot of money for one month's rent.

Alec Trembath, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Angela Parsell, EMT, also joined the meeting. Mr. Trembath asked to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to go into Executive Session under the Personnel Exception of non-elected personnel for 10 minutes beginning at 9:43 a.m. with Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Mayo, and Commissioner Thurlow, Alec Trembath, EMS Director, Angela Parsell, EMT, and Kayla Wang, County Clerk present. The subject to be discussed is job duties. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:53 a.m. with no action being taken during the session. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to move Ms. Parsell to Step 3 on the Payscale due to the change in her job description. Mr. Trembath reported that the Department is currently on emergency run number 26 for the year 2026. The Department held their quarterly meeting to discuss emergency runs and to see if they need to change any of the protocols on certain calls. They are planning to have additional training on code blue calls.

Kim Kendrick, Landfill Employee, met with the Board to discuss the accumulated leave that she has and Ms. Kendrick asked if she would be able to use sick leave from the Clay County Sick Leave Pool if needed since she had surgery. The Board instructed Ms. Kendrick that she would need to use her leave first and then come back to meet with them again at that time.

Christine Swaim, County Treasurer, met with the Board to give a report on the Delinquent Tax Sale that was held in December. The sale brought in an estimated \$99,000 with the County being reimbursed \$6,300 for the publications. After all expenses were paid there were \$54,000 that got applied to the taxes. Ms. Swaim stated that she would like to start the process of the next Delinquent Tax Sale that would currently include 27 properties. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to start the process for the 2026 Delinquent Tax Sale with the use of the Klenda Austerman Attorneys at Law out of Wichita to handle to procedure. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mayo made the motion to authorize Commissioner Thurlow, Chairman to sign and abate off \$368,852.96 for the 2025 Delinquent Tax Sale. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ben Woner, KWORCC Safety Consultant, met with the Board to present a plaque for the 2024 Exceptional Loss Ratio Award. Clay County was awarded 1st place for contribution category greater than \$100,000. Mr. Woner thanked the Board for the County's dedication with KWORCC.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that he currently is housing 2 of Cloud County's prisoner's while their jail is closed down. The Department was busy working cases over the past weekend.

Ashley Gordon, After Prom Committee, and Brooklyn Gordon and Bryn Lund, CCCHS Students, met with the Board to request a donation for the After Prom Party. Ms. Gordon stated that the theme for the After Prom will be Neon Rodeo. After Prom provides a fun night of games and entertainment in a safe, drug and alcohol-free environment. Ms. Lund stated that most of the students attend After Prom and they have a fun time. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to donate \$20 per student to be paid out of the Alcohol Fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to donate the same \$20.00 per student for Wakefield High School and Clifton/Clyde High School that reside on the Clay County side. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Patrick Smith, KCamp Risk Management, met with the Board to present a check for \$1,000 to Clay County for being a member with the lowest loss ratios over a four-year period. Congratulations to Clay County for a loss ratio under 10% for the period ending 2024. Mr. Smith thanked the Board for their longstanding and continuing relationship with KCamp, and their commitment to loss prevention.

The Board signed a letter appointing James Bogart, Emergency Manager, as the Clay County Representative to serve on the North Central Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council.

Mike Argo, Fair Board President, met with the Board to give an update on the Event Center Building and the upcoming Clay County Fair that will be held July 20 – 25, 2026. Mr. Argo asked if the issues with the new asphalt parking lot had been worked out. The Board stated that the asphalt company is deciding how to fix the issues but it will need to be warmer weather before they can work on it. Mr. Argo asked the Board to serve as the Judges again at the 4-H Parade that will be held during the Fair. The Board agreed to be the Judges for the Parade. Mr. Argo reported that he has signed a contract with Fast Times to be the band for the free concert on Friday night of the Fair. The cost to get the band here is \$3,000 and the Commissioners have always paid for this and would they be willing to pay for it again this year. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to pay \$3,000 for Fast Times to be the Friday night free concert for the public during the Fair. This is to be paid for out of the Alcohol Fund. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Argo also reported that there will be two Midget Car Races in August and two in September.

The Board adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Jerry F. Mayo, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
January 20, 2026
Clay Center, KS 67432

