

January 20, 2026

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed. Payroll in the amount of \$148,380.66 was reviewed and approved by the Board. Account Payables for 2025 in the amount of \$59,220.32 and 2026 in the amount of \$23,062.88 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Shomper turned over the bids for asphalt to open. Eric Schwein, Vice President Shilling Construction Co. was present at the bid opening. The bids were reviewed as follows:

Shilling Construction Co. Projects 1-4 - \$1,694,587.50

Project 5 - \$933,840.00

Bayer Construction Co. Projects 1-4 - \$1,948,100.00

Project 5 - \$1,055,000.00

APAC-Kansas Inc. Salina Branch – Projects 1-4 - \$1,896,124.65

Project 5 - \$1,178,325.85

After Mr. Shomper went over the bids with the Board, Commissioner Mayo made the motion to accept the Shilling bid on projects 1-4 in the amount of \$1,694,587.50. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shomper reported that the Department bladed roads, hauled rock, downgraded the trucks for snow removal, continued to clean ditches, weed eat, and cut down trees around culverts and bridges. Several pipes were installed in multiple locations. The employees worked around the shop on the cold mornings cleaning, making repairs, servicing and maintaining equipment for upcoming projects.

Alec Trembath, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department is currently on emergency run number 49 for the 2026 year. With the change of employees, they will be changing the people around on different shifts so that there is a mixture of employees on each shift. Mr. Trembath reported that he had a meeting with the individuals in Miltonvale that will be placed as PRN's on the Clay County roster to help cover the two townships in Cloud County that we have agreed to provide EMS coverage for. Mr. Trembath received maps of the area and the Department has been studying them to be familiar with the area. The Department has been doing training on several pieces of equipment and they will be taking a test over the protocol book next week. The replacement battery for the auto pulse has been received. This battery was still covered under the warranty or it would have cost the County an estimated \$4,000.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported to the Board that we had an employee that had an out of County accident involving the transport vehicle. The employee was not injured but we will need to look for a replacement vehicle in the near future after

deciding which option they will go with and what kind of a vehicle needs to be purchased. The Board signed and approved two Event Approvals for employees of the Sheriff's Department to attend training in Salina, Kansas. Sheriff Benninga stated that Kyle Murphy, and other rescue personnel had contacted him about a boat that is for sale and is located in Wakefield. Mr. Murphy stated that he knows the owner and that this boat is used on the lake frequently and they would like to consider the purchase to have for a lake rescue boat. Sheriff Benninga viewed the boat and stated that it is in great shape with a good trailer. The old rescue WWII boat is in bad shape and needs to be replaced. After much discussion, Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase the boat to be used as the County Rescue Board in the amount of \$7,000. This will need to be paid out of the Sheriff's Capital Outlay Fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Clayton Presley and Josh Brownell, Shooting & Archery Instructors for Clay County 4-H, met with the Board to discuss the purchase of heaters for the Beef Barn at the Fair Grounds. They currently have 12 4-H kids in the Spring Shooting Program and 12 4-H kids in the Winter Archery Program. Each of the programs keep increasing in size with more students in each group. Currently they are using the Beef Barn for their training and practice. And there is no kind of heat at all for the kids. Mr. Presley stated that they would like to purchase 3 of the patio umbrella heaters to place in different locations within the barn. The quote that they got from Tractor Supply, Inc. was a heater for \$150 and a propane tank for \$50. So, for one set would be \$200 and if they were to get 3 sets it would cost \$600. Mr. Presley asked if the Board would consider donating the money for the purchase of the heaters. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to donate \$600 to the 4-H Shooting & Archery Club for the purchase of 3 umbrella patio heaters and 3 propane tanks from Tractor Supply, Inc. This is to be paid for out of the Parks & Rec Fund. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Tracy Myers, Travel & Tourism, met with the Board to give a report on the 2025 year of Travel & Tourism. Ms. Myers stated that they have been working on the new Highway 24 Brochures that will be passed out soon. Clay County will now be located on the new maps. Ms. Myers stated that she believes people use the Explorer Website and the new Clay County App to find places to go and events to attend. The Board asked Ms. Myers to return to give the Travel & Tourism report to them quarterly.

The Board adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
January 26, 2026
Clay Center, Kansas