

January 26, 2026

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

Abatement 2025A44 and 2025A45 in the amount of \$39.00 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Chairman Thurlow presented the North Central Regional Planning Commission Annual Membership Dues Statement in the amount of \$3,500 for Clay County. The Board feels that this is a very useful membership to pay. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to pay the 2026 membership dues to the NCRPC in the amount of \$3,500 out of the General Fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Bob Wietharn and Joe Wietharn joined the meeting. Mr. Bob Wietharn gave the history of his business Riverscreen from 1997 to current. Riverscreen currently has 12 employees that work at this location. Mr. Joe Wietharn also provides service for Cornell Pumps and has been the Ag Cornell Pump Dealer of the Year for two years and this year they were number 2 in Dealer of the Year. Mr. Bob Wietharn stated that they receive freight multiple times a day. Sometimes up to 20 semi's a day drive their road and enter their property. He states that this is a lot of traffic but the road is in terrible shape. A few of the delivery trucks have refused to drive on the road and they then have to go and meet them and pick up their deliveries. He feels that they pay their share of taxes with the farm, Riverscreen, and Cornell Motors to have a good road. Mr. Bob Wietharn stated that Riverscreen has never asked for any help from the County, but now with the shape of the road he is now asking for help on the road to his business location for it is becoming an issue. Mr. Shomper has received a quote on this project of laying asphalt for 2 miles of 6" mat on most of it and 4" mat on the part of Limestone Rd that has had chip seal done for years. This road will be 24 feet wide. The quote for the asphalt came in at \$933,840. They would need to put in a harder base, make a crown on the road, and clean out the ditches to prepare for this project. The quote does not include the cost of the base, and all of the prep work for this project. Mr. Bob Wietharn stated that he would be willing to put \$500,000 towards the asphalt if it is done correctly and the road is 24 feet wide since this improves his property and business. The Board will need to table this issue until they can get accurate prices on all of the jobs for this project. They stated to Mr. Bob Wietharn that they will discuss this and get back to him in the near future.

Mr. Shomper presented the bids for oil. The bids were reviewed as follows:

Ergon – Tack Oil: CSS-1H - \$2.400 per gallon (we pick up)

Sealing: CRS-1HM - \$2.425 per gallon (delivered)

Vance Brothers – Tack Oil: CSS-1H - \$2.45 per gallon (+.14 per gallon delivered)

Sealing: CRS-1HM-\$2.75 per gallon (+.14 per gallon delivered)

After reviewing the bids, Commissioner Carlson made a motion to accept the bid from Ergon on both of the Tack Oil at \$2.400 per gallon (we pick up) and the Sealing Oil at \$2.425 per gallon (delivered). Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Last week the Department bladed roads, removed any excess rock and moved the windrow to the snow removal side in prep for the winter storm. Prepared all trucks for the snow removal. Continued ditch cleanup with weed-eating and removing trees around culverts and bridges. Did several tree removal jobs on Valleyview Rd. between 14th Rd. & 15th Rd., on 14th Rd. between Valleyview Rd. & County Line Rd., on 15th Rd. between Granite Rd. & Hackberry Rd., on Frontier Rd. between 2nd Rd. & 3rd Rd., and on 2nd Rd. between Frontier Rd. & Granite Rd. The employees were sent home at 11:30 a.m. on Friday to get rest for the hours of snow removal. On Saturday the blade operators and truck drivers were called out for snow removal. On Sunday the truck drivers were called in to plow, clear and widen all asphalt roads. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to move forward on the chip sealing for this 2026 year. The \$402,655.74 will be paid for out of the Sales Tax Fund. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alec Trembath, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department is currently on emergency run 66 for the year 2026. The testing for the EMT Students was cancelled because of the weather. This week the Cub Scouts will be coming to the EMS Station to learn first aide and how to handle emergencies. Several CPR Classes are coming up for certification. They have been finalizing instructor training so that there will be additional EMT'S that are able to teach the CPR Classes.

Jim Bogart, Emergency Manager, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Bogart reviewed the mandatory training for all employees that the County is providing on Recognizing and Responding to Persons with Mental Illness. This is an important subject for all Departments. The Board signed an Event Approval for an employee to attend training in Salina, Kansas.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Ms. Rickley provided a brochure on the Leadership Training Series that LIFT is providing. The subject is Developing the Leader Within You 2.0. Ms. Rickley will be attending a Conference in May in Las Vegas, Nevada with Clay Counts representatives pertaining to Drug Endangered Children.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that the weekend with the snow and cold weather went fairly well. They also had a fire in the County that was difficult to fight with the water freezing and the extreme cold.

The Board adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
February 2, 2026
Clay Center, Kansas