

February 2, 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 \$148,852.63 was reviewed and approved by the Board. Account Payables for 2025 in the amount of \$91,579.67 and 2026 in the amount of \$382,374.70 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Commissioner Thurlow continues to serve on the Board of the North Central Regional Planning Commission and would like to inform the Clay County citizens that NCRPC are willing to assist individuals and businesses with grant applications. NCRPC does charge a fee for this service, but Clay County would consider helping with the application fee on certain grant programs.

Abatements 2025A45 through 2025A47 in the amount of \$132.00 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Austin Gillard, CEO CCMC, met with the Board to give the monthly report. Mr. Gillard reported that Clay County Medical Center delivered 73 babies in 2025 and are estimating the delivery of 80 babies in the 2026 year. Mr. Gillard is working on a grant application through the State of Kansas that would be for a total renovation job on the former Advena Living that would be an estimated \$8-to-\$10-million-dollar project. This grant is considered a Rural Health Care Grant. Clay Center Family Physicians will welcome Nurse Practitioner Yana Bowen in joining them at the end of February. The Physical Therapy Department at the Medical Center continues to grow with clients. They will be adding an Assistant Therapist position soon. CCMC will be providing Leadership Training to their employees over the next six months of time.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department did snow removal, treated roads with salt and sand, did shop maintenance on several pieces of equipment, cleaned around the shop, transported 2 lift groups to Foley's in Concordia, and repaired 6 mail boxes that were damaged in snow removal. Mr. Shomper provided estimated costs on the building up of several different road projects to the Board. These projects will have to be spread over several years because of cost and budget limitations. RMA Construction has been dissolved and Iron Excavation and Utility Inc. which is now owned by Luke Hood, Garrett Hood, and Nate Ginest have stepped in to finish the box at Wakefield. They requested a few extra days next week to get their concrete crew together and then they will finish the box. The contract with RMA is still valid and the final bill will be coming from RMA. Mr. Shomper presented that bids for the financing of one new motor grader as

follows: This is for a lease purchase agreement in the amount of \$275,403.21 with annual payments for a 3-year time period.

GNBank – 4.39% fixed

Union State Bank – 3.99%

The Farmers & Merchant State Bank - 4.20%

The Citizens National Bank – 4.25% fixed

United Bank & Trust – 4.98% fixed

After reviewing all of the bids, Commissioner Carlson made the motion to accept the bid from Union State Bank of an interest rate of 3.99%. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shomper informed the Board that he has found a belly dump trailer that he would like to replace the old one that we still have. It is a 2026 Armor Lite Steel Skeleton Bottom Dump Trailer in the amount of \$40,385 from Larry's Trailer Sales & Service, LLC. out of Wichita, Kansas. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to purchase the Belly Dump Trailer that was presented in the amount of \$40,385 and will place the old trailer on Purplewave to sell. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shomper reported that they have discovered that the 25-year-old Hydraulic crimping machine is out dated. The machine is unable to crimp fitting that will hold for very long. After looking at Avery Auto Parts, Choice Products, and Lawson for different hose fittings and machine, Lawson's have stated that they will inventory all existing parts and buy them back reducing the upfront cost of a new machine. The Board asked Mr. Shomper if he had talked to NAPA to see what they have to offer and that they would like to see a final cost from Lawson with the amount of buy back taken off of a new machine. This matter will be tabled until next week when more information will be provided before a decision is made.

Alec Trembath, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The EMS Department is currently on emergency run number 77 for 2026. The EMS students took the hands-on test last week and he feels that they all did well but will have to wait for the results to come from State EMS. The Department will be having the Protocol test this week for all employees. Mr. Trembath stated that Zoll had contacted him and they were running a special on AED Units. Zoll stated that the Opioid Settlement funds that have been sent to the Counties can be used to purchase these units.. Mr. Trembath received an estimate on the purchase of 4 units in the amount of \$1,495 each. They were thinking of placing one at the Clay County Event Center, ESA Building, Medic 1, and Medic 2. The Board asked if all of the small communities had AEDs available. Mr. Trembath stated that he was not sure but that he would find out for next week.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Ms. Rickley stated that they had their Advisory Board meeting and the 2025 Overview was given. There

were 2,596 documented encounters that the Health Department provided services to. The Family Planning & Women's Health served 27 individuals with a total of 70 total encounters. There were 2,836 immunization encounters with education provided at each visit. For the Maternal & Child Health Program there were 394 encounters that focused on health assessments, developmental screenings, counseling, education and injury prevention. The In-Home Service provided 3,303 in home visits for elderly, and disabled individuals. This is partially funded by Area Agency on Aging. This service supports individuals remaining safely in their homes and assist with transitions when higher levels of care are needed. The Board signed and Event Approval for an employee from County Health Department to attend training in Beloit, Kansas.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga discussed several budgeted projects that he has plans to do over a period of time. The plumbing in the Law Enforcement Center needs to have some repairs done, the kitchen needs to have needed renovation done since it is used constantly for the prisoners, and to design a padded cell to hold certain individuals when needed.

Danny Mesalles, County Appraiser, met with the Board to give a report on the 2026 values. Mr. Mesalles provided a report for the 2026 values as follows:

Irrigated & non-irrigated – 5-10% Decrease

Pasture – 3 to 5% Increase

Residential Values have spiked – 8-12% Increase

Commercial – 3 to 6% Increase

Also presented was an agricultural graph showing the change in values each year. The Board approved and signed an Event Approval for an employee of the Appraiser's Office to attend training in Salina, Kansas.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to discuss the letter that was received last week about two violations on the failure to notify and the failure to conduct confirmation on groundwater sampling on the Clay County Landfill. Ms. Carroll stated that this is not the Counties job, it is the company that we hired named SCS Engineers and that they did the sampling but they did not report it. Megan Ostrand, SCS Engineers has been in contact with Wally Mack, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and they will be meeting onsite at the Landfill in February to perform confirmation sampling of MW-3C and MW-5A to address the warnings stated. The Board instructed Ms. Carroll to get this problem handled and to be there for that meeting. The Board approved repairs to be made on the radiator of the white Ford pickup. Bids were received on the purchase of 10 trailer tires as follows:

Kansasland Tire and Service – \$782.50

Five Creek Automotive - \$1,195.00

The Board granted permission to purchase the 10 tires from Kansasland Tire and Service to be placed on trailers. The Board decided to get rid of the Yellow Recycling Box Truck and to sell it on Purplewave as is.

Christine Swaim, County Treasurer, met with the Board to present the bids for Title work on 23 properties that will be placed on the next Delinquent Real Estate Tax Sale as follows:

Republican Valley Title - \$100 per property with a 60-day completion

Clay County Abstract & Title Company - \$150 per property

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to accept the bid from Republican Valley Title with a 60-day completion period in the amount of \$100 per property for a total of \$2,300.

Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Swaim provided a report to the Board that showed that the County had made \$50,467.96 in interest in the month of January with CD renewals. Ms. Swaim discussed several items that are in the Legislation this year. One of them involves the registering a vehicle one time and not renewing it each year. Ms. Swaim stated that her Motor Vehicle Distribution in 2025 totaled \$1,373,599. That is a substantial amount of money that the County and all entities would have to do without if this new bill would pass. The Board signed and approved an Event Approval for an employee of the Treasurer's Office to attend a meeting in Topeka, Kansas.

The Board adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, Clay County Clerk

February 9th, 2026
Clay Center, Kansas