

February 9, 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.

Abatement 2025A48 in the amount of \$127.30 was reviewed and approved by the Board.

Whitney Baer, Noxious Weed Director, met with the Board to ask for a donation of sick leave hours from the County Sick Leave Pool. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to donate 6.5 hours of sick leave from the County Sick Leave Pool for an employee of the Noxious Weed Department.

The Board received the Agreement Between Clifton City in Clay and Washington Counties and Mulberry Rural Fire District. Mulberry Rural Fire agrees to pay a stipulated fee for two years, beginning with the calendar year January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027, in the amount of \$1,800.00 per year for such services rendered, with the option to renew the agreement after 2 years during the last 30 days of the last calendar year.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Last week the Department bladed dirt roads to remove snow while it was frozen, then moved to the rock roads to repair any issues, downgraded the trucks and began hooking up the pup trailers to start hauling chips for the chip seal project, worked around the shop area while things dried out, working on several issues that the Highway building is having. They transported one of the Kenworth Dump Trucks to Kirby Smith in Salina to have repairs done to the number 5 injector. This should be covered by the warranty. Mr. Shomper reported that he had attended the Morganville City Council meeting on February 3, 2026 to present the bid on the 2026 asphalt project. After reporting Morganville's share of the project, he was told that the city did not have the budget for the project. Mr. Shomper informed them that would not be an issue, we would remove that part of the project and move forward. The County will be stopping at the west city limits, starting on the north city limits. The County will not be laying asphalt through town for that is the cities responsibility and there are two reasons that the County will not continue. The City needs to contribute to the cost of the asphalt like Clifton did and there is also a safety issue if the County continues through with a 2-inch lift that could possibly cause an accident if someone is not paying attention to the uneven surface. The Board instructed Mr. Shomper to remove the amount that Morganville would have been responsible for and to move forward with the County's share. Mr. Shomper presented bids from Sno-biz for the purchase of two new snow plows that are 9 feet wide to fit the two new pickups that are ordered in the total amount of \$19,864.40. The old ones will be placed on Purplewave with the pickups to be sold. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase the 2 snow plows from Sno-biz in the amount of \$19,864.40. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shomper reported that he was glad that they asked him to go

to Napa last week concerning the hydraulic fittings and crimper. Napa is willing to give us credit on the current supplies and crimper in the shop in the amount of \$32,520 and then provide a hydraulic crimper for the shop and a mobile one to be placed on the repair truck for a difference of \$6,130. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to go with Napa for the program offered and the difference of \$6,130 for a crimping machine for the shop and a mobile unit for the repair truck. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shomper presented a quote for tires to have in stock at the Highway Department. The quote received was from Kansasland Tire & Service for a variety of different tires in the amount of \$189,564.36. An email was received from Five Creek Automotive stating that they would not be submitting a bid on the tires requested. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to purchase the variety of tires from Kansasland in the amount of \$189,564.36. This will be paid for out of the Road & Bridge fund. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alec Trembath, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The Department is currently on run 101 for 2026. They continue to stay busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers. The students that have taken the State test are still waiting on the results to be posted. Mr. Trembath stated the he has been in contact with the City Clerk's and the Fire Chief's of each Fire District to discuss the placement of an AED unit. They would like to place one in each town and have it accessible for the public most of the time.

Jim Bogart, Emergency Manager, met with the Board to give the weekly report. The training that he attended last week in Salina went well and he will be able to use different parts of the training here in our County. They were informed that there will be changes made to the Salamander Badge program in the near future.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Ms. Rickley presented an Event Approval for two employees to attend training in Clay Center, Kansas. The Board approved and signed the Event Approval.

The Board discussed the Small Business Grants that were offered by the County in 2025. The County approved nine \$5,000 grants for local Clay County businesses. Commissioner Thurlow made the motion to continue with the Small Business Grants with a maximum of \$5,000 for each one and to be paid out of the Economic Development Fund. The applications can be picked up at the County Clerk's Office. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Alan Benninga, Sheriff, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Sheriff Benninga reported that he had been in contact with two different concrete businesses to get estimates on the work that needs to be done in the basement. He will return at a later date once he has received a quote for the project.

The Board received a letter from the Supreme Court of Kansas stating that they are needing to appoint two Non-Lawyer Members to the Judicial Nominating Commission. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to re-appoint Kyle C. Bauer and Steven C. McMahan to the 21st District Judicial Nomination Commission representing Clay County for an additional term beginning March 2, 2026 to March 5, 2030. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board received bids on the financing for the purchase of new BK radios. The purchase agreement would be in the amount of \$210,000.00 for a 3-year term with one payment annually and no penalties for paying the lease off early. The bids were opened as follows:

The Farmers & Merchants State Bank – 4.09%

The Citizens National Bank – 4.25% fixed

GN Bank – 4.39% fixed

Union State Bank – 3.99%

United Bank & Trust – 4.98% fixed

After reviewing each of the bids, Commissioner Carlson made the motion to accept the bid from Union State Bank for 3.99% interest on \$210,000.00 for a 3-year term with one payment annually and no penalties for paying the lease off early. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to ask permission to place an ad for hiring an employee to fill a vacant position. This position will need to have a CDL license. The Board granted permission to fill the vacant position. Ms. Carroll reported that she has taken the roll off truck to Bloom Welding & Repair for needed repairs. Ms. Carroll discussed the phone issues that the Landfill has been having. The Landfill is located in an area that most phone service does not work. There is no reception for wireless service. This issue will need to be research more and a decision made at a later date. Ms. Carroll reported that the skidsteer is having issues and will not go backwards. The Board instructed her to contact Bruna's to come make the repairs. Ms. Carroll request 60 hours from the County Sick Leave Pool for an employee at the Landfill. The Board approve the request of the 60 hours from the County Sick Leave Pool.

The Board adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Jerry F. Mayo, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, Clay County Clerk
February 17, 2026
Clay Center, Kansas

