

January 7, 2025  
Rescheduled from January 6<sup>th</sup> due to weather/road conditions.

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:04 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Vice Chair; Jason Hightower, Member; Ali Hamilton, Commissioner-Elect; David Lamb, County Clerk; and Darcy Wilson, Deputy Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance. David Lamb opened the meeting with prayer.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the following December 31, 2024, pays/special pays, totaling \$1,319,079.10: General, \$443,175.35; Rural Fire, \$125,044.49; Road and Bridge, \$750,490.11; and Elderly, \$369.15. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The amounts shown on this pay include the end of the year transfers totaling \$1,311,904.28. (There was also \$113,873.48 in Purchase Orders that do not appear on this Claims Register.)

The Vice Chair reported on AMR's activities for the past week.

The Vice Chair presented the prisoner count. There are currently 53 prisoners in-house including 43 from other jurisdictions. There is 1 Linn County prisoner farmed out to another County.

Randy Hegwald reported on the fire calls for the week and the yearly totals for 2024.

At 9:10 AM Danny McCullough arrived.

The Clerk presented the Sheriff's Monthly Fee Report. Danny McCullough moved to accept the Sheriff's Monthly Fee Report for December 2024 in the amount of \$141,851.35. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The Commission then reviewed the YTD Park Report for December 2024.

Chasity Ware reported on the airport lights. Ware then reported on the land leases that the County has in effect and the taxes that we pay on those properties. Jason Hightower moved to allow Ware to send out an RPF for the farm ground located at 9310 Thomas Road. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Ware asked for approval to have a strategy session with Red Logic concerning our website in the amount of \$500.00. The Commission agreed to allow Ware to do the strategy session with Red Logic. Ware then discussed the lack of notification about yesterday's closing due to the weather.

Amanda Snyder presented the Health Dept. information for December and discussed upcoming events.

At 9:52 AM Jason Hightower moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session until 10:30 AM to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee, to discuss employee evaluations. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:30 AM. Danny McCullough seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Commissioner-Elect attended the executive session.

At 10:30 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 10:33 AM Danny McCullough moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 30 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:03 AM. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Commissioner-Elect, and Mark Hagen attended the executive session.

At 10:44 AM the Commissioner-Elect left the executive session and Attorney Trish Voth (by phone) entered.

At 11:03 AM the executive session ended. As a result of the executive session, Danny McCullough moved to release Check #157138 in the amount of \$33,322.00 to Foulston Siefkin LLP. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-1. (Jim Johnson voted no.)

At 11:06 AM Danny McCullough moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:21 AM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Commissioner-Elect, and Mark Hagen attended the executive session.

At 11:27 AM Danny McCullough moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee, to discuss employee evaluations. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:30 AM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Commissioner-Elect attended the executive session.

At 11:52 AM the three Department Heads (Chris Martin, Randy Hegwald, and Amanda Snyder) entered the executive session one at a time. (Shaun West was unavailable for today's meeting.)

At 11:57 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 11:59 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee, to discuss employee evaluations. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:14 PM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Commissioner-Elect, and Department Heads attended the executive session.

At 12:14 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 12:16 PM Jason Hightower moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee, to discuss employee evaluations. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:26 PM. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Commissioner-Elect, and Department Heads attended the executive session.

At 12:26 PM the executive session ended. As a result of the executive session, Jason Hightower moved to increase Amanda Snyder's pay from Range 13 Step B to Range 16 Step A, Randy Hegwald's pay from Range 17 Step G to Range 17 Step I, and Chris Martin's pay from Range 18 Step P to Range 18 Step Q. Danny McCullough seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

At 12:33 PM the Chair opened a Floodplain Management Public Hearing. The Chair asked for public comment, none was given. At 12:34 PM the Chair closed the Public Hearing. Danny McCullough moved to approve the Floodplain Management Resolution #2025-03 as presented. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Following is a copy of the Title Page and Signature Page of Resolution #2025-03: (A full copy of the Resolution is available in the County Clerk's Office.)

# FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 60.3 (c),  
K.S.A. 12-766, and K.A.R. 5-441 through 5-447

RESOLUTION No. 2025-082

## ARTICLE I STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION, FINDINGS OF FACT, AND PURPOSES

### SECTION A. STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION

- Approval of Draft Resolution by Kansas Chief Engineer Prior to Adoption

The following floodplain management regulations, as written, were approved in draft form by the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources of the Kansas Department of Agriculture on Nineteenth 5th, 2025.

- Kansas Statutory Authorization

The Legislature of the State of Kansas has in K.S.A. 12-741 *et seq.* and specifically in K.S.A. 12-766, delegated the responsibility to local governmental units to adopt floodplain management regulations necessary to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public. Therefore, the Board of County Commissioners of Linn County, Kansas, ordains as follows:

### SECTION B. FINDINGS OF FACT

- Flood Losses Resulting from Periodic Inundation

The special flood hazard areas of Linn County, Kansas, are subject to inundation which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare.

- General Causes of the Flood Losses

These flood losses are caused by (1) the cumulative effect of development in any delineated floodplain causing increases in flood heights and velocities; and (2) the occupancy of flood hazard areas by uses vulnerable to floods, hazardous to others, inadequately elevated, or otherwise unprotected from flood damages.

- Methods Used To Analyze Flood Hazards

The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) that is the basis of this resolution uses a standard engineering method of analyzing flood hazards, which consist of a series of interrelated steps.

## ARTICLE 9 CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

This Floodplain Management Resolution for the community of Linn County, Kansas.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Linn County, Kansas.

This 7th day of January, 2025.

### Chief Engineer Draft Approval Seal Here:

### Community Approval Seal Here:

### APPROVED:

[Signature] 1-7-25  
Date  
Signature of Chief Executive Officer/Chief Elected Official  
Dennis McLaughlin Commissioner Chair  
Chief Executive Officer/Chief Elected Official Name (Typed/printed) Title

### ATTEST:

[Signature] 01-07-2025  
Date  
Signature of Recording Clerk  
David L. Lamb County Clerk  
Recording Clerk Name (Typed/printed) Title

Published in official news publication The Linn County News.

KDA-DWR form 9071

Page 1

Model (8-20)

KDA-DWR form 9071

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Danny McCullough moved to approve add/abate/refund orders: #2024-001 through #2024-93, except for #2024-014, 032, 037, 039, 061, 075, and 081 that were canceled. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

At 12:39 PM the Chair asked for public comment. No public comment was given. The Clerk presented Resolution #2025-01, 2025 Salary Schedule; and Resolution #2025-02, Cancel Outstanding Warrants. Jason Hightower moved to adopt Resolution #2025-01 and Resolution #2025-02 as presented. Danny McCullough seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Following are copies of Resolution #2025-01 and Resolution #2025-02:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LINN COUNTY, KANSAS

Made this 6th day of January, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following wages be allowed for the year 2025:

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

COUNTY COMMISSIONER	\$1,124.02	
COUNTY ATTORNEY	\$3,835.16	
COUNTY CLERK	\$2,880.87	
COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS	\$2,603.86	
COUNTY SHERIFF	\$3,331.10	
COUNTY TREASURER	\$2,558.37	
ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY	\$2,628.62	\$3,534.37
COUNTY APPRAISER	\$2,722.10	\$3,811.11
COUNTY COUNSELOR	\$2,129.57	\$4,103.67
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	\$2,180.46	\$2,842.11
FIRE CHIEF/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR	\$2,722.10	\$3,542.22
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	\$1,902.52	\$2,287.83
ASSISTANT EMERGENCY MANAGER	\$1,542.05	\$1,848.00
IT MANAGER/TECHNICIAN	\$2,532.81	\$3,542.22
IT SUPPORT TECHNICIAN	\$1,902.52	\$2,458.53
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE/ADMINISTRATOR	\$2,532.81	\$3,057.15
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR/UTILITY CLERK	\$1,344.05	\$1,606.35
NOXIOUS WEED DIRECTOR	\$1,653.09	\$1,983.51
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR	\$1,773.01	\$2,129.86
PUBLIC WORKS FIELD ADMINISTRATOR	\$2,532.81	\$3,057.15
DEPUTY APPRAISER	\$1,773.01	\$2,129.86
CAMA SPECIALIST/APPRAISER OFFICE MANAGER	\$1,653.09	\$2,129.86
COMMERCIAL CHIEF APPRAISER	\$1,653.09	\$2,129.86
APPRAISER I	\$1,653.09	\$2,129.86
APPRAISER II	\$1,438.24	\$1,722.52
GIS ADMINISTRATOR	\$1,542.05	\$1,848.00
GIS CARTOGRAPHY/TECHNICIAN II	\$1,653.09	\$1,983.51
ADMIN ASSISTANT-CO. ATTORNEY	\$2,532.81	\$3,288.40
LEGAL SECRETARY/PARALEGAL	\$1,653.09	\$1,983.51
VICTIM WITNESS COORDINATOR	\$1,542.05	\$2,287.83
CLERK I	\$1,438.24	\$1,722.52
CLERK II	\$1,342.05	\$1,848.00
DEPUTY CLERK/DEPUTY ELECTION OFFICER	\$1,653.09	\$1,983.51
CERTIFIED DEP. CLERK/DEP. ELEC. OFF.	\$1,773.01	\$2,129.86
TREASURER I	\$1,344.05	\$1,606.35
DEPUTY TREASURER	\$1,542.05	\$1,848.00
MOTOR VEHICLE CLERK	\$1,542.05	\$1,983.51
BLUFF	\$1,773.01	\$2,129.86
LEAD CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE	\$1,542.05	\$1,848.00
CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE I	\$1,344.05	\$1,606.35
CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE II	\$1,438.24	\$1,722.52
VAN DRIVER	\$16.80	\$20.00 per hour
PARK MANAGER	\$20.00	\$26.00 per hour
PARK MAINTENANCE/MARINA CLERK I	\$16.80	\$20.00 per hour
PARK MAINTENANCE/MARINA CLERK II	\$17.99	\$21.53 per hour
DEPUTY REG. OF DEEDS	\$1,542.05	\$1,983.51
ROAD FOREMAN/ASPHALT FOREMAN	\$1,902.52	\$2,287.83
ASSISTANT ROAD FOREMAN	\$1,653.09	\$2,129.86


PART TIME EMPLOYEES

HEALTH DEPT. SEC. ASSISTANT	\$10.73	\$17.49
REG. OF DEEDS	\$12.05	\$14.26
CO. ATTORNEY	\$13.73	\$16.34
SHERIFF'S DEPUTY	\$15.70	\$21.53
DISPATCHER	\$15.70	\$18.73
ZONING/CON. DEV.	\$11.30	\$13.37
PAINT	\$11.30	\$13.37
SOLID WASTE	\$11.30	\$13.37
COMPACTOR OPERATOR	\$11.30	\$13.37
SUBSTITUTE COMP. OPER.	\$11.30	\$13.37
ELECTION WORKERS	\$8.00	
FIRE STATION CAPTAINS & LIEUTENANTS	\$40.00 per call + \$13.33	
	per hour after 3 hours	
	\$35.00 per call + \$11.67	
	per hour after 3 hours	


FIREFIGHTERS

MECHANIC I	\$1,542.05	\$1,848.00
MECHANIC II	\$1,653.09	\$1,983.51
EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I	\$1,344.05	\$1,606.35
EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II	\$1,438.24	\$1,848.00
HEALTH DEPT. SEC. ADMIN. ASSISTANT	\$1,653.09	\$1,983.51
HEALTH DEPT. RN	\$27.42	\$33.04 per hour
HEALTH DEPT. LPN	\$23.76	\$30.15 per hour
UNDERSHERIFF	\$2,398.61	\$2,842.11
SHERIFF'S DEPUTY I	\$1,542.05	\$1,848.00
SHERIFF'S DEPUTY II	\$1,653.09	\$1,983.51
SHERIFF'S DEPUTY III	\$1,773.01	\$2,129.86
SHERIFF'S DETECTIVE	\$1,773.01	\$2,458.53
SHERIFF'S SERGEANT	\$1,902.52	\$2,287.83
HEAD JAILER	\$1,773.01	\$2,129.86
JAILER I	\$1,344.05	\$1,606.35
JAILER II	\$1,438.24	\$1,722.52
DISPATCH SUPERVISOR	\$1,653.09	\$1,983.51
DISPATCHER I	\$1,438.24	\$1,722.52
DISPATCHER II	\$1,542.05	\$1,848.00
SHERIFF OFFICE MANAGER	\$1,653.09	\$1,983.51
SHERIFF CLERK	\$1,542.05	\$1,722.52
TRAFFIC CONTROL ASSISTANT	\$1,542.05	\$1,722.52
SOLID WASTE COORDINATOR	\$1,773.01	\$2,287.83
SOLID WASTE MECHANIC I	\$1,542.05	\$1,848.00
SOLID WASTE MECHANIC II	\$1,653.09	\$1,983.51
SOLID WASTE EQUIP. OPERATOR I	\$1,344.05	\$1,606.35
SOLID WASTE EQUIP. OPERATOR II	\$1,438.24	\$1,848.00
SOLID WASTE EQUIP. OPERATOR III	\$1,653.09	\$1,983.51

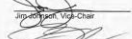
ATTEST:




David L. Lamb, County Clerk



Danny McCullough, Chair




Jett Johnson, Vice-Chair




Jason Hightower, Member


ATTEST:




David L. Lamb, County Clerk



Danny McCullough, Chair



Jett Johnson, Vice-Chair



Jason Hightower, Member

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF LINN COUNTY, KANSAS  
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LINN COUNTY, KANSAS:

That the Board of County Commissioners, being the governing body of Linn County, Kansas, hereby declared, pursuant to KSA 10-815 that all the County warrants listed below are hereby canceled and set aside upon the records of the County. Such records shall show the date of cancellation and shall recite that such warrant is unpaid but canceled by reason of this resolution.

The County Warrants to be canceled are:

GENERAL FUND			
10/31/2022	#146899	Morgan Northcutt	\$ 9.77
PAYROLL			
11/25/2022	#79125	Daniel McCullough	\$ 64.76
11/25/2022	#79145	Nelson Blythe	\$ 21.59
11/25/2022	#79168	Kyle Parscale	\$ 86.35
11/25/2022	#79206	Joseph Oldham	\$ 13.09

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

With nothing further on the agenda Danny McCullough moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, January 13, 2025. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

2578

January 13, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Danny McCullough, Chair; Jim Johnson, Vice Chair; Jason Hightower, Ali Hamilton, Commissioner-Elect; David Lamb, County Clerk; and Darcy Wilson, Deputy Clerk. Danny McCullough led the Pledge of Allegiance. David Lamb opened the meeting with prayer.

Danny McCullough moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$1,298,606.82: General, \$630,177.20; Employee Benefits, \$291,841.82; Appraiser, \$17,462.95; Rural Fire, \$63,578.83; Road and Bridge, \$172,873.75; 911 Telephone Tax, \$3,826.94; County Health Dept., \$17,552.18; Elderly, \$16,105.28; and Payroll Clearing, \$85,187.87. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Lori Simmons administered the Oath of Office for Judge Purvis.

At 9:05 AM Judge Purvis administered the Oath of Office for the following County Elected Officials: Ali Hamilton, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commissioner; Jim Johnson, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commissioner; David Lamb, County Clerk; Kristy Schmitz, Register of Deeds; Justin Meeks, County Attorney; and James Akes, Sheriff. County Treasurer-Elect Joannie Reed will be sworn in when her term starts in October.

Jason Hightower moved to appoint Jim Johnson as the Commission Chair for 2025 and Alison Hamilton as the Vice Chair for 2025. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson moved to reschedule the January 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting to Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Dawn Brooks, AMR, reported on their activities for the past week.

The Chair presented the prisoner count. There are currently 58 prisoners in-house including 44 from other jurisdictions. There is 1 Linn County prisoner farmed out to another County.

The Chair reported on the fire calls for the week. The Chair also reported on upcoming Stop the Bleed and CPR training classes.

Jason Hightower moved to approve add/abate/refund orders: #2024-094 through #2024-117, except for #2024-095 and 114 that were canceled. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Chasity Ware asked the Commission about the lights at the airport and stated that there is some interest in buying the airport. The Commission stated that they don't want to spend money on the lights and gave Ware permission to ask Mark Hagen some questions about selling the airport. Discussed leasing the property at 9310 Tucker Road and the taxes on the property. Discussed meeting concerning website.

Jesse Walton stated that the Road & Bridge crews have been clearing roads from the snow and ice storms. Walton also stated that he received an engineer's report on the 900 Road project and that he will report on the recommendations next week.

Shaun West stated that he has the recommendation for the swim beach prepared to submit to KDWP.

At 9:26 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee, to discuss employee evaluations. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:36 AM. Ali Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Shaun West attended the executive session.

At 9:36 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Pleasanton Mayor Mathew Young met with the Commission to discuss the compactor agreement. Young read the proposed agreement and stated that the City of Pleasanton has not received any information from the County concerning their questions about the agreement. Young stated that the bullying attempt made by the Commission last week was unprofessional and stated Pleasanton's issues with the agreement. Ali Hamilton moved to ask the Pleasanton Attorney to come in and meet with Mark Hagen to discuss the issues and draft a contract. Jim Johnson stated that last week's motion was an answer to the letter that was received from the Pleasanton Attorney. The Commission stated that they do not want to close the compactor. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

County Appraiser Lisa Kellstadt informed the Commission that she is going to request a 15-day extension to mail CVNs. The Commission agreed to the 15-day extension.

Jason Hightower stated that Sheriff Akes told him that we are not required to have the prisoner list on the website, but it has cut down on the calls they are receiving.

Jason Hightower asked if the other Commissioners would be in favor of asking Mark Hagen to be our County Counselor. The other Commissioners agreed to ask Mark Hagen about being the Counselor.

At 9:55 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees’ performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:05 AM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission attended the executive session.

At 10:05 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

The Commission discussed re-posting the Planning & Zoning Director position. Ali Hamilton will look into additional sites to post the opening and discuss her recommendations next week. The Commission discussed a salary study for County positions. The Clerk will look for existing salary information for other Counties. Ali Hamilton stated that she would like to set up a timeline for discussing tabled agenda items. The Commission discussed the tabled items that are currently listed.

Sheriff Akes stated that he met with Enterprise about the Sheriff’s vehicles. Akes stated that he will have a Zoom meeting with Enterprise on January 31<sup>st</sup> and would like to have a workshop with the Commission on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Jason Hightower volunteered to attend the Zoom meeting. The Clerk will schedule a time for the workshop on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

At 10:25 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees’ performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:35 AM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, Mark Hagen, and County Attorney Justin Meeks attended the executive session.

At 10:35 AM the executive session ended. As a result of the executive session, Justin Meeks announced that Mark Hagen will be a Part-Time Assistant County Attorney at a contracted amount of \$2,500.00 per month. Jason Hightower moved to approve using Hagen as a Contracted Assistant County Attorney. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Meeks also announced that Burton Harding will also be a Part-Time Assistant County Attorney at a payroll salary of \$52,000.00 per year. Jason Hightower moved to approve hiring Harding as a Part-Time Employee Assistant County Attorney. Ali Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-1. (Jim Johnson voted no.)

At 10:40 AM the Chair asked for public comment. None was given.

The Commission discussed the KORA process and possible updates to our process and fees. The Commission also discussed the KwiKom project that was funded with ARPA money and the remaining 10% that has not been paid to KwiKom. No decisions were made at this time on the KORA or KwiKom issues.

With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Tuesday, January 21, 2025. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

January 21, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair; Ali Hamilton, Vice Chair, Jason Hightower; Commissioner, and Darcy Wilson, Deputy Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with prayer.

Jason Hightower moved to approve the following January 21, 2025, pays/special pays, totaling \$199,615.24: General, \$133,551.11.11; Employee Benefit, \$93.00; Appraiser, \$558.25; Rural Fire, \$487.20; Road and Bridge, \$25,162.74; 911 Telephone Tax, \$26,731.16; County Health Dept, \$1,486.10; ARPA, \$11,307.00; and Elderly, \$239.68. Jim Johnson questioned the check to Southeast Kansas Juvenile Detention and asked for confirmation that contract was canceled, and this was final payment. Johnson asked Deputy Clerk Darcy Wilson to check into this and report back at the next meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Hightower amended motion to approve Claims expect the Southeast Kansas Juvenile Detention pay. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Randy Hegwald Fire Chief reported on the fire calls for the week. Randy Hegwald's Cell Phone Number has changed 913-904-2835. CPR Class on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the La Cygne Library from 5-8 and it is open to the public. Annual LEPC Meeting at the Courthouse Annex on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. Alison Hamilton will represent the Commission at that meeting. January 27<sup>th</sup> is Stop the Bleed Class at the Courthouse Annex from 6pm-10pm.

Janet Kleweno announced a new hire, Lacey Ranes. Kleweno brought in the contract from Attorney Klenda Austerman for the Provision of Legal Services for Ad Valorem Property Tax Judicial Foreclosure K.A.S. 79-2801. Jason Hightower moved to accept and sign the contract. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Contract was signed by Chairman Jim Johnson.

Economic Development- Chasity Ware reported on the E-COMM Board. Ware recommended 3 Board members for District 3. Johnson asked about terms, Ware is not certain on the terms remaining or awarded and will report back next week. District 1 is also needing 1 member; Russell Pope will be running for a second term. Johnson made Motion for District 3 Board Members Kenny Otto, Janet Jackson, and Ashley Allen. Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. A grant of \$2500 was awarded through Network Kansas and it will be applied towards the Youth Economic Development Event. The Event is March 4<sup>th</sup> at the 4-H Building starting at 9am.

Alison Hamilton stated that the Airport Committee was not dissolved, she would like Ware to start that committee back meeting again. Discussion about the website took place and the best way to get information out. Hamilton brought up the number social media accounts the County has and how we can condense those down. Hamilton asked Ware to report back on the number of social media accounts the County has and to report back next week.

At 9:45 AM Jason Hightower moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss trade secrets, pursuant to the trade secrets exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:55 AM. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Chasity Ware attended the executive session.

At 9:55 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Jesse Walton reported on equipment that has been repaired, the grader in Centerville needs repair. The new Holland Tractor came in on budget with its repairs. Hamilton asked if during storms road crews focus on bus routes. Walton confirmed that paved roads and bus routes are a priority. The D6 Dozer has been repaired and came in under budget. The Dozer has had a radiator leak for a while now and the mechanics have been doing what they can to keep it repaired. The Dozer is still at the CAT dealer, and CAT gave them a quote to repair the radiator. The estimate came in at \$5500 Walton asked for \$6000 max for repairs. Johnson asked if it was something we could fix. Walton stated that per our mechanics we do not have the proper equipment. Hightower made a motion for Walton to spend \$6,000 for repairs on the CAT D6 Dozer #114. Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0

Shaun West and Jesse Walton presented a report from Kaw Valley concerning 900 Road. Discussed the letter sent by Kaw Valley with a suggested solution. West discussed Airbnb Spread Sheet. Sheri Loveland was unable to be here. Hamilton suggested that a clear vision needs to be made on what the plan is on Airbnb and then have a discussion. They all agreed.

At 10:31 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes for legal advice from Attorney Mark Hagen which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with at was attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the attorney. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:46 AM. Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Present in the executive session The Commission, Shaun West, Jesse Walton, and Attorney Mark Hagen (by phone). The last 5 mins of executive session present were The Commission, Chasity Ware, and Attorney Mark Hagen (By Phone).

At 10:46 AM Commission returned from executive session and Jim Johnson made a motion to extend executive session 15 minutes with Shaun West. Hightower seconded the motion. The motion Passed 3-0.

At 11:01 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Public Works Director Shaun West, Tony Melini of Terracon, and Charlie Bowers of KDHE came to explain the Landfill Expansion and why the survey from Cornerstone was needed. Johnson asked why this survey was added on as a change order when the County did not ask for it. Melini explained that he wanted to confirm that it was needed before the money needed to be spent. Once a vertical expansion was confirmed the survey was needed. Hightower asked if there were any other concerns. Bowers stated that he did not have any other concerns other than what was presented in the letter. Hightower made a motion to approve Cornerstone Regional Surveying for \$3800.00. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0

Shaun West is expecting to speak with KDHE next week about the permit. West asked if all of the Commissioners could please attend. He would like to set a time when the Commission, West, and the Cities can meet with KDHE so all questions can be answered, and discussion can happen at the same time, so everyone understands, and one answer can be made, and then will be able to move forward. Hamilton confirmed that West will be contacting the Cities. He will not be contacting the Lake Communities and Centerville.

Alison Hamilton has had phone calls with complaints about dogs in the Senior Center. She inquired if the County has a policy in place. West explained that each building was different. Meals are provided at the Senior Center through East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging. Jason Hightower has a meeting with the East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging and he will get their policy on this and report back at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Commission Meeting.

Public Works Shaun West continued with his reports. West reported damage that was done in some parking lots during last winter's event. West offered a solution. He presented that the Noxious Weed UTV is fully enclosed and available during the winter as well as the Noxious Weed Dept. This gives us an opportunity for a second vehicle and man. West asked if he could get pricing for a snowplow and a salt spreader for that UTV. West said that the money is available for the equipment he would just like the Commission to decide if this was something they would like to do before they begin the pricing process because it is so time-consuming. Hightower asked what was currently being used to clear the lots. Walton said the skid steers are coming through and cleaning the parking lots and then the Dump trucks spread the salt. Walton said that road salt eats cement. There are patches in the parking lot that are chipped off because that salt has eaten away at that cement. Walton explained why the Noxious weed UTV with the snowplow and salt spreader with the cement safe salt would be very beneficial for our parking lots. Hamilton asked what the parking lot protocol was, and who was assigned to County buildings and who is responsible for maintaining those locations when a storm comes. The Commission asked West and Walton to create an operations plan and bring it to next week's meeting to review.

West discussed the storage units on the west side of the Justice Center. He is asking to keep all items that need to continue to be stored and separated into that Department Heads Unit and they will be responsible for their own lock. Throw away all items that are not of value to the County and prepare a Resolution for the items he can auction. In return Sheriff Akes will clear out the garage in the old Sheriffs building and move those items into 2 of those storage units. This will allow maintenance to store heavier items in that garage on a level surface. Sheriffs Akes will continue to store his transportation van in that garage.

West reported on the Baskerville Road project. To keep a project moving the most cost-efficient way is to purchase right of way. West said that we will need a survey completed and then a County Counselor or Attorney to make the purchase of the right of way. This needs to be done before the material can be purchased.

Hamilton asked about the time frame of the swim beach. West asked for permission to send out a letter to Wildlife and Park and asked if a commissioner would come to the initial meeting. Jason Hightower will attend that meeting with Wildlife and Parks with West once it is scheduled.

Hamilton asked Chris Martin to come to the meeting today wanting access to the P Drive & printing capabilities. Martin explained that the P Drive is secured by elected officials. Martin stated that he would have to get back to her. Martin will provide printing capabilities at next week's meeting for any of the commissioners that would like them. Hamilton would like to see an auto reply after completing a road request online. Hamilton asked Martin to update the report a road problem on the website. The Commission all agreed for Martin to do this. Commission asked Martin to delete the Airport page. Hamilton asked if she could go to Pam Cannon in GIS about questionnaire in website for groups in the county. Hamilton asked if she could add updated questionnaire on Economic Development Facebook and the website Commission agreed that was ok to do. Hamilton then asked if she could add a QR Code to the Classified Ads for employment. Hamilton then asked about updating applications and getting them posted on KAC, Indeed, County Website, County Facebook, and Linn County News.

Martin reported that Hamilton’s County cell phone is ready, and phone number has been posted on the County website.  
Hamilton made a motion to post for County Counselor again. Johnson seconded. Motion passed 3-0

Deputy Clerk Darcy Wilson presented Stars request for their first payment for 2025, Jason Hightower will attend their board meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> and report back to the commission to discuss at the February 3rd meeting.

At 12:58 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 1:08pm. Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Joyce Hall attended the executive session.

At 1:08 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Hamilton would like the Commissioners to set goals for the year. She would like to know how the cemeteries, townships, and historical buildings are funded. Johnson advised Hamilton to go to each township as they should have that information. Deputy Clerk Wilson advised Hamilton that the Clerk’s office has information also. Hamilton wants a more digitized version and website information available. Hamilton wants to know if the Commission is committed to restoring the Courthouse. Johnson will reach out to Miami County for a roof referral.

With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, January 27, 2025. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

January 27, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair; Alison Hamilton, Vice Chair; Jason Hightower, Member; David Lamb, County Clerk; and Darcy Wilson, Deputy Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance. David Lamb opened the meeting with prayer.

In the amount

Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$562,104.08: General, \$205,184.42; Employee Benefits, \$165,415.84; Appraiser, \$15,974.25; Rural Fire, \$8,713.64; Road and Bridge, \$75,245.01; Special Road & Bridge, \$457.59; 911 Telephone Tax, \$108.99; County Health Dept., \$11,377.90; Elderly, \$2,834.53; and Payroll Clearing, \$76,791.91. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jason Hightower moved to approve check # to Southeast Kansas Juvenile Det Center in the amount of \$ as final payment.

Jason moved to approve add/abate/refund orders: #2024-118 through #2024-135, except for #2024-122 and 129 that were canceled. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Louis, AMR, reported on their activities for the past week.

The Chair presented the prisoner count. There are currently ?? prisoners in-house including ?? from other jurisdictions. There is 1 Linn County prisoner farmed out to another County

Randy Hegwald reported on the fire calls for the week. Yearly total 33. Stop the Bleed class has been rescheduled to February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. LEPC meeting was last week.. Next meeting is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in July.

Hegwald asked if there any questions about Mutal Aid Agreement. Hightower asked about Incident Command, how is that determined? Hegwald will meet with cities and come up with a new plan and report back.

Chasity Ware gave an Economic Development update on web site, and airport committee.

The Commission discussed repairs needed on the Court House and on the Gazebo. Shaun West will reach out to Randy Page to receive a plan for the Gazebo.

Jesse Walton reported on road crews. Brandom Denman has completed his CDL training. D6 Dozer is fixed and ready to go.

Shaun West explained the training the CDL training program we do here.

At 9:42 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:52 AM. Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Clerka attended the executive session.

At 9:52 AM the executive session ended. Action was taken as a result of the executive session. Walton asked for an increase for Brandon Denman

Chris Martin reported on the current copier situation in the Annex. Martin recommended the Kyocera from Modern Copy Systems. Hamilton made motion to approve the Kyocera copier in the amount of \$6,262 Hightower seconded the motion. The Motion passed 3-0

Shaun West asked if he could put the dust control and mowing out for bid. Commission discussed updates for the new website.

West discussed compactor agreements and upcoming meeting with KDHE and the Cities. West discussed repairs to compactor container and the invoice that was submitted for payment. West said that 1 container is left to repair. To purchase a new container will cost \$10,500 - \$11,000. Commission asked to see bid on that container before they make a decision. Hightower made a motion to approve the invoice.

At 10:42 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:52 AM. Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Shaun West attended the executive session.

At 10:47 West left executive session.

At 10:52 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 10:53 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss individual employees’ performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:08 AM. Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission attended the executive session.

At 11:08 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Jason Hightower reported on Service Animals only allowed at senior centers. Commission is happy with that.

With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, February 3, 2025. ?? seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

February 3, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair; Alison Hamilton, Vice Chair; Jason Hightower, Member; Rose Mohler, Deputy Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim Johnson opened the meeting with prayer.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$64,833.81: General, \$32,204.32; Employee Benefits, \$2,723.84; Appraiser, \$1,010.49; Rural Fire, \$2,684.48; Road and Bridge, \$21,896.85; County Health Dept., \$1,709.39; Spark/Cares Act Fund, \$1,138.75 Elderly, \$1,212.82; and Sewer Dist. #1, \$252.87. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson moved to approve add/abate/refund orders: #2024-127 through 2024-128. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The Chair presented the prisoner count. There are currently 60 prisoners in-house including 53 from other jurisdictions. There is 1 Linn County prisoner farmed out to another County.

Dawn Brooks, AMR, reported on their activities for the past month. Need to discuss contract for 2026. Will get contract to commissioners to review. March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to address contract.

Fire Randy Hegwald call totals 12 calls to 45 for the year.

Chris Martin discussed project site access at SharePoint. Group email for all employees is available. Resume upload to job opportunity section on the website. Requested copy of evaluation to review.

Amanda Snyder Health Department shared a presentation of January recap. 244 appointment/entered into client health records for 2025, Employee Biometric Screening event had 24 attend. Another Biometric Screening event is scheduled for June at the Health Fair Public Library. Several events planned: Baby Sprinkle Event, Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Mammogram bus, Wellness Wednesday February 5 and 12, KDHE Feb 20 from 1-4 Mass Sheltering emergency plans and procedures, Feb 21 WIC on wheels in Blue Mound at the Blue Moon, Community garden and nutrition nook, approved for 3 sessions at 2025 WIC Convention, working on 2025 aid to local grant application, safe sitter classes for 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> graders during spring break, and Keep me Safe community event. Reminder services are not an income based and are available for every citizen of Linn County.

Sheriff Akes provided information regarding the critical incident from 1-27-25.

Enterprise meeting to go through agreement for vehicles.

Cost of Ceiling upgrade \$2200 cap for Jury room sound proofing and sound testing results February 10.

Jesse Walton, Road and Bridge Operation Director. Reported on road conditions and equipment repairs grader blades, tilt deck trailer, sign truck. Cost approval needed for sign truck repairs at Oaks, \$9582.19. Jason Hightower motion to approve \$9582.19 for repair Jim Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Shaun West, Public Work Administrator, Copies of park lagoon permit it and Centerville has been sent out. RFP sent out for Parker Senior Center may need to be adjusted.

Planning and Zoning Director interviews scheduled.

Landfill: 953C loader needs to be replaced. Permission to look for something to replace. Money is available in equipment reserve. Bid 3 roll off trucks new is best with warranty. Get used bids and RFP on trucks.

Lake Region went well Al Doan and Johnny Taylor attended.

Maintenance: roofing items gazebo courthouse repairs. New vendors same RFP out to more contractors.

Transportation: large transportation bus engine is shoot. Repairs are all warranty work.

At 10:10 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 17 minutes for legal with Mark Hagen. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:25 AM. Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission attended the executive session.

At 10:25 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 10:26 the Chair asked for Public Comment.

Jan Longenecker family and landowners regarding zoning and regulation violation.

At 10:45 AM Alison Hamilton moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss legal. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:55 AM.

At 11:00 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 11:00 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for one hour for Planning and Zoning Director interviews, the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:00 PM. Jason Hightown seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission attended the executive session.

At 12:00 PM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes for Planning and Zoning Director interviews. For the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:15 PM. Jason Hightown seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission attended the executive session.

At 12:16 PM Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes for legal with Mark Hagen. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:21 PM. Jason Hightower seconded. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission attended the executive session. 12:22 PM Extended for 10 more minutes. 12:32 PM.  
No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 12:33 PM Sheri Loveland and Shaun West provided update on Park/AirBnB.  
Discussed how cabins would need to be updated to change status to AirBnb. At this time the current AirbnB cabin will be refreshed and one more cabin will get an update on the inside to be added to the AirBnB. Decided to add one cabin at a time then check the revenue generated to proceed to adding more cabins at a later date.  
Deck Systems: old boat ships need to be removed and new dock system needs to installed. Parts needed to install \$5300, freight cost \$600 total cost \$5900. There is a volunteer, who is familiar with the brand, who will put in the new dock system. Commission would like it to be sent out for 3 bids.  
Swim Beach: Jesse Walton will shoot the grade. Shaun West will contact KCAMP regarding insurance coverage before starting the project.

At 1:10 PM Shaun West discussed snow plow for the parking lots using the Noxious Weeds UTV. There is a need for a scraper. Commercial model cost \$7800. There was discussion about using one of the public works trucks with a plow blade instead of the UTV. Shaun West will contact Johnny Taylor to see if Johnny can do the plowing when 2in of snow falls.

At 1:27 PM Jason Hightower moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 mins for, the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 1:32 PM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission attended the executive session.

At 1:33 PM the executive session ended. As a result of the executive session, Shaun West asked to hire Kent Harris as the Planning & Zoning Director at a wage of \$23.7815 per hour (Range 12, Step A). This is a salaried position. Jason Hightower moved to approve the hiring as requested. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

At 1:35 PM Alison Hamilton moved to appoint to the Planning & Zoning board Daniel Ernest to District 2 replacing Daniel Black. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

At 1:40 PM Discussion of STAR program. Jason Hightower gave an overview of the STARS meeting that he attended.

With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, February 10, 2025. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

February 10, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners’ Meeting

Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Ali Hamilton, Vice chair; Danielle Souza, County Clerk elect; and Rose Mohler, Deputy Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with prayer.

At 9:01 AM Judge Purvis swore in Danielle Souza as county clerk.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$616,969.56: General, \$237,651.61; Rural Fire, \$10,053.60; Road and Bridge, \$55,216.33; and Elderly, \$2,823.10. Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

At 9:03 am Jim Johnson asked for add/abate/refund orders to be totaled by Souza.

At 9:04 am Dawn Brooks addressed the commissioners with AMR's activities for the past week, totaling 24 calls and 14 transports.

The Chair presented the sheriff's report and prisoner count. There are currently 61 prisoners in-house including 54 from other jurisdictions. There is 1 Linn County prisoner farmed out to another County.

Randy Hegwald reported the fire calls: 5 calls last week, bringing the yearly total up to 50. Hegwald asked permission to hire Tom Hawbaker to Mound City fire station 910, bringing their current roster to 9 out of 15 spots. Johnson made the motion to hire upon passing pre-employment drug test, Hamilton seconded the motion, no discussion and the motion passed 2-0. Hegwald gave reminder of 3 upcoming events: February 10<sup>th</sup>-Stop the Bleed training 6pm at courthouse annex, free to attend. February 24<sup>th</sup>-severe weather training 6pm at Pleasanton Community Center. March 1<sup>st</sup>-Centerville Fire Station 930 to host chili feed to raise funds for coolers for their trucks 6pm at their fire station. Hamilton asked for events to be given to Chris Martin, IT, to be posted on the county website.

At 9:09am Sheriff James Akes provided commissioners with handout from Douglas county in regards to Johnson's prior request to look into options for farming out juveniles in custody. Akes touched on two options and pricing with Johnson County and Douglas County. Jim Johnson asked Akes to be put on the agenda next week for all three commissioners to be presented with documents from both counties. Akes shared Judge Harth is on board with sound proofing measures for court rooms and juror room.

At 9:11am Chasity Ware, economic development, presented commissioners with a bid for 1-year land lease at 9310 Thomas Rd, Pleasanton. Lease is one year to get all land leases on the same schedule. Alison Hamilton made the motion to accept the bid from Kenneth Baugh \$18,500 for 1-year land lease on 9310 Thomas Rd, Pleasanton. Johnson seconded the motion. No discussion, the motion passed 2-0. Ware asked for 5 minutes of legal counsel.

At 9:14am Jesse Walton, Roads, shared weekly update, 4 service requests created. Shared work was done on county potholes, wash boarding, culvert repairs. New hire Curtis Brown left employment on his own accord. Jim Johnson made a motion to accept resignation of Curtis Brown from public works department. Hamilton seconded the motion. No discussion motion passed 2-0. Walton shared minor repairs were done on a few vehicles. Walton asked to put together a plan for chip and seal as well as stripping roads and is targeting warmer weather at end of April to collect bids. He asked Commissioners how they would like public notified of road closing. Commissioners instructed Walton to set up mobile digital sign as well as publish notice in newspaper and county website.

At 9:22am Kent Harris introduced himself as new planning and zoning coordinator. Harris shared his career background and shared his excitement to bring his experience to the position and be an asset to the county.

At 9:24am Shaun West, road and bridge administrator, asked for 5 minutes of executive session for nonelected personnel. Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session until 9:30 AM to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:30 AM. Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

At 9:30 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

West has been attending and scheduling meetings for fleet mechanics trucks. Application was received from Paris Township's Mount Carmel Cemetery for rock to be hauled and bladed, they lack the equipment. Alison Hamilton made the motion to accept the assistance application from Mount Carmel for blading and possible rock in needed. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

West shared KCAMP confirmed they would insure swimming project. He reached out to CHIPO damage repairs on gazebo, courthouse and culvert. Randy Page has been consulted to move forward with suitable materials for repairs. A hole in the clerks office of the courthouse was discussed. Both commissioners are in

favor fixing the hole but Hamilton expressed concern over fixing the leaking steam pipes that created the hole first. She suggested hanging the aluminum shield she recently saw sitting uninstalled in basement. West will ask maintenance to affix the shield this week.

Hamilton wants the state's approval on floor and roof repairs before we seek funds from CHIPO to avoid back and forth delays. West wants to submit application for hole repairs immediately while we make a plan for the bigger project of roof, steeples and dry rot assessment. Commissioners asked for Randy Page to be put on the agenda to present his plan for gazebo repairs and flooring plan to fix the hole on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

At 9:50am Alison Hamilton questioned West about whose job it is to take down Christmas lights, stating into February is too late to leave them up and requested annual date expectations for put-up and tear down. West will return next week with an update on logistics and plan for 2025 holiday season.

953C loader is down at landfill. Looking into used equipment. Johnson still has no answer to his question from last week about how many hours are put on equipment annually, thinking it may be more beneficial to lease equipment. Hamilton added that she would like to have monthly update of all equipment and vehicles usage by miles or hours. Johnson agreed. Hamilton suggested a presentation of the software used by Public Works. Commissioners asked for Chris Martin to be put on the agenda for update on Pub-works and G-works February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Roll off RFP is in SharePoint for commissioners and is ready to be published if commissioners have no concerns. Commissioners approved the publication of that bid. The swimming project was brought back up in regards to an increase in insurance cost. West will provide it when he has it. Hamilton expressed concern over long-term liabilities of potential contamination. West assured commissioners KCAMP allows fishing for consumption. Marina cabins were evaluated for renovation. The soundproofing project was discussed. West asked for approval of \$3,500 for material cost from Home Depot of acoustic panels, door sweeps and denim insulated ceiling tiles, promising a decibel measurement before and after improvements. Hamilton stated Sheriff Akers asked for \$2,200 last week, prior to considering acoustic panels and it was tabled, and she confirmed since this is a facility issue, general funds will be paying for this. Alison recalls door sweeps were approved and purchased last year. West will look for them before he orders more. Souza will report back to commissioners where in the budget this would come from. Alison Hamilton made the motion to approve materials spending \$2,200 to soundproof courtrooms and juror room. Johnson seconded the motion. No discussion and motion passed 2-0.

At 10:24am West asked if the county could give a dead end sign to Sugar Valley Lakes Association. Commissioners approved. NE entrance of Hidden Valley Lake was opened up crossing County right of way without submitting application for approval. West will return in two weeks with more information after their board meets. Warranty covered repairs to bus will be finalized this week.

Conditional use permit #25-01 for 2160 square foot clubhouse at Tanglewood Lake. Alison asked to table this until the 18<sup>th</sup> of February so she can read over the details. County counselor, Mark Hagan, approached podium to advise commissioners. He suggested to take time and table approvals of anything complex after applications are ready for approval and questions can be asked. Hamilton sought clarity about conflicts of interest in citizens approaching her about permit approvals in process. Hamilton asked how can she be informed when an application is pending.

At 10:42am Shaun West presented Conditional Use Permit (CUP) #25-01, a 2,160 square foot clubhouse. He gave legal description of the location, commonly addressed as 173 Luann Drive LaCygne KS. Currently zoned residential lake community. Notices were properly posted in official county newspaper on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Notices were sent to land owners pursuant to state law and Linn County regulation. Application is to permit applicants to operate and build a clubhouse, all nearby landowners have been notified. It is recommended that CUP #25-01 be approved. Commissioners asked for a copy of the finalized permit application. Citizen Les Warner of Tanglewood Lake addressed the commissioners. He shared the process he has complied with. Stated there will be office in this clubhouse as well. Dirt has been worked some to visualize the project. Commissioners asked for CUP #25-01 to be on the agenda for February 18<sup>th</sup>.

At 10:51 Jim Johnson moved to approve add/abate/refund orders: #2024-140 through #2024-144, for the total of \$1833.72. (revised) Hamilton seconded the motion. No discussion and the motion passed 2-0.

At 10:53 Alison Hamilton made the motion to appoint Karen Springer to Sheridan Township Treasurer and Karen German as Sheridan Township Trustee. Johnson seconded the motion. No discussion and the motion passed 2-0.

At 10:54am Alison Hamilton made the motion to change February 17<sup>th</sup>'s regularly scheduled commissioners meeting to Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to accommodate President's Day holiday. Johnson seconded that motion. The motion passed 2-0.

The floor was opened for public comments. There were none.

At 10:57 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session until 12:17pm to allow 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee and 70

minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:17pM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

At 12:17pm The executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 12:18pm Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session until 12:23pm to discuss individual employees’ performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. Two commissioners and Pam Canon attended to executive session.

At 12:23pm The executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 12:23pm Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session until 12:28pm to discuss individual employees’ performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. Two commissioners and Shaun West attended to executive session.

At 12:29pm The executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

February 18, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Ali Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, Commissioner; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; and Darcy Wilson, Deputy Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with prayer.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0

Alison Hamilton read AMR Report.

Randy Hegwald reported the fire calls. Jason Hightower made motion to allow Ben Williams as a youth job shadow. Jim Johnson seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Chasity Ware Reported updates for economic development.

Jesse Walton Reported Roads maintenance update.

Shaun West public works administrator addressed the commissioners with report and updates. Presented flood plain resolution amendment. Jason Hightower made motion to approve resolution 25-03. Alison Hamilton seconded motion. Motion passes 3-0. District court soundproofing material has been ordered; not on site yet.

At 9:38AM moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 30 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:08 AM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 10:08AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Public comment opens. Dan Longnecker addressed the commissioners.

At 10:11AM moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$211,578.49: General, \$107,596.67; Rural Fire, \$723.77; Road and Bridge, \$65,562.45; and Elderly, \$1,312.60; Crime Victim Assistant Fund, \$400.00; Appraiser Fund, \$2,590.36. Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

At 10:14 Jason Hightower moved to approve add/abate/refund orders: #2024-136,2024-137 and 2024-139, for the total of \$606.32 refund. Johnson seconded the motion. No discussion and the motion passed 3-0.

At 10:15AM moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 35 minutes: 15 minutes of to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4219, Revised K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) to include 10 minutes with Shaun and 5 minutes with Chasity. The motion includes moveing to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 20 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor to include the commissioners, county counselor, and 10 minutes each for Chasity Ware and then Shaun West. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:50 AM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 10:51AM The executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 10:52AM moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee to include commissioners, Pam Canon and JasonParker. As well as moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor to include commissioners and mark Hagan. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:07 AM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

At 11:07AM The executive session ended. Jason Hightower Made a motion to accept Pam Cannon’s retirement effective February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and commissioners express gratitude for years of service. Alison Hamilton seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jason Hightower made motion to amend date and written record of January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025 minutes. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

At 11:14am Alison Hamilton Motion made that adds Danielle Souza as KPERS designed agent. Jason Hightower seconded and passed 3-0.

KNRC was on agenda to present but canceled due to weather. Commissioners agree to reschedule for March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Shaun West presented CUP #25-01.  
At 11:20am, Jason Hightower made the motion to approve CUP #25-01 for Tanglewood Lakes for a 2,160 Square Foot Clubhouse and accept the findings provided by planning and zoning. Alison Hamilton seconded, Motion passed 3-0.

Shaun West discussed machine hours on equipment. Discussion amongst commissioners about PubWorks. Christmas lights discussed. Alison Hamilton requested to have Christmas décor down by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and down February 1<sup>st</sup> every year moving forward.

Discussion amongst commissioners about agenda changes for meetings.

With nothing further on the agenda Jason Hightower moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, February 24, 2025. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

February 24, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Ali Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, Commissioner; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; and Darcy Wilson, Deputy Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0

Jim Johnson moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$569,524.50: General, \$217,929.26; Rural Fire, \$13,337.31; Employee benefits, \$17801.47; Appraiser Fund, \$15,536.46 Road and Bridge, \$41,318.84; Elderly, \$2,844.30; Equipment reserve fund, \$4,861.42; Special machinery fund, \$6,226.00; 911 telephone tax fund, \$4,057.11; County health dept fund, \$10,687.66; Payroll clearing fund, \$74,924.67. Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Dawn Brooks presented the AMR Report.

Fire Chief, Randy Hegwald reported the fire calls.  
State Representative Rick James addressed commissioners.  
Economic Development head, Chasity Ware Reported updates for economic development.

At 9:13am Chris Martin presented Pubworks costs and functionality of platform.

At 10:05am, Phone numbers were discussed with Chris Martin.

At 10:15am, Commissioners opened for public comment. Zane Conner addressed the commissioners to comment on equipment maintenance tracking for resale purposes. Public comment closed.

Road foreman, Jesse Walton Reported Roads maintenance update.  
Planning and Zoning head, Kent Harris addressed commissioners with update on CUP #25-01  
Shaun West public works administrator addressed the commissioners with report and updates.

At 10:23 AM Jim Johnson made to motion to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 50 minutes: 20 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County; : 30 minutes of to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4219, Revised K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) to include 10 minutes with Shaun and Joyce and 10 minutes with Chasity and 10 minutes with Danielle and Darcy. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:13 AM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

At 11:14 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Public comment opens. Dan Longnecker addressed the commissioners.

At 11:16AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes: 15 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor to include the commissioners, county counselor, and Danielle and Rose. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:31 AM. Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.  
At 11:31 AM The executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Public Works head, Shaun West gave updates to commissioners. Grants were discussed to fund repairs to courthouse. Compactor agreement for all cities are agreeable. Devlin Road was discussed, KDOT will be consulted about cost share options. West got approval to seek an on-call engineer to work with the county. At 12:10pm Alison moved to approve Resolution 25-05, sheriff surplus property to be dissolved and sold with fund going back into general fund. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Commissioners discussed upcoming interviews for county counselor position and expectations.  
At 12:16 PM With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, February 24, 2025. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

March 3, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Ali Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, Commissioner; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; and Darcy Wilson, Deputy Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0

Jim Johnson moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$238,026.47: General, \$203,733.92; Rural Fire, \$1,088.67; Appraiser Fund, \$539.60; Road and Bridge, \$27,984.46; Elderly, \$489.09; Special Road & bridge fund, \$838.58; 911 telephone tax fund, \$716.51; county health dept fund, \$342.89; Spark. Cares Act Fund, \$2,292.75. Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Dawn Brooks presented the AMR Report. Presented renewal of AMR contract. They will be back on April 14<sup>th</sup>. At 9:18AM Fire Chief, Randy Hegwald reported the fire calls. Economic Development head, Chasity Ware Reported updates for economic development.

At 9:30 Shaun West, Public works director, reported roads maintenance update and addressed the commissioners with report and updates for courthouse repairs, mowing bids (2 reviewed), dust control bids (3 reviewed), and equipment repairs updates.

At 9:45 the sheriff report was read by Alison Hamilton.

At 9:48 AM Jim Johnson made to motion to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 25 minutes: 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4) pursuant to the data relating to financial affairs to include Sheriff James Akers, Undersheriff Bobby Johnson, Sheriff Admin Shauna Bush, and county clerk Danielle Souza; 5 minutes to discuss the data relating to trade secrets pursuant to data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets K.S.A 75-4319 (b)(4) to include economic development head, Chasity Ware; 5 minutes for non-elected personnel matter exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) pursuant to an individual employee's performance to include public works director, Shaun West. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:13 AM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

At 10:13 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Public comment opens. No speakers, public comment closed.

At 10:16AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 55 minutes: 5 minutes to discuss the data relating to trade secrets pursuant to data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets K.S.A 75-4319 (b)(4) to include economic development head, Chasity Ware; 35 minutes for non-elected personnel matter exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) pursuant to an individual employee's performance to include public works director, Shaun West for five minutes and 30 minutes to include IT director Chris Martin and IT staff, Nick Graham; 15 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor to include the commissioners, the county counselor and county clerk Danielle Souza for 10 minutes and then 5 minutes to include Public works director, Shaun West. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:11 AM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

At 11:11 AM The executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Alison Hamilton moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 30 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:45 AM. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 11:46 AM The executive session ended. Action from commissioner executive session was presented by the county counselor, Mark Hagan. A second opinion confirmed county counselor's advice for lot split regulations revisions for sub-plat be reviewed for minor and major platting to appease the will of the general public. Planning and zoning director Kent Harris will be responsible for the revisions.

At 11:53 Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes for non-elected personnel matter exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) pursuant to an individual employee's performance to include public works director, Shaun West. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:03 PM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

At 12:04PM commissioners returned to open session and Jim Johnson moved to extend recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes for non-elected personnel matter exception K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) pursuant to an individual employee’s performance to include public works director, Shaun West. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:09 PM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

At 12:10 AM The executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 12:11PM With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, March 10th, 2025. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

March 10th, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Ali Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, Commissioner; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$568,378.85: General, \$237,025.40; employment benefit fund; \$134,462.28; Rural Fire, \$6,969.68; Employee benefits, \$17801.47; Appraiser Fund, \$16,630.92; Road and Bridge, \$68,445.81; noxious weed eradication capital outlay, \$1,245.28; county health department, \$14,232.46; Elderly, \$5,358.36; Linn county district #1 Centerville, \$ 62.79; Payroll clearing fund, \$83,945.87. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson read the sheriff's report. Jason Hightower read AMR report. Randy Hegwald, Fire Chief, presented a weekly fire and emergency management report and discussed burn ban procedures. Amanda Snyder presented health department monthly update.

Jason Hightower made the motion to approve health department to seek grant funding with chairman's signature. Alison Hamilton seconded. The motion passes 3-0. Jim Johnson signed. Commissioners received handout of proposal for development of land for physical, mental and social health recreation area behind the health department building in Pleasanton. Hamilton stated she is in favor of investigating grant options to fund the project. Hightower suggests bringing a grant to the commissioners. Johnson confirmed this would be accessible for the whole county but expressed concern that he did not want to burden our public works with land clearing.

At 9:30AM, Chasity Ware presented economic development updates. Carrie Spoon, executive director of SEKRPC presented commissioners with handout on Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission (SEKRPC) giving an update about community development program opportunities. Safe-Streets-For-All grant was discussed.

At 9:42 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:52AM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Amanda Snyder attended the executive session with Mark Hagan, counselor, attending via phone.

At 9:51AM, commissioners returned to meeting. No action was taken in executive session. Jesse Walton presented roads department update. Request purchase of Blue mound road grater Right side door and window replacement totaling \$5,677.81. Jason Hightower made the motion to investigate insurance coverage and move forward with making the purchase. Alison Hamilton Seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 10:01AM Renee Slinkard, citizen, requested Devlin Road 3.5 mile Chip and Seal project with that being a major access road to emergency services. Alison Hamilton mentioned KDOT cost share program applications are open. Jason Hightower expressed concern of fixing the potential problem instead of just addressing a persistent citizen request, acknowledging people south of Parker will still have to cross railroads. Jason suggested involving Dawn with AMR and fire director Randy Hegwald to question bottleneck issues for ambulance and emergency service as well as input from Miami County. Jim Johnson suggested planning now for 2026 open application. Kevin Stokey, a citizen residing on Devlin Rd., spoke to commissioners about heavy traffic.

At 10:55 AM Jan Longnecker addressed the commissioners about zoning and lot split concerns that county codes were not followed. Shared potential negative implications of residential subdivision near agriculture ground. Planning and zoning director Kent Harris was instructed to gather recommendations from planning and zoning meeting to be held tomorrow regarding minor plats regulations, data centers, and battery storage.

At 11:26AM public comment was opened. No speakers, public comment closed. Sally Vaughn addressed the commissioners as the Stanton Township treasurer. Discussed 1.6 acre lot with historic single-room school house. Wishes to sell building and land separately to avoid raising taxes.

At 11:37 Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes for GIS administrator interviews, the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:52 AM. Jason Hightown seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission attended the executive session with Jason Parker.

11:52 no action was taken from executive session. Jason Hightower made the motion to Give Jason Parker interim pay at \$23.7815/ hour, 12A on the matrix, effective March 1, 2025. Jim Johnson seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Shaun West recommended to the commissioners to approve dust control bid from Scott Wood Industries. Jason Hightower made the motion to accept the bid from Scott Wood Industries of \$1.48/gallon or May 1- June 15 with Magnesium chloride for dust control. Jim Johnson Seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Shaun brought to the commissioners attention, attachments being fixed to county bridges; this will hamper the safety of the bridge and effected bridge will start failing the inspections. There was discussion and chairman instructed the bridge gates to be tabled until March 24th with legal recommendations.

Shaun presented commissioners with a change order form for HR to communicate changes to employment on pay matrix. He presented 2 forms to hire a part time park maintenance person as well as promote public works admin assistant a step. Commissioners are delaying a decision one week. 2543

Shaun provided commissioners an option for lease to own on a piece of equipment. Commissioners discussed benefits of lease or own. Joyce Hall, public works office admin, addressed the commissioners with displeasure that her rate of pay has not been approved as of January 21st, when initially presented. KwikKom final grant payment was discussed. There was debate if the contracted work was completed to satisfaction. Commissioners agreed to ask Shaun to find an engineer to provide county with sampling of a dozen location

While Jesse Walton investigates ditches to be returned to good condition as a result of KwikKom project. Randy Page addressed the commissioners with an update on gazebo repairs, costing around \$2,100 for materials as an estimate. Commissioners asked for an all-in budget to be approved and submitted to state for both material and labor.

At 1:00pm Jason Hightower made the motion to collect bids for demolition of the old county attorney building. Alison Hamilton Seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Sheri Loveland discussed cabins with commissioners. In addition, she discussed parts needed to configure the donated dock, totaling \$6,173. Jason Hightower made the motion to approve that purchase pending volunteer willingness to install with the request for shipping to be reduced. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Alison Hamilton discussed IT recommendation to not use Microsoft Teams for security reasons. There was a discussion about the benefits over risks for departments and offices. Alison Hamilton made the motion to allow county device usage of Microsoft Teams. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. ARPA spending was discussed, and commissioners were seeking confirmation that funds were managed well. Alison mentioned wanting to celebrate the one county employee that received all fives on his evaluation. Grant funds were discussed repairs to the courthouse. State of Kansas documented Heritage Trust Fund Grant in 2009 of \$90,000 approved to Linn County. Clerk was instructed to investigate the funds and the repairs.

Chris Martin, IT director, addressed the commission making a point of clarification. He stated he would not be held responsible for problems that could potentially come from use of Teams but would work to fix potential issues. Alison Hamilton apologized for misquoting Chris.

Clerk requested commissioners to approve cereal malt beverage license #25-01. Jason Hightower made the motion. Alison Hamilton Seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jason Hightower made the motion for Aumentum Technologies to change clerk signature from David Lamb to Danielle Souza and allow Jim Johnson to sign the approval. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

At 1:48 PM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes; 5 minutes to discuss trade secrets, pursuant to the trade secrets exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4), concerning economic development to include all 3 commissioners and Chasity Ware. In addition, 10 minutes for to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 2:03 PM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commissioners attended the executive session.

Return at 2:03PM No action was taken from executive session. With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, March 17th, 2025. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Commission Chair

Attest:

March 17th, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Ali Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, Commissioner; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$127,696.08: General, \$46,839.55; Employee Benefit Fund, \$483.66 Rural Fire, \$2,162.76; Road and Bridge, \$54,877.878; Equipment Reserve Fund, \$21,249.00 county health department, \$1,710.10; Elderly, \$288.13; Law Enforcement Trust Fund, \$60.00; 911 telephone Tax Fund, \$25.01. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson moved to approve add/abate/refund orders: #2024-146-148, 150-168, 170-171, 180-215, 217-228 totaling refunds of \$36,352.04. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jason Hightower motioned to approve the agenda, Alison Hamilton seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Dawn Brooks, AMR, gave a weekly ambulance report. She stated she has not in the past but will moving forward document response times related to Devlin Road.

Jason Hightower read the sheriff's report

Randy Hegwald, Fire Chief, presented a weekly fire and emergency management report. Requested 10 minutes executive session with HR representative, Danielle Souza.

At 9:09 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to discuss a human resources matter. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 09:19 AM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, and Randy attended the executive session. At 09:19 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken because of the executive session.

Kent Harris, director of planning and zoning, gave update on weekly work and presented declined Conditional Use Permit #25-02.

Jesse Walton, Roads maintenance, Addressed the commissioners with update on weekly summary of county wide work done and repairs made to equipment.

Jason Hightower made the motion to purchase \$5,093.25 of 15 foot culvert tube. Alison Hamilton Seconded and motion passed 3-0.

Shaun West, Director of public works, addressed the commissioners. Kansas historical has approved repairs to floor in clerks office of the courthouse. Commissioners agreed to move forward with the repairs. Dust control contract was discussed. Jim Johnson made to motion to publish the accepted bid load of \$2.14/ gallon. Jason Hightower seconded, motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson made to motion to Rescind previous motion to publish the accepted bid load of \$2.14/ gallon.

Jason Hightower seconded, motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson made the motion to approve publishing the accepted bid of \$2.14/ foot. Jason Hightower seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Bids for Roll Off RFP were opened by commissioners and read aloud; five were received. Courthouse grant opportunities were discussed. KwikKom was discussed. An engineer bid was presented; the amount owed to KwikKom was compared to engineer bid. Jim and Jason have asked Shaun West to reach out to KwikKom to come present in open session to provide update proving work was done to satisfaction and overview of project completion as well as how many communities/people are positively impacted as a result of their work. Shaun will prepare a draft and send to commissioners individually before it is sent out. Devlin Road was discussed. Bigger picture of where county priorities need to be. Work session for roads was suggested and has been put on the agenda for March 31<sup>st</sup> for 45 minutes, including firm cost of stripping for 2025, per mile.

Shaun was seeking clarification of demolition of old county attorney building. Equipment lease to own and outright purchase was discussed. Commissioners asked Shaun to present with Used machine rental lease. Shaun requested 10 minutes of non-elected personnel.

At 10:22 AM, public comment was opened. Stacey Fromdahl addressed the commissioners about the recent hearing regarding Tanglewood Lake as public roads. Chuck Stevens, president of board at Tanglewood addressed same issue at 10:24 asking their plan of action for roads. Leslie Brown, board member of Tanglewood, addressed commissioners at 10:31 asking Jason Hightower to commit to a date with answers. Francie Cambell, property owner at Tanglewood addressed the commissioners at 10:36 AM. Rusty Russell addressed the commissioners at 10:39 AM asking for a timeframe for answers. Barry Mitchell addressed the commissioners at 10:40 AM. Heather Brecht addressed the commissioner's about Tanglewood roads. Les Warner addressed the commissioners asking for a resolution to resolve the issue to grant Tanglewood roads private. Lesley Long, Tanglewood resident addressed to commissioners at 10:44 AM to address Tanglewood roads. Sheriff Akes and Undersheriff Johnson addressed the crowd. The undersheriff explained private property limitations of sheriff's department. Barry Jones, Tanglewood Lake resident, addressed the commissioner at 10:56 AM. Jerry Humpert landowner of Tanglewood Lake, addressed commissioners informing them of additional cost county would incur if roads are public. Public comment closed at 11:00 AM.

At 11:00 AM Chris Martin and commissioners discussed phone systems.

At 11:21 sheriff, undersheriff, Shaun West, Ken Olsen (Enterprise Fleet management) discussed lease options for county options through Enterprise. Maintenance, fuel, telematics, up-fitting options are available. Vehicle strategies are flexible with budgets for implementation. Reducing budget and getting vehicle rotation in ideal time is priority. Types of vehicles are flexible for acquisition. Net lease available but not recommended. Suggests equity lease model for government entities. Enterprise team on site quarterly. Maintenance partnered with local business owner, Harlow Gas & Oil. Jim asked dollar amount of saving for Sheriff. Sheriff Akes shared scenario of savings.

At 12:07 PM Tracy Barton, Kansas Natural Resource Coalition (representing 1/3 of the state), following up with commissioners about benefits of membership with organization that would monitor federal government overreach. Jim Johnson asked membership cost. Tracy answered \$5,000 per year, which covers. No commitment was made but would be considered when preparing the budget.

At 12:20, Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 30 minutes for county counselor interviews a non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:50 PM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission attended the executive session with counselor candidate. 12:51 the open meeting resumed; no action was taken from executive session. At 12:52, Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 30 minutes for county counselor interviews a non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 1:22 PM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission attended the executive session with counselor candidate. 1:22 PM the open meeting resumed; no action was taken from executive session.

1:22 PM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 25 minutes; 5 minutes with Chasity and commissioners to discuss trade secrets, pursuant to the trade secrets exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4), concerning economic development. And 10 minutes each with Shaun west then Danielle Souza minutes to discuss individual employees’ performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 1:45 PM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

At 1:45 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. County position flow charts were discussed amongst commissioners. Parks will be moved to under economic development. Lisa Kellstadt will be asked to complete GIS Admin employee evaluation.

At 2:20 PM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees’ performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 2:30 PM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commissioners and the clerk attended the executive session. Jim made the motion to extend the previous session for 10 additional minutes. Jason seconded and motion passed 3-0.

At 2:40 PM the executive session ended and action was Jason Hightower motioned to approve new hire for Parks part time maintenance. Jim seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Jason Hightower motioned to approve pay raise for Joyce Hall from 10-I to 11-I on the pay matrix. Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jim shared with commissioners a document he found on the internet to share compensation of officers for a non-profit that is present in the county and seeking to expand, reading the CEO of the makes total compensation and additional benefits of over \$600,000 annual. Chasity Ware addressed the commission stating she attended a conference and was made aware that a neighboring county is hiring a lawyer to investigate this matter.

At 2:46 PM, With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, March 17th, 2025. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

March 24th, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Ali Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, Commissioner; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$774,472.52: General, \$440,757.12; Employee Benefit Fund, \$144,916.76; Rural Fire, \$22,106.42; Road and Bridge, \$40,933.55; county health department, \$11,528.300; Elderly, \$3,010.20; payroll clearing fund, \$80,468.00; Appraiser fund, \$15,673.24; 911 911 telephone tax fund, \$15,078.93. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jason Hightower motioned to approve the agenda, Alison Hamilton seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Jason Hightower read the sheriff's report.

Dawn Brooks, AMR, read their report.

Randy Hegwald, Rural fire and emergency management, present their weekly report and year to date comparison saying they are well above average for the year. March 26<sup>th</sup>, KS wildlife and parks will be in Pleasanton to present on Kansas wildlife and venomous awareness, free of charge.

Chasity Ware, economic development, addressed the commissioners to give an update. Summer youth program is open to accept applications and has been posted on social media and website. Requested 10 minutes of legal executive session.

Jesse Walton, Roads and Bridge supervisor, addressed the commissioners with weekly updates. Requested posting open position for season mowers and full time road signs. Bridge on 1700 Road approaches were discussed.

At 9:16 AM, Shaun West, Public Works director, addressed the commissioners. KwikKom was discussed. Communication between Shaun and KwikKom; Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was recommended by them.

Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission(SEKRPC) was consulted about partnering with an engineering grant that would allow the county to build the plan that would be used to apply for a 40/60 grant of the following year. Both SEKRPC and Shaun are tracking the application process for this grant. 2009 grant spending is unable to be located. Renaming the old judicial center was discussed, currently housing appraisers and GIS mapping. Fuel and demo bids went out for the old county attorney building.

At 9:46 AM Jason made the motion to alter mowing contract to include all needed properties to be serviced and for Chairman Johnson to sign. Alison seconded, motion passed 3-0.

Road Complaints were received, four from Tanglewood. Commissioners have advised Shaun to track Tanglewood reports. Jason attended their meeting over the weekend to collect information and field questions. Bids for loader are in the works and will be present for commissioners soon. Bids for Roll-offs are beings reviewed.

City Compactor agreements for trash compactors were reviewed. Requested 5 minutes non-elected personnel. Commissioners asked for all-in budget from Randy page for gazebo repairs by next week.

At 10:03 Jim Johnson made the motion to move to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 40 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The Commission and Counselor attended the executive session, along with 10 minutes to include Chasity Ware; in addition 5 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:48 AM. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. Alison stated her desire to stick to agenda and address public comment at 10AM, as agenda states. The motion passed 2-1.

At 10:48 AM, the executive session ended and action from executive session was Alison made the motion to open Request for Proposals for website development. Jason seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Alison Hamilton motioned to hire Jenny Cummings at 8A (17.9905/hour) on pay matrix to fill the open position of public works office administrator assistant. Jason Hightower seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Public comment opened. Jim Hinderhot of Tanglewood addressed the commissioners. Jan Longnecker addressed the commissioners in regards to Sunny Meadows. Public comment closed.

At 10:56, Bridge gates were addressed by commissioners and Shaun West. When mentioned on bridge inspections, they create liability. The particular incident has been addressed and Shaun is working to correct the larger problem.

Trash compactor contracts were discussed. Commissioners made sure to be clear locatin of compactor is up to the city and the city maintain their own fence and gates. At 11:06 AM, Jason Hightower made the motion to accept and sign trash compactor agreement with cities of Blue Mound, Parker, Prescott, Pleasanton, Mound City and LaCygne. Jim Johnson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 11:10 Commissioners motioned end the open meeting and to alter agenda to change the marina workshop to noon, not 1pm. No action will be taken during workshop meetings; public is invited and clerk will be in attendance. Jason seconded and the motion passed, 3-0.

At 2:46 PM, With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, March 17th, 2025. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

March 31, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Ali Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, Commissioner; Rose Mohler, Deputy County Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$131,182.66: General, \$79,050.89; Rural Fire, \$3,147.29; Road and Bridge, \$45,464.93; county health department, \$976.83; Elderly, \$378.97; SPARK/CARES Act Fund \$2163.75. To include the KORA request of \$12,900.53. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson moved to approve add/abate/refund orders: 2024-229 & 230 totaling refunds of \$163.34. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jason Hightower motioned to approve the agenda; Alison Hamilton had a change to the agenda. A meeting at 10:00 am with Jacklyn Paletta. Jim Johnson seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson read the Sheriff's report. Dawn Brooks, AMR read their report. Alison Hamilton reported the fire calls.

Jason Parker, GIS Mapping, Online user accounts for Commissioners, 911 data steward certification, organizing data 20 years data, and created surveys for Economic Development. Requested 5 minutes executive session for non-elected personnel.

At 9:13 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:18 AM. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The 3 Commission and Jason Parker attended the executive session.

At 9:18 AM, the executive session ended and action from the executive session-Carol Klopfenstein will be retiring this year and Jason Parker would like to open the position for hire before Carol retires. Alison Hamilton made the motion to open GIS Technician level 1 position until filled. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Jesse Walton, Roads and Bridge supervisor, addressed the commissioners with weekly updates. Requested posting open position for season mowers and full-time road signs. Bridge on 1700 Road approaches were discussed.

Tod Moeller spoke on 1700 road bridges with minor problems. Jesse will look to see which one needs attention from the bridge inspection.

Shaun West four bus stop signs for Tanglewood gate 2 & 3 needed can use resolution not traffic studies to get signs ordered. Commission to order signs with resolution.

Tod Moeller Reported on bridge approach repairs and erosion issues. Would like an engineer to evaluate area before fixing on Iliff Road. Tod to continue to do the sealing of the roads.

Alison Hamilton all bridges that need work and timeline for repair. 2025 plan for repairs will bring to commissioners. Jason Hightower motioned to approve 1077 Rd and 900 Rd patching repairs totaling \$12,100. Jim Johnson second. passed 3-0.

At 9:47 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:02 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission will meet for 5 minutes then the deputy Clerk and Counselor to hire will join for final 10 minutes of the executive session.

At 10:02 AM the open session resumed with Jason motioning to hire Jacklyn Paletta as county counselor on as-needed basis at a rate of \$200 per hour with contract to be approved next week. Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Public comment opened. Michael Waldon, director of Southeast Kansas juvenile detention center located in Girard, addressed commissioners plan in place needed. Cost change to 3 times the daily rate \$175 because Linn County is out of contract, which means no bed will be guaranteed in event of emergency placement. Rob Kelsy, Tanglewood board member, seeking commissioners to decide if roads will be public or private. Jason suggested county legal counsel should reach out to Tanglewood legal counsel. The matter will be on the agenda on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Shaun West public works administrator addressed the commissioners. Sealed bids for on call engineering were opened and read (five were received). 2017 grants to complete with Clerk's office. working with new grant cost by end of April to develop the plan.

Original courthouse roof repair RFP received no bids from 1st round insurance agent contact information for contractor. Commissioners instructed Shaun to reopen RFP and all suggested contractors will be informed; RFP to close April 18th and be reviewed on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

2026 High risk rural roads June or July to get accomplish this year. Incoming county counselor, Jacklyn Paletta, will be consulted next Monday.

Track Loader for landfill was discussed, purchasing and leasing options were discussed. Current machine has in used for 10 years and inoperable, with overheating, track is played out, no guards, and hydraulic problems. Jim expressed he is not sold on buying new loader and feels repairs to current machine will suffice. Jason shared we have turned down all request at this point, supports a purchase over leasing. Alison requested timeline for replacement needs clear picture of county needs. Alison asked to review reserve equipment budget where the funding comes from. Repair list on equipment in pub works.  
At 10:50 AM recommendation of roll off truck discussed where tariff impacting purchasing equipment. After Tariff calms down put out for bid again to secure better pricing. ARPA funds plan to do 2 trucks quote now only for 1. County lead mechanic, Jack, has worked on trucks. There was discussion of special license Class A driver to operate standard transmission of certain vehicles, requiring additional training and testing. Discussion and roll off truck purchase was tabled until tariff’s calm down. All received bids for roll off truck will be rejected.

Johnny Taylor, noxious weed director, presented cost share annual management plan review.  
Jason Hightower makes the motion to accept noxious weeds management plan. Alison Hamilton seconded. Motion passed 3-0.  
Jim Johnson Made a motion to approve resolution 2025-06 for noxious week cost share cap of \$30,000. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.  
Jason made the motion to recess open session for 4 minutes, to resume at 11:31 AM.  
Shaun West informed commissioners that gazebo repairs minus the roofing will come to \$5092 with labor and parts gazebo Randy Page details next week.  
Ken Olsen, Fleet Management, returned to discuss contract opportunities with Enterprise fleet management. Options for 16-29 vehicles were presented to commissioners. Discussion included county’s previous spending to identify if this would ultimately save funds and reduce budget. It was recommended that commissioners make a decision soon to take advantage of the 2025 models available for lease. Enterprise fleet contract will be reviewed by county counselor next week.

At 12:09 PM Randy Hegwald, fire and emergency management, addressed commissioners to inform them of a piece of equipment out for repair.  
At 12:12 PM Blake Johnson of Spearmint Energy presented a battery energy storage opportunity for the northeast corner of the county. They are a privately owned US corporation headquartered in Miami, Florida. Lithium-Ion battery cell storage to house surplus power when demand is low and supply is high. Preposed project within Linn County would benefit local tax revenue (not currently qualifying for 10-year tax abatement but on senate floor) contributing \$20 million dollars from property taxes paid in the first 10 years, with \$52 million over a 30 year life of project. Chairman Johnson inquired about special equipment to combat a battery fire; it was stated that in the event of a battery fire, there is currently no special equipment but typically burn themselves out. There is 24/7 monitoring. However, prior to approval and during life of project, a team would work closely with rural fire and emergency management to create a plan. Jim inquire about potential of soil contamination and hazards associated with fire. Toxic gases that will dissipate in atmosphere and no soil contamination has been documented. Field studies have already started. Their Plan is to continue outreach and engagement with county department heads and community. Projected construction is year 2028. Negotiations would be considered during a pilot program if requested. Blake asked for open to communication and constructive feedback from commissioners. Alison reiterated this was opposed by public a year ago but stated current regulations would not interfere with conditional use permit for their project.

At 12:40 PM With nothing further on the agenda Jason moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, April 7th, 2025. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

April 7, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Ali Hamilton, Vice chair; Jacklyn Paletta, county counselor; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$541,982.76: General, \$253,795.56; Rural Fire, \$15,340.00; Road and Bridge, \$47,137.76; county health department, \$15,470.07; Elderly, \$4,302.03; payroll clearing, \$71,170.06; sewer district #1, \$62.87; \$appraiser fund, \$17,066.02. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Jim motioned to approve the agenda with a change to remove public works work session and add it to next week; Alison seconded, and the motion passed 2-0.

Alison read the Sheriff's report. Dawn Brooks, AMR read their report. Randy Hegwald reported the fire calls. Amanda presented her monthly update for the health department. Jesse Walton presented road and bridge weekly update.

At 9:25 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319, to discuss hiring and job description. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:35AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Counselor, and Jesse attended the executive session.

At 9:35 AM, open meeting resumed with action from executive session. Jesse requested to hire for an open position. Alison made the motion to hire Joseph Maxwell as an equipment operator without a CDL at 7C, \$17.039 per hour. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0. Alison made the motion to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to discuss job descriptions. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9: 40 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and Jesse attended the executive session.

At 9:40 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Shaun West addressed the commissioners, requesting an executive session. At 9:43 AM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:49 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and Shaun attended the executive session.

At 9:49 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Alison made the motion to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to discuss return to work. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9: 55 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and Jesse and Shaun attended the executive session. At 9:56 the open meeting resumed with no action taken. Alison made the motion to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for an additional 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to discuss return to work. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:06 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and Jesse and Shaun attended the executive session.

At 10:06 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 10:06 AM public comment was opened. Jan Longnecker, citizen, addressed commissioners regarding Sunshine Meadows and KORA requests. Jim Hindershot, citizen, addressed the commissioners regarding Tanglewood roads. Darin Wilson, Citizen, addressed the commissioners requesting a list of registered voters in the county. Public comment was closed.

At 10:17 AM Alison made the motion to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:32 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, counselor, clerk, sheriff and undersheriff attended the executive session.

At 10:33 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Roadway safety action plan was presented to commissioners.

At 10:54 AM, Alison Hamilton made the motion to recess until 11:00 AM. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

At 11:00 AM, Jim made the motion to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to discuss job descriptions. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:15 AM. Alison seconded the

motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Counselor, and Lisa Kellstadt attended the executive session.

At 11:18 AM open meeting resumed. Action from executive session was Alison made a motion to put out open positions to hire for two new appraisal positions. Jim seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Shaun West, public works director addressed the commissioners. Written gazebo repairs quote from Randy Page was given. Alison stated she is in favor of gazebo but questions the total cost of repairs. Topic will be tabled until Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Shaun provided RFP results for on-call engineering. Shaun recommended commissioners accept bid from Pfeffercorn. Miami County communicated with Shaun that they could not guarantee the Devlin Road could be completed on their side of the county line. Dock removal is scheduled for this week at Linn County Park and Marina. Boiler at the courthouse needs repaired. Update on the courthouse roof was provided. Alison asked about projects to be completed and concerns in the building that currently houses the Appraisers. Senior centers around the county were discussed.

At 12:04 PM Kent Harris addressed the commissioners with dump fee waivers.

At 12:11 PM Alison made the motion to approve CD25002 dump fees waiver at 100%. Jim Seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0. Alison made the motion to approve CD25003 dump fees waiver at 50%. Jim Seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0. Alison made the motion to approve CD25004 dump fees waiver at 50%. Jim Seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

At 12:13 PM Sheriff James Akes provided agreement for youth intake from Douglas County to the commissioners and counselor.

Shaun West returned to commissioners to discuss CD25001; it was incorrectly marked and need approved, as it was not approved previous but has been signed off on. Landfill estimate on capacity was discussed. It was confirmed that Linn County landfill is for Linn County residence. Alison made the motion to approve CD25001 dump fees waiver at 100%. Jim Seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

At 12:24 PM Alison made the motion to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:39 PM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 12:40 PM Commissioners open meeting resumed with action from executive session. Alison moved to approve on-call engineers CFS Engineers out of Topeka Kansas to fulfill the term left for the county. Jim Johnson seconded. Motion passed 2-0. At 12:41 PM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss job descriptions pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:56 PM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and counselor attended the executive session.

At 12:57 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jim moved to Extend recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss job descriptions pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 1:27 PM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and counselor attended the executive session.

At 1:28 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jim moved to Extend recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss job descriptions pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 1:43 PM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, clerk and counselor attended the executive session.

The open meeting resumed at 1:43 PM with action from executive session. Alison made the motion to terminate Shaun West, public works director, effective immediately. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

At 1:43 PM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 1:54 PM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, clerk, counselor and Jesse Walton attended the executive session.

The open meeting resumed at 1:54 PM with action from executive session; Alison made the motion to move Jesse Walton into public works interim director effective immediately. Jim Seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Alison made a motion to open the Public Works administrator position for hire until the position is filled on Indeed, newspaper and more. Jim Seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Alison made the motion to move the parks and marina department from originally public works to under economic development, Direct Chasity Ware, effective immediately. Jim seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

At 1:56 PM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss job descriptions pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 2:06 PM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and counselor attended the executive session.

At 2:06 PM the executive session ended. Alison made the motion to move GIS/mapping under the appraiser's department for evaluations and other supervisory roles. Jim Seconded the motion. Motion

passed 2-0. Alison made a motion to approve the contract with new county counselor, Jacklyn Paletta, as written. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0. Chairman signed the contract.  
Alison made a motion to adopt resolution 2025-7 regarding traffic signs in Linn County, at Gorman and 200 Rd. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.  
Alison made a motion to adopt resolution 2025-8 regarding traffic signs in Linn County, at bus stop near Tanglewood Gate 3. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.  
Alison made a motion to adopt resolution 2025-9 regarding traffic signs in Linn County, at bus stop near Tanglewood Gate 2. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.  
At 2:08 PM, PM with nothing further on the agenda Jim moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, April 14th, 2025. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

April 14, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, Vice chair; Jacklyn Paletta, county counselor; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$170,604.33: General, \$36,691.80; Rural Fire, \$9,735.86; Road and Bridge, \$71,084.90; county health department, \$2,144.58; Elderly, \$46,345.45; Employee Benefit Fund, \$93.00; sewer district #1, \$1,024.00; 911 telephone tax fund, \$1,894.73. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson made the motion to approve Add/ABATES totaling a refund of \$666.56 for orders 2024-231,233, and 234. Jason seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Posted agenda was altered with feedback provided from Jacklyn, Danielle and Jason. Jason motioned to approve the agenda with changes to accommodate all suggestions, including 15 minutes for the code of ethical conduct directly ahead of the department heads. Motion dies for lack of second. Alison made the motion to approve the agenda with changes to accommodate all suggestions, excluding 15 minutes for the code of ethics requested by Jason. Jim seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jason Hightower read the Sheriff's report. Dawn Brooks, AMR read their report. Randy Hegwald reported the fire calls.

Jason Parker, GIS interim, addressed the commission with an update and requested a 5 minute executive session. At 9:12 AM Alison motioned to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:17 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Jason Parker attended the executive session.

At 9:20 AM the executive session ended. Action was taken as a result of the executive session but will be addressed briefly.

Jesse Walton presented road and bridge weekly update. Assistance application for Lake Chaparral received to mow the dam. After a brief discussion, permission was temporarily denied for assistance. But encouraged to bring more info to the commission for further consideration as a winter project. Equipment repairs for 953 Track Loader at the landfill, totaling nearly \$30,000 was requested. Jason made the motion to allow up to \$30,000 for loader parts to be purchased and repairs made by in-house mechanic. Jim Seconded. Motion passed 2-1. Oil bids were received, opened and reviewed by commissioners for paving season (three bids were received).

At 9:39 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319, to discuss job description. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:50. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Counselor, and Jesse attended the executive session.

At 9:50 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss job descriptions pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, clerk, counselor and Jesse attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:00 AM.

At 10:00 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss job descriptions pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, clerk, counselor, Jesse and Joyce (public works administrative office manager) attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:11 AM.

At 10:11 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jim moved to Extend recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss job descriptions pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:22 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, clerk, Jesse, Joyce and counselor attended the executive session.

At 10:22 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss legal matters pursuant to client attorney privilege exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, counselor and Jesse attended the executive session. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:32 AM.

At 10:32 AM Executive session ended. Jason made the motion to approve Jesse Walton to sign any Permits for planning and zoning. Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Public comment opened at 10:34 AM. Sharon, a tenant at Linn County Park, shared thoughts about bullying, and asked for situations to be handled constructively. Jason Hightower, commissioner, addressed the commission criticizing leadership and lack of best practices being executed by the commission.

Public comment closed at 10:42 AM

Jason Parker returned to the podium to request an employee change. Alison made the motion to approved personnel change form for Jessica Brown to be transferred from appraiser 1 to GIS tech 1, at a new pay rate of \$20.12 Effective May 5, 2025. Jim Seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

At 10:45 AM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes for legal advice on contracts from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:57 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Counselor, sheriff and undersheriff attended the executive session.

At 11:06 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. KORA inquiry fee was discussed. County counselor informed commission that the discretion of fees falls squarely on the county’s public information officer, which is the county clerk. Counselor advised the commission to continue to allow clerk to handle fees as her office sees fit. Undersheriff Bobby Johnson addressed the commission to share how the sheriff’s office handles open records request, noting that sheriff’s department charges at a loss for the service provided. Jan Longnecker addressed the commissioner to reiterate his request and was reminded that Jesse Walton will be handling planning and zoning department.

At 11:17 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 20 minutes to conduct an interview with non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:38AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, and Interviewee attended the executive session.

At 11:17 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. The gazebo repairs were discussed. County counselor stated the county’s RFP process is for projects larger than \$25,000 and smaller projects can collect bids via phone or otherwise. The gazebo discussion was tabled.

Jesse will be updated with insurance information to reach out to potential bidders and reopen the RFP for courthouse roof repairs.

At 11:48 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees’ performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319, to discuss job description. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:58 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Counselor, clerk, and Chasity attended the executive session.

At 11:58 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:09 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Counselor attended the executive session.

No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Alison moved to extend prior recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 30 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:40 PM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 12:40 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jim moved to extend prior recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 20 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 1:00 PM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 1:01 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Danielle informed the commissioner’s that planning and zoning director, Kent Harris, tendered a letter of resignation to the clerk after the commissioner’s meeting on April 7, 2025. Jason made the motion to accept the resignation of Kent and post the position as open for hire. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Jason will return next week with recommendations for filling the vacant planning and zoning committee. Jim shared that he will be attending a meeting in Iola with surrounding counties commissioners to discuss the funds provided to Southeast Kansas community mental health On Thursday evening. Alison shared she will be attending a KDOT meeting Thursday morning. Jacklyn shared she will not be physically present for the next three meetings. At 1:03 PM, PM with nothing further on the agenda Jim moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, April 21st, 2025. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

Attest:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

April 21, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.  
Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$802,234.43: General, \$336,528.25; Rural Fire, \$280,990.09; Road and Bridge, \$38,904.79; Elderly, \$2,919.11; Employee Benefit Fund, \$280,990.09; 911 telephone tax fund, \$4,890.04. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.  
Jim Johnson made the motion to approve Add/abate totaling a refund of \$91.50 for order 2024-232. Jason seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Consent agenda was altered with feedback provided from Danielle, Jim, Alison and Jason. Jason motioned to approve the agenda with changes to accommodate all suggestions Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jason Hightower read the Sheriff’s report. Dawn Brooks, AMR read their report. Randy Hegwald requested a 10-minute executive session regarding security matters. At 9:08 AM Jim motioned to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss security matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(d)(15). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:18 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and Randy Hegwald attended the executive session. At 9:18 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken.

Randy presented the weekly fire call updates. Jesse Walton presented an update for public works and road and bridge. A dump waiver was presented and tabled for two weeks. Jesse presented a burial permit on Read Road. Jason made the motion to approve burial permit #BP2025-01. Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Fuel bid was received and opened by Alison; only one fuel bid was received by the deadline date. Oil bid suggestion was brought to commission; Tod Mohler addressed the commission with more information about chip and seal as well as cold patch needed. Jim encouraged Tod to work fewer 10-hour days for cost savings. Jason Hightower motioned to accept for oil bid from Coastal Energy Corporation for cost savings at \$2.24/gal for chip and seal oil. Alison Hamilton seconded. Motion carried 3-0.  
At 9:37 AM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss job descriptions pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:53 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and the clerk attended the executive session.  
At 9:53 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Jim Johnson motioned to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss financial matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:04 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission attended the executive session.  
At 10:04 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Public comments were opened. Addressed the commission. Rogain McPherson, citizen, addressed the commissioners to request stripping on 1077 Road. Kevin Amer, a citizen and prior employee, addressed the commission to encourage public engagement and personal connection with employees. Jennifer Leach-Harlow, of Peoples telecommunications, addressed the commissioners about potential Tanglewood communications tower.  
Public comment was closed at 10:20 AM.  
Jason provided an update from Tanglewood board with list of considerations and desires they have. Alison contributed to the discussion with concern about what is feasible. Jim asked about their taxability as a private entity. Jim Hindershot, Tanglewood resident, addressed the commissioners and shared a request for a resolution to establish roads are private but maintainable to a degree. Alison reassured that all requests will be considered. Don Bendedy, Tanglewood resident, asked commissioners to make a decision because they have not maintained the roads since the judges ruling.

At 10:33 AM Jason provided an update on the Area on Aging Meals on Wheels program, Sharing from Oct 2023 through September of 2024 18,019 meals were provided in Linn County and more than half were home delivered.  
At 10:42 AM with nothing further on the agenda Jim moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, April 21st, 2025. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

April 28, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$137,269.14: General, \$52,888.84; Rural Fire, \$11,234.99; Road and Bridge, \$12,138.93; Elderly, \$238.91; Employee Benefit Fund, \$13.48; Linn County Fair Association, \$60,000.00 Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim Johnson made the motion to approve Add/abate totaling a refund of \$2,858.94 for orders 2024-236,237,238, and 239. Jason seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Consent agenda was altered with feedback provided from Danielle, Jim, and Alison. Jim motioned to approve the agenda with changes to accommodate all suggestions Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Lisa Kellstadt, county appraiser addressed the commissioners requesting a new hire; Alison made a motion to hire Ashley Oberdorf as a field appraiser starting at 8A on the pay matrix, \$17.9905 to start immediately pending preemployment screening. Jason seconded, motion passed 3-0. Jason Hightower read the Sheriff's report. Dawn Brooks, AMR read their weekly report. Randy Hegwald requested a 10-minute executive session regarding trade secrets. At 9:08 AM Jim motioned to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss trade secrets exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(d)(15). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:18 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Jacklyn, Danielle, Brian Shroyer (assistant fire chief) and Randy Hegwald attended the executive session. At 9:18 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken.

Chasity addressed the commission, requesting the commissioners to approve two burial permits. Jason motioned to approve BP2025-02 at 132 w main st in Parker for electrical service and BP2025-03 at 20339 Lamb Rd in Lacygne for water service. Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Alison made the motion to approve fuel bid from MFA for dyed diesel at \$2.7321, clear diesel at \$2.7292 and unleaded at \$2.6207 per gallon. Jason seconded. Motion passed 3-0. RFPs were opened for the teardown building removal of the old county attorney building located at 326 Chestnut St in Mound City, two were received.

Chasity updated commissioners on ARPA funds. Carrie Spoon from the South East Kansas Regional Planning Committee will be going over all receipts provided to her to verify funds are tracked and spent accurately. A prior MOA was provided to commissioners to address a typo where Mound City was named and it should read county of Linn. Alison motioned to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss legal matters exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:39 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Jacklyn, and Chasity attended the executive session. At 9:39 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken. Jason made a motion to sign the Memorandum of Agreement amendment for ARPA funds and change the name stated from Mound City to County of Linn and allow Jim and Jesse to sign. Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Chasity discussed the municipal airport addressing nonfunctioning fuel tank and lights. Aiport committee requests functioning tank, hardwired lights, and a hangar. Alison stated her desire to have an operational airport and asked Chasity to return with a solid 1-5 year strategic plan with goals with quarterly meetings of the airport committee. Jason and Alison shared support for good working relationship with the city of Pleasanton to get the airport opened.

Chasity announced awardees of community development grant program, daycare providers, and youth summer program. Chasity asked to move forward with putting together an officially adopted logo. Commissioners asked her to work with graphic designers and come back with a quote. Commissioners opened website RFPs, two were received. Redlogic is a local company that would set up website for county owned. CivicPlus is headquartered in Manhattan, KS and will own website and provide maintenance services as needed and billed accordingly. Jim made a motion

At 10:08 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss job descriptions pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:18 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk and Counselor attended the executive session. At 10:18 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. County counselor, Jacklyn Paletta shared that she had a conversation with the legal counsel for Tanglewood. She shared that it is the commissioners decision that the roads remain private and that there will not be a resolution to change anything. Jim Hinderhot, citizen of Tanglewood, addressed the commissioners, asking how this changes a recent ruling from a judge stating the roads were public. Jacklyn shared the court order was criminal and this is a civil matter that does not effect zoning. Jim asked why 1974 county plats state the roads are public and Jacklyn shared the county has not ever used or maintained the roads and that will not

change. Chuck Stevens, president of Tanglewood board, addressed the commissioners. Jacklyn restated that nothing will be changing for Tanglewood and that she will continue to communicate with Tanglewood legal counsel. Jason added that Tanglewood should submit request to the county as assistance agreements as historically done in the past. Eva Riojas Mackey addressed the commissioners, presenting each commissioner of prepared documents. After her oration, the county counselor advised the commissioners to abstain from comment until she could review the material and advise the commission on how to respond to Mrs. Mackey’s request to the commissioners. Mrs. Mackey stated that she is representing herself at this time but she has an attorney on retainer.

At 10:50 AM Jim opened public comment. Kevin Amer, citizen of Mound City and prior county employee, addressed the commissioner stating his concern with county’s pubworks work order submission not being reliable as well as his desire to see the county instate an all-employee harassment training refresher. Les Warner, citizen, addressed the commissioner about the desire for airplane hangars in the county. Jennifer Leach Harlow addressed the commissioners to address last meetings discussion about People’s Telecommunications Tower at Tanglewood; she shared that she sat will Alison and the county’s public works interim administrator and has a plan to move forward with her project for permitting to erect her tower. Public comment closed.

At 10:58 AM Jim made a motion to hire Jason Parker as a GIS administrator starting at 13A on the pay matrix, \$25.53/ hr to start immediately. Alison seconded; motion passed 3-0.

Job Descriptions were discussed. Desired changes were discussed to update public works administrator’s job description and to list the position as open for hire as soon as possible. Salaries for counties of similar population for the same position. The commissioners provided the clerk with their desire to see all job descriptions in a uniform and standard format and suggested quotes for seeking outside assistance to complete the task if needed.

At 11:42 AM with nothing further on the agenda Jim moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, May 5th, 2025. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

Commission Chair

County Clerk

May 5, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$598,856.31: General, \$234,791.62; Rural Fire, \$6,227.46; Road and Bridge, \$42,768.12; Elderly, \$4,496.38; Employee Benefit Fund, \$178,432.53; Appraiser Fund, \$16,540.16; Sewer District #1, \$544.98; Equipment Reserve Fund, \$31,790.50; County Health Department, \$12,679.96; Payroll Clearing Account, \$70,584.60. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Consent agenda was altered with feedback provided from Danielle and Alison. Jason motioned to approve the agenda with changes to accommodate all suggestions Jim seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jason read the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter interest report for 2025, noting upward trends with interest at \$16,057.90 on NOW account and Certificates of Deposits totaling \$325,563.20. Dawn Brooks presented the AMR report. Randy Hegwald presented the fire and emergency management call totals for the week. Randy shared that Pleasanton may be disbanding their fire district and if so, would be absorbed by the county and they would pay a fire assistance tax. The alternative is a mutual aid agreement if they choose to remain intact.

At 9:15 AM, Jason read the sheriff's report for total weekly calls and services.

Jesse Walton, interim public works admin, presented information about our landfill; Landfill cells will be staked by surveyors to give an idea of remaining capacity in cells. Jesse asked for commissioners to approve a dump waiver. Jim made the motion to approve dump waiver CD25-005 for no dumping fee for 210 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St in Blue Mound. Jason seconded, motion passed 3-0. Alison made the motion to approve change order form for \$5,742.50 for landfill berm and drainage ditch for vertical expansion. Jason seconded, motion passed 3-0. Roger Carbon asked for assistance at the fair grounds to dig post holes to set a gate. Alison made a motion to have public works assist digging of post holes at the fair grounds, Jason seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Jesse requested a burial permit to be approved. Alison BP2025-04 water line at Baskerville and 1700 Rd. Jason seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jesse made a recommendation for demolition of old county attorney building. Alison made the motion to approve JRK Portable Welding \$19,500 with dumping fees related to the project. Jim seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Jesse stated that regulations need updated for adding height limits for towers, relating to People's Telecom tower situation. Commissioners discussed the need for updates and guidance from county counselor.

At 9:37 AM, Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss financial affairs K.S.A 75-4319 (b)(4) to discuss a budget matter. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:47 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and county clerk.

At 9:47 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 9:47 AM, Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes pursuant to non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to discuss job descriptions. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:03 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission and county clerk and Jesse Walton attended the meeting.

At 10:03 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 10:03 AM public comment was opened. Russel Beth, Mayor of Blue Mound, spoke to ask for certainty of the dump fee waiver getting approved from earlier in the meeting. Commissioner Jason Hightower assured him it did. Kevin Amer, prior employee and current citizen asked for recap for terms of our county counselor. This was provided by the county clerk reading the motion from the March 31 meeting.

At 10:05 AM, public comment was closed.

At 10:05 AM, with nothing further on the agenda Jim moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, May 12th, 2025. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

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Commission Chair

Attest:

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County Clerk

May 12, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$130,941.65: General, \$65,381.95; Rural Fire, \$4,901.00; Road and Bridge, \$45,167.81; Elderly, \$3,054.93; Employee Benefit Fund, \$93.00; Appraiser Fund, \$138.12; County Health Department, \$4,784.25; Sewer District #1, \$677.38; 911 telephone tax, \$1,000.71; Sparks/Cares Act Fund, \$5,742.50. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim motioned to approve the consent agenda as is. Jason seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Appraiser Lisa Kellstadt addressed the commissioners asking for new hire approval. Alison made a motion to approve April Umphenour for hire as a field appraiser one, receiving \$17.9906 (17A on pay matrix) to start after passing pre-employment screening. Jason seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jason read the sheriff's report for total weekly calls and services. Jason read AMR's weekly report for total calls and services.

Randy Hegwald presented the fire and emergency management call totals for the week. Randy shared that Pleasanton may be disbanding their fire district and if so, would be absorbed by the county and they would pay a fire assistance tax. The alternative is a mutual aid agreement if they choose to remain intact. Mayor Mathew Young of Pleasanton addressed the commissioners.

At 9:34 AM Amanda Snyder, Health Department Director, addressed the commissioners with a monthly update of services provided throughout the month and services upcoming. Upcoming diabetic diet training with class's mid-day hours led to Alison and Jason supporting paid attendance for county employees. Jim shared that he would prefer these classes to be held in the evening to accommodate more citizen and county employee attendance. Amanda confirmed if the commissioners supported her office's overtime or flex-scheduling of hours that she would consider evening hours.

At 9:51 AM, Chasity Ware addressed the commission and introduced Carey Spoon from SEKRPC. Carey provided updates on turning back the CBDG grant #23PS028. Income surveys were not completed and turned in resulting in the funds being turned back to the state, resulting in \$25,000 not to be returned to the county for the STARS program. The STARS board has not requested budgeted funds yet for the year 2025 because they do not have a confirmed MOU (memorandum of understanding) with Fort Scott Community College.

At 10:02 AM Alison motioned to close RFP for the website development. Jason seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Alison motioned to go out for a new RFP for website development on May 21<sup>st</sup> to run for two weeks with county counselor to review RFP prior to publication. Jason seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chasity discussed our donated signage for historic landmark in the courthouse lawn representing the James Madison Ballot Box. Alison expressed her desire to have a uniform and branded logo for the county, which is in process. Replacement of the signage is tabled until branding is solidified.

At 10:14 AM, public comments were opened. Rogene McPherson, a citizen, addressed the commission asking for more information on Centerville Senior Center serving elderly meals. Meals are provided in a drop-off fashion for Centerville area. Vouchers for these meals are provided through the Area on Aging Organization or on our county's website under 'Nutrition' tab. Kevin Amer, citizen, addressed the commissioners.

At 10:30 AM public comment closed.

Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss trade secrets, pursuant to the trade secrets exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4), concerning economic development. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:40 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Counselor, and Chasity attended the executive session.

At 10:41 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jim motioned for a 5 minute recess from executive session with open meeting resuming at 10:47 AM. Jason seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

At 10:47 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter

exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:07 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and Chasity attended the executive session.

At 11:07 AM the executive session ended. Jim moved to extend previous executive session for 15 minutes to return at 11:22 AM. Alison seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 11:22 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 11:23 Gabe Pfefferkorn, engineer, addressed the commissioners with an update on the high-risk rural road grant. County must meet the June 5<sup>th</sup> deadline for a contract agreement. Gabe explained many of the contractual obligations and additional required tasks.

At 11:37 AM, Scot Loyd of the Scot Lyod Group, addressed the commissioners at the request of the county clerk to discuss budget preparation and assistance for the 2026 budget. He explained that based on his 40 years of experience in Kansa municipalities, a brief 7-year history of Linn County’s financial situation showed we are doing well with unencumbered cash and found ways to potentially help Linn County. Jim expressed interest in seeking a price for assistance for our entities as well. Scot agreed to return next week with an estimate and the commissioners would discuss this further.

At 12:07 PM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss job performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:18 PM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 12:19 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Alison made a motion to allow public works overtime hours this week and on a week-to-week basis. Jason seconded. motion carried 3-0. Jason announced he is still working on getting the planning and zoning board fully staffed and up to full strength.

At 12:21 PM, with nothing further on the agenda Jim moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, May 19th, 2025. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

May 19, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, Vice chair; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Caleb Richardson opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$724,768.15: General, \$292,729.98; Rural Fire, \$5,318.84; Road and Bridge, \$83,734.56; Elderly, \$4,250.91; Employee Benefit Fund, \$208,432.84; Appraiser Fund, \$15,018.46; County Health Department, \$11,087.17; 911 telephone tax, \$23,411.31; Payroll Clearing Account, \$80,784.08. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim motioned to approve add and abates, totaling a refund of \$5,136.06 for change orders 2024-240 through 2024-243. Alison Seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Jim motioned to approve the consent agenda with changes suggested from Jacklyn and Alison. Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Alison read the sheriff's report. Dawn Brooks presented her monthly report for May. Dawn provided commissioners with a handout for proposed continuation of services with a five-year commitment. This is tabled until June 16<sup>th</sup>.

At 9:13 AM Randy Hegwald updated to commissioners on fire calls for the week.

At 9:19 AM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss job description of non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:28 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and Lisa attended the executive session.

At 9:29 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 9:29 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss job performance of non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:40 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and Chasity attended the executive session.

At 9:40 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 9:41 AM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss job performance of non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) to protect the privacy of an employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:52 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, Randy and Brian attended the executive session.

At 9:52 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 9:53 AM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss attorney client privilege, K.S.A. 75-4319. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:03 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, Randy and Brian attended the executive session.

At 10:03 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 10:05 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss contractual matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:15 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, clerk, Randy Hegwald, and the counselor attended the executive session.

At 10:16 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 10:17 AM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss attorney client privilege, K.S.A. 75-4319. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:22 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and the counselor attended the executive session.

At 10:22 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. The county counselor, Jacklyn Paletta, announced that in the event of severe weather, the county-owned building Bunk Hill Senior Center will be open in the event of a tornado watch however citizens are encouraged to check with their local churches and cities for availability during severe weather. High risk rural roads was discussed. Gabe Pfefferkorn addressed the commission to provide more information, asking the county to cover \$200,000 worth of patching out of pocket for the 5.2 mile project. Alison made a motion to approve the contract for KDOT's HMA overlay project provided by Pfefferkorn Engineer totaling \$1,449,086.18. Jim seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

In other updates from public works, KDHE has approved vertical cell expansion of our landfill. Old Military Bridge was discussed. It has been identified as needing repaired or replaced due to age in the near future. On-call engineer, CEFS, is willing to apply for 2 million dollar grant to rehabilitate the Old Military Bridge.

Alison motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-11, safety footwear reimbursement policy, into our employee handbook effective immediately. Jim seconded. Motioned passed 2-0. Danielle was encouraged to notify department heads of the new policy.  
A lease agreement was provided to the commissioners from the city of Park about our county-owned Parker Senior Center. Commissioners asked to table the agreement for more time to review until next week.  
At 10:35 AM public comment was opened. Kristy Schmitz, citizen, spoke on desire to see better care taken of our courthouse square; for the courthouse to be removed from our mowing contract and given back to staff maintenance member, Danny Nation, stated he cared for the courthouse lawn wonderfully. Alison questioned if the county still owned equipment needed to complete such a task.

Eva Riojas-Mackey asked the commissioners for an update on the roads of Tanglewood after she asked for answers three weeks prior. She commented her commissioner, Jason Hightower, has not answered his phone and it goes straight to voicemail. Alison stated a statement was given and asked our county counselor to provide the evidence.  
At 10:46 AM, public comment was closed.  
Jim Hendershot addressed the commissioner to recap commissioners on history of Tanglewood roads as they relate to Judge Andrea Purvis criminal case ruling from previously this 2025 year. Historical documents provided to commissioners and counselor from the 1970s.  
Heather Brecht, citizen of Tanglewood and local real estate agent, addressed the commissioners with evidence of future tax growth of the county. Don Bendeddi, citizen of Tanglewood, addressed the commissioners about his desire for an official decision to be made soon in a legally binding document. He also thanked the sheriff’s department for their increased patrolling of Tanglewood.

At 11:04 AM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss attorney client privilege, K.S.A. 75-4319 to discuss potential litigation. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:15 AM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and the counselor attended the executive session.  
At 11:15 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.  
At 11:15 AM Jim Motioned for a five minute recess to resume open meeting at 11:20 AM. Alison Seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Open meeting resumed. Commissioner Alison referred to Resolution 2014-16 that all lake communities are private and will remain that way. She made a motion to resolve that lake home communities with HOAs are now, have been and will remain private. Jim seconded. Motin passed 2-0.

Cost of small entities budgets was discussed. These entities have two options for the county clerk to recommend to them.

At 11:30 AM Mac Carlisle, citizen is on the agenda to discuss his concern of over spraying by noxious weed department. After Mac shared his concerns, the county’s noxious weed director, Johnny Taylor, spoke to clarify his policy and procedure. He discussed the availability of being added to a No-Spray list, as well as registering on website [www.driftwatch.com](http://www.driftwatch.com). He notified public of the cost share program and potential delivery of chemical.

At 11:49 AM, Jim motioned to move next week to Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup> to accommodate for Monday’s Memorial Day Holiday.

At 11:51 AM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss job description of non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1).The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:00 PM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, and counselor attended the executive session.  
At 12:03 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 12:03 PM, with nothing further on the agenda Jim moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Attest:

Commission Chair

County Clerk

May 27, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, Member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk.

Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Caleb Richardson opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$575,374.82: General, \$37,272.64; Rural Fire, \$2,419.87; Road and Bridge, \$30,478.19; Appraiser Fund, \$495.00; County Health Department, \$958.74; 911 telephone tax, \$1,791.00; Debt Service (Sales Tax), \$501,959.38. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim motioned to approve the consent agenda with changes suggested from Danielle and Jason. Jason seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jason read the Sheriff's weekly report. Alison read AMR's weekly report. Randy Hegwald, emergency management and Fire chief addressed the commissioners. He provided his budget summary and current equipment list to commissioners.

At 9:09 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:14 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, and Randy attended the executive session.

At 9:14 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Randy asked commissioners for permission for some new hires. Alison motioned to hire Landon Schneider to Station 910 pending preemployment and probation period. Jim Seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Alison motioned to hire Bernard Garrett at Station 960 pending preemployment and probation period. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Alison stated Pleasanton, LaCygne and Linn Valley fire chiefs in addition to Randy will be attending a workshop immediately following the business meeting next Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

At 9:18 AM Jason Parker, GIS administrator, addressed the commissioners with a departmental update. June 4<sup>th</sup>, 11-1pm will be inviting county employees to attend a lunch and learn event to learn more about mapping opportunities that can benefit all departments.

Economic development director, Chasity Ware, requested an executive session. At 9:21 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:36 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Counselor via phone call, Chasity and Jesse Walton attended the executive session.

At 9:36 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Jesse Walton, Interim public works administrator, addressed commissioners. At 9:37 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 7 minutes to discuss Potential hire employees pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the potential employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:44 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and Jesse attended the executive session.

At 9:44 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jesse asked commissioners for permission for some new hires. Jason motioned to hire Mark Colyer as an equipment operator having a current CDL with a starting wage of \$18.7772 per hour. Alison seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Alison motioned to hire Ben Souza as planning and zoning director at \$53,102.40 annualized salary. Jason seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Pleasanton AMR building has a roof leak, Jesse asked to seek outside repairs and add gutters to the building. Some trash compactors were repaired and all are currently functioning. Parker senior center lease was discussed. Jason Webber, Parker Mayor, was there to discuss goals for using the building well. The county will maintain ownership and city of Parker will take over maintenance and utilities. This was tabled until next week for our county councilor to review the lease.

At 10:04 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:09 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, and Jesse attended the executive session.

At 10:09 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Roads were discussed with Todd Mohler, county employee, to share need of additional roads repairs off of the 1095 Rd project in addition to repairs needed on old military bridge. Tod suggested milling down the bridge and relaying without adding to and the on-call engineer agreed. The need for asphalt is greater than the budgeted amount.

At 10:42 AM Public comment was opened. Sheriff James Akes provided a handout to the commissioners and shared year to date calls for the sheriff’s office in hopes of reinforcing the community’s confidence in sheriff’s department support. Public comment was closed.

Preparing the 2026 budget was discussed. Commissioners collected information for small entities budgeting needs. The commissioners revisited Scot Loyd’s letter of engagement with the county’s budget preparation needs for 2026. Jason motioned to enter into contract with the Scot Loyd Group for 2026 county budget preparation for \$25,000 plus travel, postage and processing fees. Jim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

At 11:05 AM, Jim Hendershot of Tanglewood asked commission to clarify there motion from last week. Commissioner Alison Hamilton stated that county counselor has recommended no comment be made. Jim Hendershot assured commissioner that he will be back next week and thanked the commissioners for his time.

At 11:09 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes. Jason seconded. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:14 AM. The motion passed 3-0.

The courthouse square gazebo was discussed. Jesse Walton, public works administrator, shared it is being held together with hose clamps and advised we take down the structure and rebuild on the existing foundation. Current bid that was tabled was repairs to not include the roof from Mike Page for \$5,700. This will be tabled for two weeks when Alison can review the outsourcing of RFP for demo/rebuild or repair. Jason made the motion to appoint Connie Gore to the planning and zoning committee for rural Lacgyne. Alison seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Matthew Winfrey, Linn County property owner addressed the commissioners. A driveway permit was submitted and unaddressed for a year. The Homeowners Association of Sugar Valley Lake had created a dispute with him. Matthew Winfrey asked why his permit was denied and who the commissioner works for. He is asking for county provided culvert and legal driveway access.

At 11:33 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:43 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Jesse, and Counselor via phone call attended the executive session.

At 11:43 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Commissioner Hamilton explained that the county accepts permits that were previously approved by Sugar Valley Lake. Matthew shared that he disagrees with the interpretation of their responsibilities. Commissioner Hamilton asked to table the matter for all documents to be gathered and reviewed for June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Fence Viewing was discussed. An Application was reviewed that was submitted by Charles Self, address at 17247 Ks Hwy 7 LaCygne, KS. Commissioners agreed to travel to location for fence viewing at 1pm on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Both landowners of the fence will be notified by certified mail.

At 12:00 PM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:05 PM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 12:05 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 12:05 PM, with nothing further on the agenda Jason moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, June 2nd, 2025. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

June 2, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, Vice chair; Jason Hightower, Member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Paletta, County Counselor. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Hunter Jameson opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$532,591.50: General, \$206,893.21; Rural Fire, \$8,957.37; Road and Bridge, \$42,020.94; Appraiser Fund, \$14,927.63; County Health Department, \$11,102.50; employee benefit fund, \$163,367.81; Equipment reserve, \$9,674.74; elderly fund, \$5,004.43; Linn County Sewer Dist #1, \$65.11; Payroll clearing account, \$70,577.76. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jason Motioned to approve add and abates totaling \$12,826.26. Jim seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Jim motioned to approve the consent agenda with changes suggested from Danielle. Jason seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jason read the weekly sheriff's report. Captain Oloi from AMR gave the weekly update.

Randy Hegwald presented the commissioners with a weekly fire call update. He shared the was able to obtain a mobile antenna that will be useful in the event of an emergency. Randy presented the commissioners with a resolution of surplus property. Jason motioned to approve resolution 2025-10 of surplus property to include 2001 ford excursion, 2004 Ford Excursion, 2005 Chevy Suburban, seven aluminum water tanks and five 65-gallon plastic tanks. Jim Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Amanda Snyder, director of the county health department, presented May's monthly update, bringing a copy of the every-door mailer for the commissioners for summer activities.

At 9:21 AM, Chasity Ware economic development director provided a department update for the month. Marina updates are in work with assistance of employees and their spouse to prepare a boat dock to be usable soon. Cabin 4 metal roof bids are being collected currently. Chasity requested an executive session.

At 9:25, Jim motioned to recess into executive session for 7 minutes to discuss marketing strategies pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4), data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets. The open meeting will resume in the commissioners' meeting room at 9:32 AM. Jason seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The commissioners, the county counselor, and Chasity attended the executive session.

At 9:32 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

The new planning and zoning Director Ben Souza introduced himself to the commissioners.

Jesse updated the commissioners with department news. Kwikom will be reaching out to update their progress with repairs they will be making. Jesse asked for commissioners' approval for burial permits. Jason made the motion to approve BP 2025-05, for 2300 Rd boaring on 1095 Rd. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed. Alison made the motion to approve BP 2025-06, waterline on 1095 Rd. Jason seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Terracon's vertical expansion of the landfill was discussed; an invoice was received. Jason made a motion to pay Terracon invoice out of ARPA funds. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chasity presented the commissioners with 3 bids for the county's website maintenance. Social Managed out of Louisburg for \$23,971.50 plus monthly hosting of \$99; Civic Plus from Manhattan \$26,001.40 with annual \$5,919 reoccurring; Redlogic of Mound City prepared a bid of \$39,000 and \$450 monthly plus quarterly \$750. Chasity will qualify the bids and make a recommendation for commissioners on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Tod Moeller provided the commissioners with a handout on asphalt costs for the season. Alison asked if 1850 Rd repairs will be part of the 1095 Rd project. Jesse confirmed he will have an answer after discussing with engineer from Pfefferkorn this week. Tod says he has 6 important projects he wants to work on and the commissioners support his request.

Jesse requested an executive session.

At 9:56 AM, Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:01 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, and Jesse attended the executive session.

At 10:01 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 10:02 AM, Public comment was opened. With no citizen asking to share, public comment was closed.

Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss policy and procedure pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4), data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:13 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, county counselor, and accounts payable clerk Stacey Fromdahl attended the executive session.

At 10:13 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. The sheriff, undersheriff, and Ken Olson of Enterprise Fleet Management discussed the possibility of entering into contract with Enterprise Fleet management. Ken requests road and bridge participates with at least one vehicle. Jason voiced his support in "test-driving" the program before turning over the fleet. Jacklyn suggested 1-5 road and bridge vehicles should be considered. Ken reiterated that the sheriff's department would be turning over vehicles aged from 2019. Jim stated he is not favor of a lease agreement. Both Jason and Alison support the transition but want to approach it incrementally. Sheriff Akes shared four must be replaced regardless if we pursue this lease agreement or now and and another five would be helpful.

At 10:45 AM, Jacklyn asked for commission to clarify that they had agreed to a lot split at our county airport with the city of Pleasanton and the county was prepared to pursue the deeding of that choice. Jason and Jim recalled making that decision in year 2024.

Alison made a motion to hire Christina Hart as a field appraiser to start at 8A on the pay matrix, \$17.9905/ hour effective immediately pending preemployment screening. Jason seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Additionally, the appraiser sent documents for the commission to sign.

At 10:47 Am, Jim made the motion to approve the transfer of June valuation for personal property certification from appraiser's office. Alison seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jim made the motion to approve the transfer of June valuation for real property certification from appraiser's office. Jason seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jim made the motion to approve the transfer of June valuation for oil and gas certification from appraiser's office. Jason seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Jason reminded all his plan to attend GIS Mapping department's lunch and learn event on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Alison reminded all her plan to host the annual state-wide noxious weed conference at her place of employment, Battle of Mine Creek Museum.

At 10:50 AM, with nothing further on the agenda Jim moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, June 9th, 2025. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

Commission Chair

County Clerk

June 9, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Jason Hightower, Member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Paletta, County Counselor. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$115,428.87: General, \$63,874.18; Rural Fire, \$1,099.43; Road and Bridge, \$35,016.14; Appraiser Fund, \$937.88; County Health Department, \$2600.13; Employee Benefit Fund, \$333.28; elderly fund, \$2,780.47; 911 telephone fund, \$145.36; SPARK/CARES Act Fund, \$. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Jason Motioned to approve add and abates totaling \$267.90 for orders 2024-259 and 260. Jim seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Jim motioned to approve the consent agenda with changes suggested from Danielle. Jason seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Jason read the weekly sheriff's report. Dawn Brooks, from AMR, gave the update for ambulance calls for the week, reporting a total of 36 calls and 15 transports. Randy Hegwald, Linn County rural fire and emergency management, gave calls totals for the week; reports 10 calls for the week, making yearly total to 304. Randy shared the budget workshop with Scot Loyd, CPA, last Friday was helpful.

Jim motioned to approve the updated automatic aid agreement with Pleasanton. Jason seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Jim motioned to approve the updated automatic aid agreement with LaCygne. Jason seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Jim motioned to approve the updated automatic aid agreement with Linn Valley. Jason seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Chasity Ware, the economic development director, addressed the commissioners with an update. Deed work for the lot split at the county airport has started and should be completed next week. Jim Lind, Pleasanton, noticed a dilapidated fence at the industrial park that was broken and falling down; he has asked to take it down and keep the scraps. Commissioners agreed it would not require a motion as it is not an insurable asset and gave their blessing. An invoice was received with a bill from the railroad management company asking for their annual 8 inch water line right of way license fee to be paid. It historically has been paid from economic development. Commissioners agreed to pay the bill as historically paid. Chasity informed commissioners that another bill will be coming for a similar license for a gals line, both totaling nearly \$750 annually. Commissioners agreed to address what budget this comes from in the future but for now to pay it as was received since it was budgeted for this last year.

Commissioner Jim Johnson asked if Chasity had heard of fiber optic internet coming to Sugar Valley Lakes up 7 highways Chasity had not heard of such. At 9:18 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss proprietary contract negotiation pursuant to the trade secrets exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:33 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Counselor, and Chasity Ware attended the executive session.

At 9:33 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Jesse Walton, interim public works administrator, addressed the commissioner. Compactor in Centerville has been malfunctioning. Electrical and hydraulic issues were addressed last week but it is currently down again and will be addressed today. Jesse asked for overtime. Jason motioned to approve overtime for the road department for the week of June 9<sup>th</sup>. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0. Jesse presented a burial permit for approval. Jim Made a motion to approve BP 2025-07 to Headenger LLC for a waterline. Jason seconded. motion carried 2-0. Jesse presented the commissioners with courthouse roof repairs. Three were three opened- DHI Roofing of Lee Summit \$582,101.99; Stanfield Roofing of El Dorado KS, \$35,248.78 for repair; World Premier of Kansas City building services, \$10,000 deductible and all other funds would be covered by insurance.

Pefferkorn Engineering sent a bid to add 1850 Rd to the 1095 High Risk Rural Road project, an additional 1.5 miles. Discussion around budgeting and available funds continued for several minutes.

At 9:57 Am Jim Johnson opened public comment. Jim Hendershot, citizen of Tanglewood, addressed the commission about sheriff's response to cattle at large is a response to public safety but stray dogs at large in populated areas are not responded to in the name of public safety. Counselor Jacklyn Paletta asked for a week to review codes and act if needed. Kim Hendershot, the spouse of Jim, shared her concern for her small family pet's safety. Undersheriff Bobby Johnson shared state statues that direct cattle issues and referenced that a county resolution would be needed to direct sheriffs to respond to a dog at large. Public comment was closed at 10:04 AM.

Jim motioned to recess into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss contract negotiations against the county pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), attorney-client privilege. The open meeting will resume in the commissioner’s meeting room at 10:20 AM. Jason seconded. Motion carried 2-0. The commissioners, clerk and the county counselor attended the executive session.  
At 10:20 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Old business was addressed. Julie Saker of Dave’s Towing addressed the commissioners requesting to be added back into towing rotation of county. County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta asked Julie to follow policy outlined in Policy 2018-02 and email the county clerk with her written application proving all outlined details have been met.

Jason motioned to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss litigation against the county pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), attorney-client privilege. The open meeting will resume in the commissioner’s meeting room at 10:37 AM. Jim seconded. Motion carried 2-0. The commissioners and the county counselor attended the executive session.  
At 10:37AM, AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Matthew Winfrey’s request for a county to install a culvert was discussed. County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta explained because Sugar Valley Lake HOA has an easement around the road-facing boundary of his property, he would first need the HOA’s blessing before the county could accommodate his request.

County Clerk, Danielle Souza, reminded commissioners that they have a fence viewing scheduled for 1:00pm at the property of Charlie Self. Budget workshop on Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> with all three commissioners present. Small entities were introduced to Joyce Wilson this week via email to schedule budgeting assistance.

At 10:43 AM, with nothing further on the agenda Jason moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, June 16th, 2025. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Attest:

Commission Chair

County Clerk

June 16, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, vice chair; Jason Hightower, Member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Paletta, County Counselor. Pastor Caleb Richardson from First Baptist Church of Mound City led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$919,137.50: General Fund, \$226,307.48; Employee Benefit Fund, \$134,169.00; Appraiser Fund, \$18,071.90; Rural Fire, \$4,393.64; Road and Bridge, \$82,368.28; County Health Department, \$18,442.97; Debt Service (sales tax), \$345,396.25; elderly fund, \$2,531.30; Payroll Clearing Account, \$87,756.68. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. Jason Motioned to approve add and abates totaling \$963.44 for orders 2024-261 through 2024-264. Jim seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Jim motioned to approve the consent agenda with changes suggested from Danielle, Jim, and Alison. Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jason read the sheriff's report for the week.

Chris Martin, IT director, addressed the commissioners with an update from his department for the last month. Year to date, 812 support tickets have been opened and only 18 of those remain currently. In last 30 days, radio towers have been repaired after a lightening strike. 110 foot radio tower that the emergency management adopted was setup and tested. IT supported and assisted GIS/ mapping with a new portable display screen for map viewing. Our employee annual security awareness training was completed county wide.

At 9:17 AM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:22 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, and Chris Martin attended the executive session.

At 9:22 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. AMR Ambulance service provided the weekly update for the commissioners.

Randy Hegwald fire and emergency management director, updated the commissioners with a weekly recap. Asked commissioners to approve 100% reimbursed purchase of electronic smart mannequin, to be used to simulate human rescues in pinned or smokey situations and more. Jason made the motion to allow purchase Bullex smart dummy model 110, for no more than \$4,000 from Fire Special Equipment funds with a reimbursement to be received from KWORCC. Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 9:28 Am Danielle Souza, county clerk discussed level pay for Evergy bills. In addition, a request to allow paying utility bills as they are received while still notifying dept heads to guarantee timely payments through postal service. Commissioners approved and requested the treasurer and incoming treasurer come in the near future to discuss future direction of the dept. Alison motioned to approve Cereal malt beverage license 2025-02 for Powerstop in LaCygne. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chasity Ware, economic development director addressed the commissioners. Monthly Parks income and expenditure report was provided to commissioners with explanation of the break out of wages. Chasity was appointed treasurer of the regional planning and zoning board at their monthly meeting. Chasity worked with Chris Martin to recommend the commission accept Civic Plus proposal, stating 12 users can be trained to operate the back side of the website and that this contract promises to be ADA complaint (Americans with disabilities act). Alison asked Chasity to detail what ADA complaint entails. While Chasity was not prepared to answer the question, she did assure the commissioners that it is state-mandated for 2026 and we are striving to remain in compliance to avoid fines. County counselor was concerned why up to 12 people would need back side access. Chasity shared that the vision is for department heads should be able to update their own pages as needed. County Counselor will continue to review the contract and bring it back to commissioners next week.

Appraiser requested new hire to be approved. Jason made the motion to hire Brett Nation as field appraiser to start at \$17.9905 (pay matrix 8A) pending preemployment. Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jesse Walton, interim public works director, addressed the commissioners with department updates. Jesse asked commissioners to approve KDOT's agreement to follow legal procedures of subcomponents. Jason made the motion to enter agreement with secretary of transportation/ KPDT and Linn County for the 1095 Rd project. Jim seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Alison asked for project request for 1850 Rd be presented in well-assembled visual. Jason made a motion to advertise for request for proposals (RFP) for 1.5 miles of 1850 Rd. Jesse with working with Sheriff Akes to sounds proofing the jury room.

Jason made the motion to enter into lease agreement with the city of Parker for the county owned building known as Parker Senior Center. Jim seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Jason motioned that the commissioners approve burial permit 2025-08, one inch water line for Page Construction. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Courthouse roofing bids were discussed. The three bids were inconsistent and bid different levels of work. Jesse will reach out to the three to get similar bid parameters.

At 10:25 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss job descriptions pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:35 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Counselor, and Jesse attended the executive session.

At 10:36 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jesse agreed to look up quotes for directional signs for our county lakes. Jason made a motion to appoint Jim Johnson to the SEK Mental health board. Alison seconded the motion.

IT director, Chris Martin, addressed the commissioners about the Parker Senior Center. Elections happens in this building and the equipment is air-gapped and is never hooked to internet. There would be no need to need for internet at that site. County counselor Jacklyn Paletta shared her concern about needing internet availability as a contingent resource for troubleshooting.

At 10:49 AM public comment was opened. Ralph Kelcey board member of Tanglewood, asked commissioners to address road issues. County counselor, Jacklyn Poletta, explained that while litigation is pending between Linn county and Tanglewood, there would be no comment. Public comment closed.

Angie Smith and Shelley Kelly Presented an excellent informational slide show presentation for the commissioners encouraging participation in mental health first aid certification for county employees, stating the sheriff's department is currently participating in this program and have found it exponentially helpful.

The commissioners heard from the county clerk along with county's insurance consultants, Jen Elliot, Amy Shroeder, and Darcy Peniston. Unbundling from Blue Cross Blue Sheild and join a captive network with UMR could save the county money. Conservative annual estimate of savings would be nearly \$205,000.00. There was discussion about how the change would effect employees coverage, cost, and deductible. The recurring answer was that there would be no change. No decision was made as a result of the discussion. Enterprise fleet contract was discussed. Clarity was requested if Sheriff Akes had approval to pursue contractual agreement. It was confirmed that the Sheriff is within his rights to spend his budget to enter into contract.

At 11:48 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss contracts with the County Counselor, which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning obtaining legal advice from the County Counselor. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:58 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Counselor, and Jesse Walton attended the executive session.

At 11:59 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 12:00 PM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:10 PM. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 12:10 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jacklyn was asked to research UTV laws in Kansas. Alison explained why she requested this; there was an individual that was asking for Alison's help fining a loophole to allow UTV road access in LaCygne city limits. It was agreed that the individual should work with the city and not at a county level. Alison also shared her concern with noxious weed over spraying; sharing her concern that all vegetation is dead at on all bridges and intersections of Vernon Rd near the airport. Jason shared his understanding is that our noxious weed lead is aware and is addressing his procedures for correction.

With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, June 23, 2025. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

June 23, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, vice chair; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Paletta, County Counselor. Pastor Wade Booth from First Baptist Church of Pleasanton led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$167,400.06: General Fund, \$134,244.31; Rural Fire, \$170.00; Road and Bridge, \$27,272.26; County Health Department, \$573.7; elderly fund,

\$63.85; Sewer Dist #1 Centerville, \$1,000.00; 911 telephone Fund, \$4,075.89. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Jim Motioned to approve add and abates totaling \$963.44 for orders 2024-261 through 2024-264. Alison seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Jim motioned to approve the consent agenda. Alison seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Alison read the sheriff's report for the week.

Dawn Brooks with AMR provided the weekly update. The proposal was discussed to move forward contracting AMR for ambulance service. It was mentioned that the monthly cost will go up by \$6,200.

Danielle Souza, County Election Officer, asked commissioners to appoint electors for ballot destruction. Alison motioned to appoint Alicia Whitcraft and Mari Krupco as approved electors for the destruction of the ballots according to K.S.A. 25-2708. Jim seconded. Motion carried 2-0. The ballot destruction will happen on July 10<sup>th</sup> at the Linn County historic Courthouse.

Chasity Ware, the economic development director, addressed the commissioners. After brief discussion about future of logo and uniform letterhead and future expectations of IT with the website, Alison motioned to approve contract #Q-93123-1 with Civic Plus for website maintenance, \$25,686.00 initial and \$5,730.00 annually subject to uplift. Jim seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Alison asked Chasity to investigate what it would take for the county to receive federal funding for the airport. It was mentioned that our recent lot split at the airport may be the element deterring federal funded. Chasity agreed to investigate it and return with an update at a later date.

Chasity requested an executive session. At 9:31 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss trade financial data, pursuant to the trade secrets and financial affairs exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4). The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:41 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Counselor, and Chasity attended the executive session.

At 9:41 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Jesse discussed planning and zoning committee is seeking clarity on terms allowed to be served. The current understanding is 3 year terms and they want to add can serve 2 consecutive terms. Alison directed Jesse to have the committee draft this addition and bring it back to the commission. After brief discussion to not include the repairs of old county attorney building at 324 Chestnut (it has been scheduled for demolition) and not include repairs to county gazebo in courthouse lawn (concerns it needs fully replaced and not just roof repairs), Alison made a motion to approve David Sutter to complete repairs on courthouse roof, bell tower roof, courthouse annex, and 4-H building totaling \$29,925.73 and any additional funds received after repairs are made. Jim seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

At 10:03 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 20 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney- client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), to discuss active litigation. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:23 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, county Counselor, and Foulston attorney via phone call attended the executive session.

At 10:23 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 10:24 AM, public comment was opened. Jan Longnecker spoke against the Sunshine Meadow Subdivision and asked when his appeal will be addressed. Kevin Amer asked the commissioners to enact his request for county wide employee anti-harassment. He also suggested flagger training for roadway and highway safety. He states both are available through the county’s insurance company.

At 10:35 AM Public comment closed.

Commissioners instructed Jesse to come with Ben next week with more info about the planning and zoning appeal process and dates for hearings. Commissioners asked for next week’s agenda to include conversation about anti-harassment training, flagger training and job descriptions for road sign position, as well as getting all employees county issued emails.

At 10:48 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes for security matters, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(12c), to discuss website technology safety. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:53 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and county Counselor attended the executive session.

At 10:53 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session

Alison made the motion to approve cereal malt beverage 2025-3 for Allstar in Prescott. Jim seconded. Motion carried.

At 10:55 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss negotiations, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(3), concerning appraiser appointment. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:05 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 11:06 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 11:06 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss negotiations, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(3), concerning appraiser appointment. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:16 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and appraiser Lisa Kellstadt attended the executive session.

At 11:17 AM the executive session ended. Commissioner Johnson motioned to extend the prior executive session for an additional five minutes. Alison seconded. The motion passed. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:22 AM.

At 11:22 AM the executive session ended. Commissioner Johnson motioned to extend the prior executive session for an additional five minutes. Alison seconded. The motion passed. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:27 AM.

Alison Made the motion to approve resolution 2025-12 to approve Lisa Kellstadt as appraiser for a four year term with a salary of \$81,102 (17T on pay matrix) pursuant to K.S.A. 19-432. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Alison suggested a mayor workshop with a desire to reintroduce the infrastructure mil. Jim shared it was pulled back in an effort to stay revenue neutral but he was not opposed to hearing from all mayors within Linn County.

With nothing further on the agenda, Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, June 30, 2025. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, vice chair; Jason Hightower, Member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Paletta, County Counselor (present virtually). Pastor Bob Conway of the First Methodist Church of Mound City led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$472,390.55: General Fund, \$210,564.28; Employee Benefit Fund, \$95,003.10; Appraiser Fund, \$17,221.91; Rural Fire, \$13,991.04; Road and Bridge, \$47,548.04; Equipment Reserve Fund, \$2,926.71; Law Enforcement Trust Fund, \$7,500.00; County Health Department, \$11,361.03; elderly fund, \$4,448.80; Payroll Clearing Account, \$61,825.64. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Jim motioned to approve the consent agenda With changes suggested by Alison. Alison seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

IT director, Chris Martin, spoke to commissioners about options for all employee communications. It was decided that each employee provides a phone number and email to communicate county-wide employee notifications.

Dawn Brooks provided the ambulance report for June 1-29<sup>th</sup>. Randy Hegwald Presented Fire calls for the month of June. He reminded commissioners that there will be a cyber-awareness training on July 9<sup>th</sup>. This is open and free to the public. He asked commissioners to allow county employees to attend with pay. Commissioners confirmed this will be up to department heads. Randy asked to trade 2014 Dodge pickup with Health department for a 2015 S Ford Expedition SUV the rural fire department of the same market value. Jason made to motion to approve this transfer between departments. Alison seconded. Motion passed unanimously. A house in Pleasanton was donated to Rural Fire for training purposes. Randy will be getting that agreement to County Counselor for review.

At 9:30 AM Lisa Kellstadt County Appraiser invited the commissioners to a retirement party celebrating three employees retiring this week with a combined 81 years of service to the county; Tina Aggers, Suzanne Purvis, and Karol Klopfenstien.

Chasity Ware, economic director, gave an update on Grace Nailer's availability to assist and digital promotion for the county. Alison asked about the airport strategic plan that was requested from her on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The airport lot split is currently being recorded in the Register of Deeds' office.

At 9:38 AM Planning and zoning director Ben Souza was asked for an update on his department and Ben allowed Jesse Walton to read to the commissioners a series of regulations for zoning and for building permits. This series of regulations supports that Sunshine Meadows Subdivision is within rights to continue with their project.

Jesse continued to present public works updates. The commissioners opened sealed bids for culverts, four were received; Metal Culverts Inc of Jefferson City, MO bids \$243,626.79; James A Drainage Products of Hutchison, KS bids \$151,057.90; Contec LLC bids \$29,357.40 and \$173,630.70; Wellborn Inc. of Salina, KS bids \$176,345.78. Jesse will qualify these and return next week with a recommendation. An update was provided for 900 Rd and 850 Rd. Hell's Bend Bridge is coming to completion with the new bridge being assigned a new number and the old bridge rubble will need removed. Jesse asked for Terracon to be paid \$5,479.75 out of ARPA funds. Jason made a motion to approve the request to pay the invoice for vertical expansion of the landfill with ARPA funds. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried. Jesse asked to seek request for proposals for two new landfill trucks with ARPA funds. Jason Hightower expressed concerns about affording two trucks. Jesse will return with available funds that will exceed the ARPA funds.

At 9:54 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:09 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and Jesse attended the executive session.

At 10:10 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session. Jesse requested a new hire for road 1 team. Alison made the motion to hire Ben Capps as equipment operator 1 non-CDL to start at 7-C on the pay matrix of \$17.03/ hour pending preemployment screening. Parker Senior Center has things remaining in the building that the city of Parker does not want. A list of items will be prepared and brought to the commission for surplus property resolution.

At 10:14 AM, public comments were opened. Jan Longnecker addressed the commission about appeal to planning and zoning committee decision. Sheriff James Akes provided the commission with a handout comparing the funds the sheriff's department brings in compared to counties of similar size. Mike White, Mound City, asked commission about the requested budget increase of district court. Alison confirmed that department asked for an additional \$50,000 for contractual needs to bring in more public defenders and court reporters. The wages of the judges are paid by the state of Kansas and not from the county funds. Mike stated he is bothered that Judge Purvis would request this increase with all the trouble he believes she has created in regards to her Tanglewood ruling earlier this year.

At 10:28 AM, public comments were closed.

Rob Dent spoke to commissioners as a representative of Craw-Kan sharing that there is a project to update internet service by upgrading copper lines with fiber. He was asking for the county to waive permit costs. Each road bore permits costs \$300 and Craw-Kan has already spent \$3,300. January 27, 2014 minutes were read by Alison to reference a motion for utility permits and fee limits. Research will be done and utility permit fees will be revisited on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

At 10:43 AM Jason motioned to recess for 5 minutes to resume at 10:48 AM. Jim Seconded. Motion passed. Christ Martin director of IT brought Central Square via phone call to the commissioners to discuss digital management services. Alison Hamilton expressed her interest in implementing Central Square software in place of Pubworks for better communication of project progress, reports, and updates of our county's public works department. A future date will be solidified for a demonstration from CentralSquare Technologies.

At 11:22 AM, Gordian Services made a presentation to the commissioners to provide a service as a middleman to assist in bid process for public works. They shared how they work in addition to how their services would increase the pool of interested and capable parties to participate in our projects that go out for bid.

At 11:52 Am, Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 20 minutes to conduct an interview pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the interviewee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:12 PM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Commission, Rose Mohler (HR) and candidate attended the executive session.

At 12:13 PM, Jim made the motion to extend the previous session for 15 more minutes to return at 12:28PM. Jason seconded. motion carried.

At 12:31 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Ben Souza returned to the commission to clarify that one undated appeal was submitted with 12 signatures and not 12 individual appeals that Jan Longnecker mentioned. Ben shared that there will be a planning and zoning committee meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dave Saker Made a request to be added to the towing rotation as Dave's Towing. The commissioners reviewed the application to return to rotation. Our current towing policy was weighed next to this application. Jason made the motion to not allow Dave Saker back into the tow rotation due the lack of location of the driver in Linn County and the felony. Alison seconded the motion. Motion carried.

County Clerk Danielle Souza presented Anti-Harassment training available through KCAMP insurance and at no cost. Commission advised to move forward with requiring Anti-Harassment, Anti-Bullying and anti-sexual harassment training to be made available and completed by all employees by the end of the year.

Jim motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-13, Fence viewing determination between property of Charles Self and Mark Isbell. Jason seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Reminder to public that commissioners will be participating in a budget workshop on Wednesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 Am in commission meeting room.

With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, July 7th, 2025. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, chairman; Alison Hamilton, vice chair; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Pastor Joe of the First Baptist Church of Mound City led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Jim moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$169,727.93: General Fund, \$102,916.49; Employee Benefit Fund, \$186; Appraiser Fund, \$1,127.48; Rural Fire, \$1,038.88; Road and Bridge, \$59872.99; County Health Department, \$1,717.42; elderly fund, \$2,785.55; Linn County Sewer Dist #1, \$83.12. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Jim motioned to approve the consent agenda With changes suggested by Alison. Alison seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Treasurer Janet Kleweno provided county's interest report for the second quarter. She estimates interest to be down from 950,000 to 700,000 annual due to reduced interest rates.

Sheriff's report read: Total prisoners in-55, total prisoners farmed in-34, total 911 calls-95, . AMR report of was read; total calls-26, total transport-12, average response time of 13:06 . Randy Hegwald presented fire call update for the month. At 10:13 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:18 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, Counselor, and Randy attended the executive session At 10:18 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Amanda Snyder provided monthly update from the health department as well as upcoming projects.

Chasity Ware, economic director, introduced a guest to provide information about OpenGov software; a procurement program to automate RFP process, supplier engagement, contract management and more priced at \$16,500-18,000 annually in addition to a one-time professional services fee of \$25,920 for the full suite, with reduced pricing options for less features.

At 10:10 AM public comment was opened. Jan Longnecker asked to speak with planning and zoning. Chairman Johnson agreed. Public comment closed.

At 10:12 AM, Ben Souza, planning and zoning director, addressed the commissioners. He gave an update on what planning and zoning committee activities. Jan Longnecker wishes to have a response from his KORA request that was submitted May 19<sup>th</sup>. There has been no response yet.

Jesse Walton, interim public works administrator, provided a department update for the week to the commissioners. Alison made the motion to approve BP2025-09 for Craw-Kan's 11 road crossings. Jim seconded. Motion passed. Alison made the motion to approve BP2025-10 for Mike Page to bury a waterline. Jim seconded. Motion carried.

At 10:33 AM, Jim motioned to recess for 5 minutes. Alison seconded. Motioned carried. The open meeting resumed at 10:38 AM.

Jesse qualified culvert bids and returned his referral. Alison made the motion to accept J&J Drainage products for \$151,067.90. Jim seconded. Motioned carried 2-0.

Dave Saker addressed the commissioners appealing his refusal to be added to towing rotation. There was a discussion with Dave. Dave was encouraged to reapply after he builds his home and lives in the county.

Jury room soundproofing was discussed. It has been asked of the commissioners to assign clear delegation of the project. There was discussion about what has been purchased and accomplished so far. Jesse addressed the commissioners with an update of his involvement. County counselor Jacklyn Paletta joined via phone call sharing that she knows some materials are in a storage unit but we do not have enough materials on hand. Alison reviewed prior minutes that the commission shared up to \$2,200 for materials to be purchased. Jesse will lead this project to seeing it finished.

At 11:10 AM Jim moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:25 AM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, Clerk, and Jesse attended the executive session.

At 11:25 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Stacey Reagan, district manager for soil conservation presented her budget request to the commissioners as well as an overview of the projects and services her agency provides to the county.

At 11:34 AM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 20 minutes for public works administrator interviews, the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the applicant. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 11:54 AM. Alison Hightown seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission attended the executive session.

At 11:56 AM Jim motioned to extend the prior executive session for an additional 15 minutes. Alison seconded. Motion carried 2-0. The open meeting will resume at 12:10 PM. At 12:09 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 12:10 PM Jim Johnson moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 20 minutes for public works administrator interviews, the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the applicant. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:30 PM. Alison Hightown seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission attended the executive session.

At 12:31 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Southeast Kansas Mental Health was discussed. Jim shared what surrounding counties are budgeting for that service. Jim made the motion to keep budgeted amount of \$49,385 to Tri-Ko for mental and intellectual disabilities same as prior year. Alison seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0. Budgeting talk continued until 12:57 PM.

With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, July 14th, 2025. Alison Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present was Alison Hamilton, vice chair; Jason Hightower, member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Paletta, County Counselor. Clerk Danielle Souza led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Alison moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Alison moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$570,013.04: General Fund, \$260,013.04; Employee Benefit Fund, \$129,084.16; Appraiser Fund, \$16,727.36; Rural Fire, \$3,645.49; Road and Bridge, \$54,537.06; SPC Road & Bridge, \$5,093.25; 911 Telephone Tax, \$66.94; County Health Department, \$15,030.64; SPARKS/CARES, \$5,479.75; elderly fund, \$3,677.91; Linn County Sewer Dist #1, \$0; Payroll Clearing Account, \$77,229.09. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Alison motioned to approve the consent agenda With changes suggested by Danielle. Jason seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Clerk Souza presented the appraiser's new hire request. Jason made the motion to hire Yer Yang to the appraiser's office pending preemployment to start at a rate of \$17.99, rate 8A on the pay matrix. Alison seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Jason read the sheriff's report, total prisoners 60; total 911 calls, 89; total calls for service, 550; cases opened, 22; cases closed, 7; vehicle crashes, 5.

Dawn Brooks presented the month-to-date ambulance update, total of 57 calls and 26 transports. Dawn also discussed with commissioners that she will ask the powers that be to negotiate the increase in annual fees.

Randy Hegwald provided a fire update. It was shared that Pleasanton is lacking equipment and will not be responding to calls until they acquire needed supplies. Randy shared the county will be covering all calls for Pleasanton. Commissioners were not in favor of loaning supplies to Pleasanton for liability reasons.

At 9:15 AM Chasity Ware, economic development director. Chasity asked for the approval of a part-time maintenance for the marina. Jason motioned to approve the hire of Frank Palumbo for part time park maintenance at 6B \$16.9195 hourly pending preemployment screening. The park report was presented to the commission with a monthly update on the income and expenditure for the year.

At 9:23 AM, Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 7 minutes to discuss trade secrets, pursuant to the trade secrets exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4), concerning real estate. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:30 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and Chasity attended the executive session.

At 10:30 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Denny Hardy Road 3 foreman spoke on behalf of Jesse Walton. Jason made a motion to accept the resignation of Al Doan from solid waste department and thanked him for his nearly 20 years of service. Alison seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0. Asphalt bids were opened, only two were received. Private Burial permit fee schedule was discussed. Denny and Jesse asked to reduce the fee cost for private purposes. Lake signs were priced for Critzer, Mound City, Blue Mound and Pleasanton lakes. Commissioners instructed Jesse and Denny to ask cities to split the cost of signs with county. It will be revisited August 4<sup>th</sup>.

At 9:44 AM Ben Souza, planning and Zoning director, updated commissioners with the committee meeting updates. A resolution will be presented to commissioners next week to update tower height specifications in the planning and zoning regulations. Alison spoke policy and procedure of notification to citizens when a change would affect them.

At 9:53 AM, Public comment was opened. Jan Longenecker expressed concerns about the handling of Kansas Open Records Act requests, specifically regarding building permit applications for the Sunshine Meadow subdivision. He highlighted delays in receiving requested information and inconsistencies in responses.

Sharon Welch, a Linn County Park tenant and camper, suggested budgeting alterations, for clarity. She also recommended considering more natural and safer alternatives to chemical spraying in fields, and expressed support for solar energy as a power backup option. Public comment was closed.

At 10:08 AM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss individual employees' performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 10:18 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and Clerk attended the executive session.

At 10:18 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 10:18 AM Budgets were discussed with Chairman Jim Johnson joining over the phone and budget CPA Scot Loyd attending via Microsoft Teams Video call to discuss the budget and deepen the understanding of the effect of revenue neutral or exceeding. At 11:34 AM, Jason made a motion to exceed revenue neutral by no more than 3.15 Mills. Alison seconded. Motion passed 2-1; Chairman Johnson Opposed. Jason made

the motion to have our exceeding revenue neutral hearing on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM. Alison Seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioners plan to discuss particular budgets at next week’s meeting. Shay Hanyasak will appear next meeting to share the proposed budget for Lake Region Solid Waste.

At 11:56 AM, Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss employment interviews and applications to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to protect the privacy of potential employee. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:10 PM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and Rose Mohler, County HR representative, attended the executive session.

At 12:11 PM the open meeting resumed. Alison motioned to extend the previous executive session for 10 minutes to return at 12:23. Jason Seconded. Motion passed 2-0. The Commission and Rose Mohler, County HR representative, and Clerk Danielle Souza attended the executive session.

At 12:23 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 12:23 PM Jason moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 15 minutes for legal advice from the County Counselor which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship, pursuant to the consultation with attorney exception listed in K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), concerning litigation. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:39 PM. Alison seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 12:39 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

At 12:40 PM Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss trade secrets, pursuant to the trade secrets exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4), concerning proprietary business in it’s relationship with the county. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 12:45 PM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission, and Counselor attended the executive session.

At 12:45 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

With nothing further on the agenda commissioner Hamilton moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, July 21st, 2025. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest:

Commission Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present was Alison Hamilton, vice chair; Jason Hightower, member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Paletta, County Counselor. Clerk Danielle Souza led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with invocation.

Alison moved to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Alison moved to approve the following pays/special pays, totaling \$570,013.04: General Fund, \$260,013.04; Employee Benefit Fund, \$129,084.16; Appraiser Fund, \$16,727.36; Rural Fire, \$3,645.49; Road and Bridge, \$54,537.06; SPC Road & Bridge, \$5,093.25; 911 Telephone Tax, \$66.94; County Health Department, \$15,030.64; SPARKS/CARES, \$5,479.75; elderly fund, \$3,677.91; Linn County Sewer Dist #1, \$0; Payroll Clearing Account, \$77,229.09. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Alison motioned to approve the consent agenda With changes suggested by Danielle. Jason seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Clerk Souza presented the appraiser's new hire request. Jason made the motion to hire Yer Yang to the appraiser's office pending preemployment to start at a rate of \$17.99, rate 8A on the pay matrix. Alison seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Jason read the sheriff's report, total prisoners 60; total 911 calls, 89; total calls for service, 550; cases opened, 22; cases closed, 7; vehicle crashes, 5.

Dawn Brooks presented the month-to-date ambulance update, total of 57 calls and 26 transports. Dawn also discussed with commissioners that she will ask the powers that be to negotiate the increase in annual fees.

Randy Hegwald provided a fire update. It was shared that Pleasanton is lacking equipment and will not be responding to calls until they acquire needed supplies. Randy shared the county will be covering all calls for Pleasanton. Commissioners were not in favor of loaning supplies to Pleasanton for liability reasons.

At 9:15 AM Chasity Ware, economic development director. Chasity asked for the approval of a part-time maintenance for the marina. Jason motioned to approve the hire of Frank Palumbo for part time park maintenance at 6B \$16.9195 hourly pending preemployment screening. The park report was presented to the commission with a monthly update on the income and expenditure for the year.

At 9:23 AM, Alison moved to recess from the Board of Commission meeting into executive session for 7 minutes to discuss trade secrets, pursuant to the trade secrets exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4), concerning real estate. The open meeting will resume in the Commission Room at 9:30 AM. Jason seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. The Commission and Chasity attended the executive session.

At 10:30 AM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

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At 9:53 AM, Public comment was opened. Jan Longenecker expressed concerns about the handling of Kansas Open Records Act requests, specifically regarding building permit applications for the Sunshine Meadow subdivision. He highlighted delays in receiving requested information and inconsistencies in responses.

Sharon Welch, a Linn County Park tenant and camper, suggested budgeting alterations, for clarity. She also recommended considering more natural and safer alternatives to chemical spraying in fields, and expressed support for solar energy as a power backup option. Public comment was closed.

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the motion to have our exceeding revenue neutral hearing on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM. Alison Seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioners plan to discuss particular budgets at next week’s meeting. Shay Hanyasak will appear next meeting to share the proposed budget for Lake Region Solid Waste.

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At 12:39 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

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At 12:45 PM the executive session ended. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

With nothing further on the agenda commissioner Hamilton moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, July 21st, 2025. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

July 21, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were commissioner Jason Hightower, commissioner Alison Hamilton; Danielle Souza, County Clerk. Pastor Mathew Young from Faith Chapel Church in Pleasanton led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with prayer.

Commissioner Jason Hightower called the meeting to order.

*Commissioner Jason Hightower moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

*Commissioner Alison Hamilton moved to approve the claims in the amount of \$262,450.26.*

*Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Commissioner Hamilton presented Add/Abate Orders 2024-270 and 2024-271 for a total refund of \$164.16.

*Commissioner Alison Hamilton moved to approve Add/Abate Orders 2024-270 and 2024-271 for a total refund of \$164.16. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Danielle Souza requested that Planning and Zoning be removed from the agenda as they don't have anything to present until next week. Commissioner Hamilton inquired whether the airport strategic plan discussion should wait until Commissioner Johnson is present. After brief discussion, they decided to proceed with the strategic plan presentation and potentially revisit it later. Commissioner Hightower confirmed that all budget discussions would be moved to next week due to Commissioner Johnson's absence.

*Commissioner Jason Hightower moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Commissioner Hamilton presented the Sheriff's Report for July 21, 2025:

Total prisoners: 56; 23 releases this past week; Total 911 calls: 84; Calls for service: 617; New cases open: 24; Cases closed: 6

Dawn Brooks, AMR Director, provided the monthly report for July 1-20, 2025; Total: 97 calls and 47 transports so far this month. Brooks reported that her team workshopped solutions the previous week and has another meeting scheduled for Thursday. She hopes to present solutions to the commission in the next week or so.

Randy Hegwald, Linn County Emergency Management and Rural Fire Chief, reported 6 calls for the week, bringing the yearly total to 361. He reminded everyone that the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) meeting would be Thursday at noon in the annex, with a meal served. Hegwald explained they changed the meeting time from evenings to daytime, resulting in increased attendance from 6-10 people to almost 40 registered participants.

Hegwald reported that pump testing on fire engines would begin this week, covering all trucks in the county including Linn Valley, LaCygne, and Pleasanton trucks. The contractor would be working for approximately three days.

Following up on last week's discussion, Hegwald has contacted a storm siren contractor who will visit in the next 2-3 weeks to evaluate where storm sirens are needed throughout the county. This will help develop a better project scope for the next five years.

Commissioner Hightower asked if any commissioners would be attending the LEPC meeting. Hegwald indicated he didn't have that information on his schedule but that the clerk should have sent out email notifications to the commissioners that morning.

Chris Martin, IT Director, provided a monthly update:

- 954 support tickets opened year-to-date with 940 closed; Five after-hours emergency callouts, mostly weather-related.
- Assistance and support was provided to justice center, jail, county-wide departments, weather stations, Fair grounds, emergency management, AMR, tower sites
- Removed all IT equipment from old sheriff's office
- Working on upgrading equipment grounding at all tower sites
- Upgrading all workstations to Windows 11 before Microsoft ends Windows 10 security updates in October

Chasity Ware, Economic Development Director, addressed the airport strategic plan, noting it was not yet complete as the airport committee would be meeting the following day. She presented what she had prepared so far but explained that Commissioner Hamilton was looking for a more detailed year-by-year plan.

Ware expressed concern about getting clear direction on airport investments, noting that when she brings costs for items like lights or fuel pump repairs to the commission, they typically say they're not going to invest money at this time. She questioned how to develop a plan if there's reluctance to make necessary investments.

Ware agreed to continue researching options and will provide a complete strategic plan by August 11th. She also mentioned the potential of incorporating a flight program and aviation school through the STARS program, with Commissioner Hamilton noting that one airport committee member is teaching a class and progress is being made with Fort Scott's new administration.

Jesse Walton, Public Works Administrator, and Chris Martin discussed communication devices for the road department. The analog radios currently in use will soon be outdated and the repeater on the tower needs replacement. Martin has secured loaner radios that can be programmed with multiple channels to prevent overlap in communications. These radios work off a cell phone system and function well even in areas with poor cell service.

The cost would be \$395 per device with a monthly service fee of \$7 each, compared to the current \$19 monthly expense for tablets. The department would keep the tablets for data entry but switch them to Wi-Fi only at the shops. This would result in cost savings with a return on investment in less than three years. The commissioners agreed to put this on the agenda for July 28th for a decision.

Walton presented Resolution 2025-14 regarding applications for utility construction in road right-of-way. The resolution would change the application and permit fees for private utilities to match those for public utilities at \$300 (\$100 application fee and \$200 permit fee per crossing/per mile).

*Commissioner Alison Hamilton moved to approve Resolution 2025-14, which aligns public and private utilities costs. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Walton presented Burial Permit Application 2025-11 from Dale Jackson for a private utility crossing on 100 Road.

*Commissioner Jason Hightower moved to approve Burial Permit 2025-11 for Dale Jackson on 100 Road for a private utility. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Walton discussed bids for the 1850 Road project. Two bids were received from Bettis Asphalt and Superior Bowen. Walton recommended Bettis Asphalt Construction at \$206,360 for the 1.2-mile repair. The work comes with a one-year warranty and could begin in about two weeks, with an estimated one-week completion time.

*Commissioner Alison Hamilton moved to approve the bid on the 1850 Road overlay for Bettis at \$206,360 for the 1.2 miles. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Walton presented service agreements for CAT equipment maintenance. Employee Dan Parsons provided details about the thousand-hour services performed by CAT technicians, explaining that they spend a full day on each machine, performing not just maintenance but also a multipoint inspection to identify potential issues. These services include valve adjustments, computer diagnostics, transmission clutch adjustments, and software updates that county mechanics aren't trained or equipped to perform.

The service agreements would cover three graders in Mound City: 120MQ at \$13,966.50, 140M at \$15,049.00, and 12H at \$13,139.50 for one year.

*Commissioner Alison Hamilton moved to approve entering into contracts with Foley for the 120M grader at \$1,396.65, the 140M grader at \$1,504.90, and the 12H at \$1,313.95 for a one-year contract. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Walton reported that a new hydraulic pump was installed on the Parker compactor and they would be changing the box on Thursday to evaluate performance. He also discussed the vertical expansion of the landfill and requested permission to proceed with a Request for Proposals (RFP).

*Commissioner Jason Hightower moved to go out for RFP on the vertical expansion for the C&D landfill. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Walton inquired about hiring another full-time maintenance person. The commissioners requested that he determine budget implications and bring the information back the following week.

Public comment was opened. Jan Longnecker addressed the commission regarding building permits for the Sunshine Meadow subdivision. He stated that she and his neighbors filed an appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals challenging the approval of two building permits from April 17th that were only revealed to them on July 8th despite multiple open records requests. Commissioner Hightower responded that he has reviewed the zoning regulations multiple times and believes the county has followed its regulations. When Longnecker asked if they have the right to appeal, Hightower stated that they would have that answer soon enough. Hightower added that he understands Longnecker's concerns but is siding with the legal advice the county has received.

Shay Hanysak, Regional Coordinator for Lake Region Solid Waste Authority, discussed aligning the Authority's budget process with Linn County's and the need to appoint two representatives and an

alternate. Johnny Taylor has been attending meetings, but formal appointments will follow after hiring a new Public Works Administrator. Hanysak emphasized the necessity for proper household hazardous waste management training.

*Commissioner Jason Hightower moved to approve the 2026 budget proposal from the Lake Region Solid Waste Authority and allow the chair to sign. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Jason Parker (GIS Mapping Administrator), Lori Cox (Supervisor Communications Sheriff's Office), and Randy Hegwald (Emergency Management and Rural Fire) presented a GIS story map for road closures. The map shows highways with road closures, includes pictures and descriptions, and allows users to zoom in to see exactly which section of a road is closed. Updates about future projects and timelines can also be included. Parker created a survey tool that would allow emergency management, sheriff's office, and public works to report issues by marking locations, uploading photos, and providing details. This information could be automatically emailed to dispatch and other relevant personnel. The commissioners expressed enthusiasm for the tool, noting it would be useful both for emergency management and for public information. They discussed how to promote awareness of the tool, with Commissioner Hamilton suggesting they could use social media to direct people to the county website during major events like flooding. The commissioners agreed to replace the current road closure map on the website with this new tool immediately to begin testing and familiarizing staff with it.

Vern Olson from Central Square and Jim Conigres, solutions consultant, presented a demonstration of their asset management solution. The presentation focused on System navigation and dashboards that can be customized by role, Work management, and Public request handling through apps and web forms. The commissioners noted the product seemed to meet many of their needs but indicated they were still researching other options. Commissioner Hightower stated they would circle back with Central Square in about a month with a decision on direction. After the demonstration, the commissioners discussed comparing the product with G Works, which purchased PubWorks (the county's current system). They decided to schedule a demonstration of G Works at a future commission meeting, noting that department heads most affected by the software should be involved in the decision-making process.

The county clerk presented a real estate purchase contract requiring approval in addition to the previously approved resolution for selling property in the LaCygne Industrial Park.

*Commissioner Alison Hamilton moved to allow for the real estate purchase contract between Linn County on Lot 7 at the LaCygne Industrial Park and D & F Property LLC in the amount of \$34,999 to be signed by the chair. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

*Commissioner Alison Hamilton moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Commission Chair

Attest:

County Clerk

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation**

The meeting was called to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Johnson. Brandon Clark, pastor of the Mound City Christian Church, provided the invocation.

Commissioner Johnson requested approval of the minutes as written.

*Motion to approve the minutes as written. Moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Alison Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

Commissioner Johnson requested approval of claims in the amount of \$610,340.72.

*Motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$610,340.72. Moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Alison Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

Danielle Souza reported there were no add or abate orders.

Commissioner Hamilton inquired about the Mulberry Quarry item, asking whether there would be another hearing or a review and vote. Ms. Souza clarified no additional hearing was needed, only a decision based on the Planning and Zoning Director's recommendation.

The Commission discussed allowing public comment on the quarry issue. After consultation with County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta, the Commission agreed to allow five minutes of speaking time for each of the four individuals (two for and two against) who had requested to be on the agenda.

*Motion to approve the agenda as discussed. Moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

**\*\*\*Executive Session: Attorney/Client Privilege - Litigation**

*Motion to go into executive session for 20 minutes with the three commissioners and the attorney for attorney-client privilege for litigation. Moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Commission returned at 9:27 AM. No action was taken.

**AMR**

Dawn Brooks, AMR Director, presented the monthly call report for July 1-27, 2025, detailing 130 calls and 64 transports across various locations in the county.

**Sheriff Report**

Commissioner Hamilton read the Sheriff's report for July 28, 2025, which included 56 total prisoners, 17 releases in the past week, 55 total prisoners in, 1 farmed out for competency evaluation, 37 farmed in, 4,211 jail contacts, 531 total calls for service, 40 civil service papers served, 7 inspection cases, 18 new cases opened, 7 cases closed, 5 vehicle crashes, 5 SRO activities, 0 bailiff contacts, 157 animal contacts with 44 resulting in calls for service, and 2 livestock out calls.

**Fire and Emergency Management**

Commissioner Hamilton read the Fire report in Randy's absence, stating there were 11 calls: 4 for rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 3 for hazardous conditions with no fire, 1 service call, 1 good intent call, and 2 false alarms. The total for the year was 372 calls.

**Register of Deeds**

Kristy Schmitz, Register of Deeds, announced she had hired a new clerk, Ashlee Mitchell, at \$17.99 per hour starting August 11th. She also officially announced her retirement effective October 17th after 20.5 years of service and requested her longevity pay at retirement.

The Commission thanked her for her service.

**Mapping**

Jason Parker, GIS/Mapping Administrator, reported that the road closure map is up and running on the website. He noted that Carol's retirement was completed on the 3rd, with Jessica taking over her position. He also mentioned they were busy with the temporary move to Bunker Hill while a health concern was being addressed in the appraisers building at 308 Chestnut.

Danielle Souza acknowledged Parker's work creating an elections map that would be beneficial for the county.

**Economic Development**

Chasity Ware, Economic Development Director, presented Resolution 2025-17 for Vision Zero, explaining it would allow the county to apply for grants if they chose to pursue them, with no binding requirements.

*Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-17 Vision Zero Resolution. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

Ms. Ware presented three logo options for Linn County branding. She explained the first option used patriotic red, white, and blue colors with the courthouse steeple. The second option added gray as a third color. The third option featured different fonts with the "established 1867" text displayed around the steeple.

Commissioner Hamilton expressed concerns about the use of red in the designs, suggesting it looked "confederate" and noting Linn County's free state history. She also expressed preference for a more modern design and requested seeing the current logo with updates as an option. Commissioner Hamilton further noted that if the steeple was to be the logo, the county should commit to maintaining it.

After discussion, Ms. Ware agreed to take the commissioners' feedback to the designer for revised options.

#### Planning and Zoning

Ben Souza, Planning and Zoning Director, presented information on the Cross subdivision. The owner was dividing 8.62 acres of commercial land east of Lacing into a 1.87-acre parcel and a remaining 6.39-acre parcel with plans to sell part of the property.

*Motion to approve the Cross lot split. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Jim Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Souza then presented CUP 25-04 for Mulberry Limestone for a rock quarry on 122.7 acres at 2400 Road and Valley Road. He reported the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval with a 6-0 vote. Conditions included compliance with regulations, operating hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday, no storage of explosives, concrete egress and ingress, dust control measures, pre-blast surveys for residents, a road management plan, and a 460-foot setback from roads and property lines.

Public comments were heard from:

- Stephanie Walker, who opposed the quarry citing the comprehensive plan's goals to protect natural beauty and rural character
- Dean Manuel from Austin Powder Company, who explained the pre-blast survey process
- Zach Walker, who presented research showing negative effects of quarries on property values
- Patrick Hugs, attorney for Mulberry Limestone, who argued for the project's benefits and compatibility with the area
- Matt Blesson and Jake Wade of Mulberry Limestone, who described their commitment to responsible operation and community involvement

After extensive discussion, Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to table the vote to August 18th, expressing concerns about legal aspects of the proceedings, but the motion died for lack of a second.

*Motion to approve Resolution 25-18, approving Conditional Use Permit 25-04 for Mulberry Quarry to permit and establish operation of a rock quarry in the agriculture zone, and accept the findings of the Planning and Zoning Commission with their six to zero vote with the conditions that were put in place, with an amendment to require a traffic study at the 2400 Road intersection at the quarry's expense. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Jim Johnson. Amendment to require traffic study moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Amendment passed 2-1 with Commissioner Hamilton opposed. Main motion passed 2-1 with Commissioner Hamilton opposed.*

#### Public Works

Jesse Walton, Public Works, presented several items:

- A request from Roger Carbon of the Fair Board to use the county's boom mower for creek bank maintenance for their fishing derby.

*Motion to approve assistance for the county fair's creek bank mowing. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

- Two burial permits for Page Enterprises:
- Permit 2025-12 for a one-inch water line on Auer Road south of East 700 Road
- Permit 2025-13 for a one-inch water line on West 1900 Road west of Farland Road

*Motion to approve Page Enterprise's burial permit 2025-12 on AU Road East 700 for a one-inch waterline. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously. Motion to approve burial permit 2025-13 on West 1900 Road west of Farland for a one-inch water line. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Jim Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.*

- A proposal to purchase handheld radios to replace two-way radios in equipment and shops. The quote from AT&T included four multi-bay chargers for \$980 and 25 portable units at \$395.99 each for a total of \$9,899.75, bringing the total cost to \$10,879.75.

*Motion to approve radio purchase for \$10,879.75 for 25 radios. Moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

- A request for the Commission to authorize signing documents for the 1095 mill and overlay project with KDOT.

*Motion to allow Jesse to sign the document for 1095 for the north half mill and overlay. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Jim Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.*

- Mr. Walton presented quotes from Enterprise Fleet for vehicle leasing: \$756.53 monthly for half-ton pickups and \$1,026.74 monthly for three-quarter ton pickups. The Commission agreed this seemed expensive and decided to wait for feedback from the Sheriff before proceeding.
- Mr. Walton updated the Commission on the courthouse roof insurance claim and soundproofing issues at the justice center jury room.

Commissioner Hamilton requested updates on the 900 Road bridge repair and lake signs. The Commission agreed to revisit the lake signs issue on August 18th and to work on a rural road county plan by August 11th.

#### Public Comment

No public comments were received.

#### [Towing Application](#)

Danielle Souza presented a towing application form developed with the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff James Akes noted they were also working on guidelines to accompany the application. The Commission agreed to revisit the topic the following week once both the application and guidelines were complete.

#### [Safety Action Plan](#)

This item was addressed during the Economic Development report regarding Vision Zero.

#### [Nudity Resolution](#)

County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta explained a proposed resolution regarding public nudity in unincorporated areas of the county. The resolution was prompted by an incident involving a person washing their car while nude with children nearby. Unlike public sexual activity, public nudity is not covered by state statute and requires local regulation.

Commissioner Hamilton requested to see examples of other county policies before taking action. The Commission agreed to table the item until August 11th.

#### [Exec Session: Legal](#)

This item was removed from the agenda.

#### [Exec Session: Hiring discussion Pub Works Admin](#)

*Motion to go into executive session for hiring discussion for Public Works administrator for 15 minutes with the three commissioners and Danielle. Moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Commission returned at 11:58 AM. No action was taken.

*Motion to go back into executive session for five minutes for legal with counsel, clerk, and the three commissioners regarding negotiation of job description. Moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Commission returned at 12:03 PM. No action was taken.

*Motion to recess into executive session for five minutes for contract negotiations with the three commissioners, Danielle, and Jesse Walton. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Commission returned at 12:10 PM. No action was taken.

*Motion to hire Jesse Walton as Public Works administrator at 16 Q, which is \$35.70 per hour, with an annual salary of \$74,263. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously. Motion to go into executive session for five more minutes for job description with Jesse, the three commissioners, Danielle, and Jacqueline. Moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Commission returned at 12:17 PM. No action was taken.

*Motion to go out for hiring a new position for Public Works assistant for two weeks starting today. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### [Exec session: Job performance](#)

*Motion to go into executive session for job performance for Economic Development with the three commissioners and Danielle for five minutes. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Commission returned and no action was taken.

*Motion to go back to executive session for five minutes for employee performance with three commissioners, Danielle, and Chasity Ware. Moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

The Commission returned at 12:30 PM.

#### [Budgets \(Health Dept., Mental Health, R&B, EE Benefits, Sheriff, Contingency\)](#)

##### [Health Department](#)

Amanda from the Health Department presented information comparing the county's health department budget to those of surrounding counties. She explained that Linn County's health department provides more accessible services than the multi-county department, including WIC services four times a week compared to one to two times a month in other counties.

Amanda noted that Linn County had left the multi-county health department in 2007 when they requested \$161,000 from the county. She explained that while the county tax portion of their current budget is only \$91,369, they provide more comprehensive services than would be available through multi-county.

Commissioners agreed that the current approach provides better service to citizens and supported continuing with the independent county health department.

##### [Mental Health](#)

The Commission discussed funding for Southeast Kansas Mental Health. Commissioner Johnson reported that other neighboring counties had significantly reduced or eliminated their funding, with Bourbon County giving nothing, and Allen and Anderson counties giving only \$1.

Commissioner Johnson expressed concerns about high administrative salaries at the organization. Commissioner Hamilton suggested there might be opportunities for continued partnership, particularly regarding mental health services for jail inmates, but at a reduced funding level.

*Motion to pay Southeast Kansas Mental Health \$0 for 2025. Moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously. Motion to give Southeast Kansas Mental Health \$0 for 2026 and reevaluate in 2027. Moved by Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Hightower opposed.*

Road and Bridge

Danielle Souza reported that Road 2 had been duplicated in the budget, resulting in a \$1.2 million error. The Commission discussed options for addressing this, with Commissioner Hamilton suggesting leaving some unencumbered cash in the fund rather than reducing the levy completely. The Commission agreed to review a finalized budget document on August 11th.

Employee Benefits

Ms. Souza reported that the benefits consultant had confirmed the budgeted amount for Blue Cross Blue Shield was accurate with little room for reduction.

Clerk's Office

Ms. Souza requested permission to investigate moving the county's credit cards from Landmark National Bank to F&M Bank, which would allow for in-person payments and potentially reduce late payments.

*Motion to allow the clerk to investigate the application and submit an application with F&M Bank for credit cards. Moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Jim Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.*

Adjournment

*Motion to adjourn. Moved by Commissioner Hightower, Motion seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.*

*The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM*

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

### **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation**

The meeting was called to order. Commissioner Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Joe of Mound City's First Baptist Church delivered the invocation.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### Approval of the Minutes of the previous meetings

*Commissioner Jim Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### Approval of Claims

*Commissioner Jim Johnson made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$112,778.79. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### Approval of Add/Abate/Refund Orders

*Commissioner Jim Johnson made a motion to approve add and abates number 2024-272, 2024-273, 2024-274, and an add of \$29.26. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### Approval of Agenda

Danielle Souza, from Administration, requested that the Treasurer be added to the longevity request agenda item along with the Register of Deeds.

*Commissioner Jim Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda with the requested changes. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Department Heads**

#### AMR

Dawn Brooks, AMR Director, presented the weekly report for July 27 through August 3. She reported the following calls and transports by location; total calls for the week were 47 with 22 transports.

#### Sheriff Report

Commissioner Jason Hightower read the Sheriff's report for August 4, 2025; Total prisoners: 60, 18 released this week, 59 current prisoners, 1 farmed out, 35 farmed in. Total 911 calls: 96. Jail contacts: 4,551. Calls for service: 574. Civil papers served: 21, VIN inspections: 10, New cases: 30, Cases closed: 6. Crashes: 10. SRO activities: 0. Bailiff contacts: 125 (51 calls for service). Livestock out: 2.

#### Health Department

The Health Department was not present but sent a report for the commissioners to review. Commissioner Jason Hightower noted that they had another busy month according to the report.

#### Fire and Emergency Management

Randy Hegwald, Lynn County Emergency Management and Rural Fire, reported 11 total calls for the week, bringing the yearly total to 383, which is above average for this time of year.

Hegwald reported that the LAPC meeting held two weeks ago in Mound City at the Annex was very well attended with 35 participants from various businesses, utility companies, and emergency personnel, compared to their typical 6-7 attendees. He stated they would continue to hold these meetings during the day to maintain the high level of participation.

Hegwald noted that fire crews were busy with calls and would be helping with fire standby at the fair. He mentioned that on Thursday, they would be at the fair spraying water for kids from 2-4 PM during Kids Day, and encouraged residents to bring their children.

Hegwald presented a verbal request from the City of Pleasanton to use some bunker gear from the county's surplus. He explained this was different from their previous request, as they were now asking for gear that is used to outfit new firefighters, rather than gear already assigned to people on both departments. Hegwald noted that Pleasanton has ordered their own gear but may have to wait 2-3 months for delivery. They requested three complete sets (helmet, boots, gloves, pants, and coats) from the county's surplus inventory.

Hegwald confirmed that Pleasanton would submit a formal written request outlining their liability for any damage to the equipment. He explained that the gear in question is surplus equipment previously used by firefighters who have left the department and that gear has a 10-year shelf life according to NFPA standards.

The commissioners indicated they had no issue with allowing Pleasanton to use the surplus gear with a written agreement in place regarding liability.

#### Planning & Zoning

Ben Souza, Planning and Zoning Director, presented a proposed amendment to the current zoning code regarding telecommunication towers. The amendment would be added to section 16.4.11 and would read: "A radio, cellular, television broadcast towers and/or station microwave transmitter and/or receiver tower and/or stations or any tower or other similar structure 100 feet or more in height either publicly or privately owned provided the location of every tower must such that is at least 110 percent of the height from all property lines."

Souza explained that this amendment would require a conditional use permit (CUP) for towers over 100 feet, while towers under 100 feet in agricultural land would not require a CUP. He noted that the setback would be 110% of the tower height from any property line. Souza stated that the Planning and Zoning Board had approved this amendment by a 6-0 vote.

The commissioners opened the floor for public comment on the tower regulation. Several residents spoke:

Marge Wake from Tanglewood expressed concerns about the clarity of the regulation and felt it should explicitly state requirements for towers less than 100 feet. She also raised concerns about towers being erected close to homes or recreational areas and requested the commissioners consider a minimum distance of 1,500 feet from residential or recreational areas due to potential health impacts.

Sky Ferris asked that the amendment be denied because it does not adequately address towers less than 100 feet tall. She expressed concern that changing the threshold from the previous 75 feet to 100 feet appeared to create a loophole to avoid oversight for an 80-foot tower proposed by People's Telecommunications. She raised concerns about electromagnetic radiation and health impacts.

Paul Griffith echoed these concerns and suggested using existing technologies like Starlink satellites rather than building new towers. He advocated for more public input and questioned the rationale behind changing the height requirements.

Jennifer Leach-Harlow from People's Telecommunications clarified that the amendment was not being changed specifically for her company's benefit but had been in process before their tower project was proposed. She explained that their tower project was intended to provide better internet service to Tanglewood residents who had requested improved speeds. She noted that fiber could not be buried there due to cost constraints and questioned why there were concerns about their proposed 80-foot 3G tower when there was already a 100-foot tower at the county fairgrounds where many people gather.

After discussion, the commissioners determined that the wording of the amendment was confusing and should be clarified. They decided to send the amendment back to the Planning and Zoning Board for revision to more clearly state that towers less than 100 feet would not require a CUP while towers 100 feet or more would require one. They also agreed that People's Telecommunications should proceed with their CUP application process for their proposed tower.

Public Works

Jesse Walton, Public Works Admin, presented a request from the City of Blue Mound to purchase culverts from the county for their FEMA repairs. The commissioners discussed how this might impact county inventory and agreed to help Blue Mound with some 12-inch culverts, but also suggested reaching out to all cities to see if a combined order could be placed to maximize buying power.

Walton requested approval to hire Tyson Freeman as a seasonal mower on pay scale 3-D at \$13.1238/hour, pending pre-employment checks.

*Commissioner Jason Hightower made a motion to hire Tyson Freeman as a seasonal mower at pay scale 3-D (\$13.1238/hour), subject to pre-employment checks. Commissioner Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Walton reported that Terren Ogden, who had been working as a seasonal mower in Blue Mound, had accepted a full-time position with the Fort Scott Fire Department.

Walton provided updates on several projects; the landfill vertical expansion project is progressing, awaiting a cost estimate from Tony Molini before bids. Al Gardner's report on the courthouse roof is still pending. Miscommunication in the justice center project has been resolved. The appraiser's building mold issue is fixed, and staff have returned. The 900 Road project started today, with expected culvert installation today and tomorrow, aiming for week's end completion, weather permitting.

Public Comment

No citizens came forward during the public comment period.

Old Business

Towing policy Revision

Danielle Souza presented revisions to the county's towing policy. She explained that she and Sheriff James Akes had compared the current policy with Bourbon County's policy and incorporated elements that added to the integrity of our document. The revisions strengthen protection against potential litigation and clarify procedures for going out of rotation in mass accident situations. The revised policy also ensures that both new applicants and existing towing companies on the rotation will read and agree to the changes.

*Commissioner Jason Hightower made a motion to approve Resolution 25-20, a revision to Policy Letter 2018-02 for the towing policy, and allow the chair to sign. Commissioner Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

New Business

Register of Deeds Longevity Request

Danielle Souza explained that Register of Deeds Kristy Schmidts, who had announced her retirement, requested approval for longevity pay despite not being employed through December. Souza noted that the county handbook policy states that the commission will revisit the amount of longevity given per year, which has historically been \$25 per year of service for a full year from January to December.

Souza reported that Kristy has served 20 years as an elected official in the Register of Deeds office, which would amount to \$500 in longevity pay. Additionally, Treasurer Janet Kleweno, who has been an elected official for 8 years and has worked for the county for 37 years as a full-time employee, is also requesting longevity pay of \$925.

Commissioner Johnson suggested tabling the matter until all three commissioners could be present to discuss it. The commissioners deliberated on the implications of deviating from the handbook policy, which specifies that longevity pay is for employees who have served a full year from January to December. Both Register of Deeds Kristy Schmidts and Treasurer Janet Kleweno, who are retiring in October, had asked for longevity pay despite not working until the end of the year. It was noted that other employees who retired earlier did not receive the longevity pay but did get retirement gifts (which are separate from longevity pay). Commissioner Hightower

acknowledged the substantial service provided by both Kristy and Janet, highlighting Kristy’s 20 years in the office and Janet’s 37 years as a full-time county employee. However, due to the significance of the decision and to ensure a fair and thorough discussion, the commissioners agreed to defer the decision until all were present. They planned to revisit the issue at the next meeting.

Grievance

Danielle Souza reported that an employee who reports directly to the commissioners had filed a grievance against Commissioner Alison Hamilton. She explained that, according to the handbook, the supervisor directly above the individual filing the grievance should try to resolve the issue first, which in this case would be the commissioners. The handbook specifies that supervisors have 8 working days to attempt to resolve the issue.

Commissioners Johnson and Hightower discussed the process of addressing the grievance and agreed to approach the situation by scheduling individual meetings with the employee to gather necessary information. Both commissioners emphasized the importance of conducting these meetings individually to ensure that they fully understand the employee’s perspective. Once they have gathered information from these meetings, they plan to discuss the matter further during the next meeting.

The commissioners acknowledged the limitations imposed by the handbook, which confines their discussion of the grievance to open sessions. They recognized the complexity of the situation and the need to adhere to the handbook’s prescribed timeline and procedures. As the grievance implicated a fellow commissioner, the importance of a thorough and unbiased review was stressed, ensuring that all parties involved had the opportunity to express their perspectives.

Adjournment

*With no other business to discuss, commissioner Jim Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Attest:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chair

August 11, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:04 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair; Alison Hamilton, vice chair; Jason Hightower, Member; Danielle Souza, County clerk; Jacklyn Paletta, County Counselor. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Father Barry Clayton from the Catholic Church of La Cygne and Mound City offered the invocation.

Motion by Commissioner Jim Johnson to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Commissioner Jason Hightower. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Jim Johnson to approve the claims in the amount of \$557,531.60. Seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton. Motion carried.

Danielle Souza explained that an add and abate that was approved last week needed to be categorized as an escape tax rather than an add. The addition of \$24 to the tax roll was already approved, but needed a new number and reapproval.

Motion by Commissioner Jim Johnson to approve the change order on add and abate number 2024-275. Seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton. Motion carried.

Danielle Souza requested changes to the agenda, including adding IT to the department heads. County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta requested adding executive sessions for litigation (15 minutes), job description for planning and zoning (10 minutes), and job performance for economic development (20 minutes). Commissioner Hamilton requested adding employee performance executive session with Randy Hegwald (10 minutes), and discussion of the resignation of Elizabeth Satan to new business. Danielle Souza also requested adding budget conversations.

Motion by Commissioner Jim Johnson to approve the changes to the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Jason Hightower. Motion carried.

AMR representatives were not present, but the report was emailed to commissioners individually.

Commissioner Jason Hightower read the Sheriff's report, which included: 51 total prisoners, 19 releases, 50 prisoners in, 1 farmed out, 34 farmed in from other facilities, 66 9-1-1 calls, 4,154 total jail contacts, 608 total calls for service, 26 service papers served, 11 VIN inspections, 30 new cases opened, 11 cases closed, 4 vehicle crashes, 0 SRO activities, 170 bailiff contacts, and 1 livestock out.

Randy Hegwald, Linn County Rural Fire and Emergency Management, reported 12 total calls for the week, bringing the yearly total to 396. He reported that crews participated in the county fair's kids' day, bringing a truck and spraying water for the children. The department deployed assets at the fair, including a tower approved by commissioners that was used by the sheriff's office and fair board, as well as a light tower.

The Commission entered into a 10-minute executive session for employee performance with the three commissioners, the attorney, and Randy Hegwald. No action was taken upon returning to open session.

The Commission entered into a 10-minute executive session for planning and zoning job description with the three commissioners and Jacklyn Paletta. No action was taken upon returning to open session.

Ben Souza, Planning and Zoning Director, reported on the upcoming planning and zoning meeting, stating they would primarily discuss battery energy storage codes to be incorporated into regulations. He noted they would also be voting on a new chairperson and vice chairperson.

Darin Wilson addressed the Commission regarding cell tower regulations. He explained that there was confusion about the wording in Resolution 2025-19, which needed to clearly state that towers require a conditional use permit and compliance with specified requirements. After lengthy discussion about whether all towers or only those 100 feet or taller should require conditional use permits, the Commission voted on the resolution.

Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower to approve Resolution 2025-19, a resolution amending Article 16 of the Linn County zoning regulations. Seconded by Commissioner Jim Johnson. Opposed by Commissioner Hamilton. Motion passed 2-1.

Wilson also raised an issue about a conditional use permit for a ministry in Pleasanton that was denied by planning and zoning but never formally voted on by the Commission. Ben Souza agreed to contact the applicant to determine if they want to withdraw and reapply or have the Commission vote on the original application, with the Commission agreeing to waive the fee if they reapply.

Jesse Walton, Public Works, requested the transfer of a 2001 Ford Excursion from the fire department to public works to use as a commuter vehicle for staff attending trainings.

Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton to approve the transfer of the 2001 Ford Excursion from fire to public works. Seconded by Commissioner Jim Johnson. Motion carried.

Walton presented CrawKan's burial permit 2025-14 for 18 road crossings in the Prescott area.

Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton to approve burial permit 2025-14 for CrawKan for 18 road crossings around Prescott. Seconded by Commissioner Jim Johnson. Motion carried.

Walton reported that KwikComm provided a map of their installed fiber line, and all surface issues had been fixed. He was waiting for KiwkComm to provide documentation of the burial depth before final approval.

Walton reported that the propane bid had expired and requested approval to go out for bid again, which the Commission supported.

Walton notified the Commission of Denny Hardy's resignation, effective August 22, 2025. The Commission directed Walton to post both the south shop foreman and north shop foreman positions and to review the job descriptions.

Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightwoer to accept Denny Hardy's resignation as of August 22, 2025, and express thanks for his years of service. Seconded by Commissioner Jim Johnson. Motion carried.

Walton provided updates on road projects, including the 900 Road culvert installation project, which was delayed due to rain but expected to be completed by Wednesday or Thursday. He reported that the 1850 Road overlay was complete and that crews were patching serious potholes on 1700 Road between Jerome and Evangeline.

Ralph Kelsey, board member of Tanglewood Lake, thanked the Commission and Jesse Walton for the resurfacing of 1850 Road, noting he had received many positive comments from Tanglewood residents.

The Commission discussed requests from the Register of Deeds and Treasurer for longevity pay. Danielle Souza explained that county policy states longevity is given to employees who work the entire calendar year from January to December, at \$25 per consecutive year of service. Janet, the Treasurer, has been a full-time employee for 37 years (8 as an elected official), and Kristy, the Register of Deeds, has been an elected official for 20 years.

Commissioners debated whether to make exceptions to the policy, with Commissioner Hamilton noting that Janet did not have a choice about her October retirement date due to the state's budget closure schedule for treasurers.

Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton not to approve the Register of Deeds' longevity pay. Seconded by Commissioner Jim Johnson. Opposed by Commissioner Hightower. Motion passed 2-1.

Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton to approve Janet Kleweno's longevity pay. Seconded by Commissioner Jason Hightower. Opposed by Commissioner Jim Johnson. Motion passed 2-1.

The Commission entered into a 20-minute executive session for economic development job performance with the three commissioners and Jacklyn Paletta, followed by a 10-minute executive session for legal matters with Commissioners Johnson and Hightower, Jacklyn Paletta, and Chasity Ware. No action was taken during either executive session.

In response to a grievance, Commissioner Hightower stated that it's the Commission's desire for all employees to be treated professionally, emphasizing that all three commissioners collectively act as supervisors, not any individual commissioner. He stressed the goal of maintaining professionalism that exceeds employee expectations.

Commissioner Johnson added that while commissioners may have different ideas, the majority vote determines the Commission's actions.

Commissioner Hamilton raised a question about how commissioners should respond when employees reach out to them individually, noting the importance of maintaining professionalism while acknowledging that commissioners are only "one-third" of leadership.

Other business discussed included:

- A request for metal detecting at the industrial park in Pleasanton, which will be researched further
- A correction to a typo in a land sale contract for the La Cygne Industrial Park
- The Commission's interest in looking into increasing payments received through the PILOT program for refuge land
- An update on the county budget for 2026

Danielle Souza reported she had sent out notices of intent to change property tax to all property owners but had made a mistake on the Parker Library District number, entering \$1,114,000 instead of \$114,000. She was working with the state to determine if a correction needed to be sent.

Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Jim Johnson. Motion carried.

With nothing further on the agenda Jason Hightower moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, August 18, 2025. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair; Alison Hamilton, Vice Chair; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Poletta, County Counselor. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Matlidah Dondo from the United Methodist Church of La Cygne offered invocation.

Commissioner Jim Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Commissioner Jim Johnson made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$139,664.37. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hamilton. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Commissioner Jim Johnson asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Commissioner Alison Hamilton requested to add an item at 11 AM for Kyle Lewis from Evergy via phone call, including commissioners and attorney in an executive session for 10 minutes regarding contract negotiations.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton also requested to move the grievance item to August 25<sup>th</sup> due to her absence on September 2<sup>nd</sup> (the rescheduled date for the September 1<sup>st</sup> holiday meeting).

Commissioner Jim Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes made.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Dawn Brooks from AMR presented the call report for August 1-17: Blue Mound had 11 calls with 4 transports, Centerville had 6 calls with 2 transports, Lisene had 21 calls with 9 transports, Linn Valley had 4 calls with 2 transports, Mound City had 22 calls with 9 transports, Parker had 4 calls with 2 transports, Pleasanton had 12 calls with 9 transports, and Prescott had 6 calls with 2 transports, totaling 86 calls and 39 transports.

The commission returned from executive session with no action taken.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton read the sheriff's report for August 17, 2025: 53 total prisoners in, 1 farmed out, 34 farmed in, 91 911 calls, 4,453 jail contacts, 578 total calls for service, 23 civil service papers served, 10 VIN inspections, 31 new cases opened, 12 cases closed, 5 vehicle crashes, 2 SRO activities, 128 Bayless contacts, and 8 livestock out calls.

Randy Hegwald, Linn County Emergency Management and Rural Fire Chief, reported 6 calls for the week, including 2 structure fires, bringing the yearly total to 402. He requested to use funds from an education fund to pay for national hazmat tests for about 10 firefighters, at approximately \$45-46 per test. The commissioners asked Randy to investigate the fund's status and report back next week.

Chris Martin, Linn County IT Director, provided a monthly update. He reported 1,088 tickets opened year-to-date, with 1,072 closed and 16 currently open. Recent activities included setting up equipment for SROs at schools, assisting with fairground equipment setup, planning to replace network feed cables at the fairgrounds, setting up network connectivity for temporary offices at Bunker Hill, correcting a network antenna alignment at station 910, and writing software to connect mesh nodes, JPS locators, and radio locator beacons for AVL systems and dispatch. He also mentioned completing an insurance claim for a lightning strike at the Mound City Tower and working on setting up network and radio equipment at Linn Valley and Lacey water towers.

Chris also reported that the county has registered the domain Linncountyks.gov and is nearly finished upgrading to Windows 11 across all systems.

Matt Casner presented updated logo designs for Linn County. He explained the reasoning behind the designs, including the incorporation of Civil War history and the county courthouse. Commissioners provided feedback on the designs, with Commissioner Alison Hamilton expressing a preference for the first design but requesting to see a revision of the current logo. The commissioners agreed to have Matt return with another round of designs and potentially conduct a public survey on the logo options.

Chasity Ware reported that the new docks at the lake were installed at a lower cost than initially quoted, as the contractor agreed to buy back some pieces of the old dock. She also mentioned that the roof on cabin number 4 has been replaced.

Ben Souza, Planning and Zoning Director, reported that the applicant for the Making Disciples Cup had verbally withdrawn their application and did not plan to reapply. He also mentioned that Dave Fisher was elected as chairman and Hal Ager as vice-chairman of the Planning and Zoning Board. The board is currently short four members, which is causing issues with holding hearings. Commissioners agreed to publicize the need for new members for districts 1 and 2.

Jesse Walton from the Public Works department introduced Denny Hardy to discuss lake signs. Denny reported that Pleasanton agreed to pay for their signs, while he was still waiting to hear back from Mound City and Blue Mound. For Critzer Lake, maintained by the county, four signs were needed at a total cost of \$296.

The commissioners requested to see the contract regarding Critzer Lake maintenance at the next meeting. They also discussed the responsibility for printing brochures for Critzer Lake and agreed to add it to the next meeting's agenda.

Commissioner Jim Johnson made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes with Jesse Walton, Jacqueline, and Rose Mohler from HR to discuss employee performance. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Commissioners Jim Johnson and Alison Hamilton entered into executive session with their attorney to discuss contract negotiations with Evergy for 10 minutes. They later extended the executive session for an additional 15 minutes, this time including Public Works Director Jesse Walton. No action was taken following either executive session.

Several citizens addressed the Commission:

Chasity Ware, Economic Development Director, announced her immediate resignation. She expressed frustration over what she described as dysfunction, lack of professionalism, and micromanagement during her nine months of employment. Ware cited specific incidents with Commissioner Hamilton, including claims of bullying behavior and inappropriate comments. She thanked Commissioner Johnson for his professionalism and encouraged leadership based on "trust, humility, and accountability."

Jackie Taylor, Linn County News, clarified the circumstances surrounding a recent special edition newspaper publishing the county's budget notice. Ms. Taylor explained that due to communication issues, the county's budget notice was not included in the regular edition, requiring an emergency special edition costing approximately \$750. She emphasized that the newspaper does not selectively choose which public notices to print and took immediate action to ensure the notice was published by the required deadline.

Renee Slinkard announced that KDOT has a fall 2025 cost share program with potential for approximately \$1 million in construction reimbursement for the Devlin Road chip and seal project. She noted the application period opens August 11th and closes September 17th, and requested moving forward with the application in coordination with Miami County. Commissioner Hamilton indicated they would discuss this in conjunction with the rural road county plan later in the meeting.

Mike Murray inquired about property tax increases and expressed concern about where tax money is being allocated. He asked about maintenance schedules for county property and questioned the fairness of property value assessments. The county counselor explained that the appraisal formula comes from the state and must be applied consistently across Kansas.

Skye Feris expressed disappointment with the Commission's vote to approve an amendment to Article 16 of the zoning regulations regarding telecommunications towers. She argued that citizens deserve notification through the conditional use permit process about towers being built near them. Ms. Feris also questioned whether Commissioner Hightower had a conflict of interest due to his service on the board of People's Telecommunication.

Kevin Amer expressed concern about employee retention, noting that the county continues to lose good employees. He suggested the Commission prioritize employee relations and follow through on previously discussed employee appreciation efforts.

Public comment was closed.

The Commission reviewed job descriptions for the Public Works Administrator, Assistant Public Works Administrator, and Road Foreman positions. Jesse Walton, Public Works Administrator, confirmed that certain duties listed on the descriptions, such as weekly safety meetings, do occur. The Commission discussed minor corrections, including removing a reference to "two assistant road foremen" when there is only one.

After discussion, the Commission agreed to proceed with posting the positions while the job descriptions are finalized. Commissioner Hamilton noted that they had intended to post these positions three weeks ago.

Commissioner Johnson and Hamilton agreed to seek Commissioner Hightower's input on the job descriptions before finalizing them.

The Commission briefly discussed a proposed nudity resolution requested by the Sheriff's Office. County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta explained that while Kansas state law addresses public nudity for sexual gratification, the proposed resolution would give the Sheriff's authority to respond to other instances of public nudity, such as those related to mental health issues.

Commissioner Hamilton expressed opposition to the resolution and mentioned she had contacted Blue Mound, noting their city council had not been notified of the situation. A discussion followed about county jurisdiction in cities without police forces. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Commissioner Johnson suggested deferring the rural road county plan discussion until Commissioner Hightower could be present, as this agenda item was related to Renee Slinkard's earlier comments regarding the KDOT cost share program.

The Commission discussed the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and employee benefits for the upcoming budget. County Clerk Danielle Souza presented a spreadsheet showing the impact of 1%, 2%, and 3% COLA increases, which would cost approximately \$303,000 for a 3% increase.

Commissioner Johnson noted that the county's health insurance costs increased significantly, from \$2,350,000 to \$2,800,000, a 19% increase or approximately \$3,000 more per employee annually. He expressed his opinion that this increase essentially represents a \$1.50 per hour raise for employees and stated he was not in favor of an additional COLA increase this year.

Commissioner Hamilton requested more time to consider the information before making a decision at the upcoming budget hearing on August 25th.

The Commission also discussed the county's portion of property taxes compared to other taxing entities like school districts, libraries, and townships. Commissioner Johnson emphasized that the Commission controls less than half of the tax dollars collected.

Other budget-related items discussed included:

- A pending decision on whether to release \$332,000 previously budgeted for the STARS program
- Commissioner Hamilton requested an MOU and clarification on ownership of the STARS building and how the funds would be allocated
- The County Counselor explained that once funds are budgeted, the Commission cannot dictate how they are spent unless specified in the original agreement

With nothing further on the agenda, Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Monday, January 25th, 2025. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

August 25, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair; Alison Hamilton, Vice Chair; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Poletta, County Counselor.

Commissioner Johnson called the Linn County Hearing to order followed by the pledge of allegiance and Pastor Caleb Richardson of Mound City First Baptist Church led the invocation.

Commissioner Jim Johnson moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jim Johnson moved to approve claims in the amount of \$708,158.60. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jim Johnson moved to approve reduction on the add and abates number 2024-276, 2024-277, and 2024-278 in the amount of \$1,350. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jim Johnson moved to approve the agenda with changes. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dawn Brooks presented the monthly report for August 1-24, stating there were 130 calls and 59 transports. A breakdown by area was provided. Discussion followed regarding the scheduling of a meeting with AMR, as Jason was absent. The Commission entered into a 10-minute executive session for contract negotiations with AMR, the attorney, and commissioners. No action was taken following the executive session.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton read the sheriff's report: 46 total prisoners, 19 releases past week, 1 farm DOT, 34 total farm inmates, 76 total 911 calls, 3,853 total jail contacts, 586 total calls for service, 29 total civil papers served, 8 VIN inspections, 29 new cases opened, 9 cases closed, 3 vehicle crashes, 4 SRO activities, 235 bailiff contacts, and 1 livestock out.

Randy Hegwald reported 10 calls for the week, bringing the yearly total to 412, which is 50 calls ahead of the same time last year. He requested permission to use budgeted training funds from the EMS education line item in the general fund for firefighter training.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton moved to authorize Randy Hegwald to allocate \$2,300 for books out of commodities and \$1,000 out of contractual from the EMS education line item in the general fund.

Commissioner Jim Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Commission reviewed the District Court budget request. After discussion about the significant increase in contractual expenses and lack of capital outlay plan, they decided to reduce the requested amount.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton moved to reduce the District Court budget to \$210,300 for 2026.

Commissioner Jim Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ben Souza reported that Planning and Zoning is down four members in districts 1 and 2, leaving only five members. This creates challenges in maintaining quorum for meetings and hearings, which has already caused one hearing to be rescheduled.

Jesse Walton, public works administrator discussed several items:

- He requested a 15-minute executive session with commissioners, Jacqueline, and Rose for employee performance matters. No action was taken after the session.
- Presented information about the Commission Room door needing to comply with fire code. Randy Hegwald will work with the State Fire Marshal to determine requirements and options.
- Presented an Everygy stream restoration project on 2400 Road north of the power plant. Everygy will fund the project 100%, which will improve water flow and reduce erosion. The Commission decided to wait for Jason's review since it's in his district.
- Discussed Everygy's structure replacement project requiring new entrances off county roads. Everygy is replacing 140 structures and needs 10 entrances.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton moved to approve 10 entrances for Everygy at \$1,000 on the application fee. Commissioner Jim Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Presented information on the Baskerville Culvert, which is deteriorating and needs replacement. He requested permission to have the on-call engineer conduct a hydraulics and hydrology study to determine proper sizing for replacement. The Commission approved.
- Provided updates on the landfill berm installation and vertical expansion plans, as well as ongoing road paving projects.

Chairman Jim Johnson opened the floor for public comment.

- Jim Hendershot expressed concerns about the county's handling of his open records request regarding animal control regulations. He requested reimbursement of \$44 he was charged and noted concerns about meeting minutes and agendas not being posted in a timely manner.
- Angie Randall spoke in support of the nudity policy for the county, explaining how it would help law enforcement handle situations involving individuals under the influence of drugs who remove their clothes.
- Marge Wake thanked Commissioner Hamilton for her vote against the cell tower regulations. She expressed concerns about the lack of transparency in the process and hoped the county would take a stronger stance in protecting citizens' health.

Old Business

Mike Murray was unable to attend due to illness.

Jennifer Leach-Harlow from Peoples Telecommunications expressed frustration over the confusing process regarding the cell tower zoning case. She sought clarification on the status of the Planning and Zoning

Commission's recommendation that was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on August 11. County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta confirmed that the amended regulations were officially approved and Peoples Telecommunications could proceed with their plans.

Commissioner Hamilton proposed changes to the Public Nudity Resolution, including removing certain text in Section 3 and changing the age in Section 4 from "under the age of 4" to "under the age of 5." After discussion about appropriate age thresholds, it was determined the resolution would be updated and brought back for a vote.

Rural Road County Plan discussion was tabled until September 15 when all three commissioners would be present.

In regards to item Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), Sheriff James Akes spoke about employee benefits and wages. He expressed concerns about the lack of communication regarding potential changes to health insurance and suggested that employees would prefer to pay more to keep Blue Cross Blue Shield. He noted that while the Sheriff's Office wages are close to competitive, he believes county wages could be improved. He emphasized the importance of cost of living adjustments to keep pace with rising costs and requested better communication with employees on benefit decisions.

Commissioner Hamilton reported that she had submitted a work order regarding issues with the 4-H building kitchen, which was not working during the fair. She requested a comprehensive list of safety issues that need to be addressed and replacement needs, emphasizing that if the county is maintaining the building, the kitchen should be in working order.

Commissioner Jim Johnson moved to change the regular scheduled meeting next week from Monday to Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 9:00 AM to accommodate Labor Day. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

With nothing further on the agenda Jim Johnson moved to adjourn until 9:00 AM Tuesday, September 2, 2025. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Commission Chair

Attest:

County Clerk

August 25, 2025

Revenue Neutral Hearing and Budget Hearing

The Board of Linn County Commission met in a special hearing to discuss exceeding revenue neutral rate for Linn county at 11:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair; Alison Hamilton, Vice Chair; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Poletta, County Counselor; and Scot Loyd, Contracted CPA.

Commissioner Johnson called the Linn County Hearing to order. He welcomed everyone present for the revenue neutral rate hearing and explained that the purpose of the hearing was to listen to and answer objections of taxpayers related to the revenue neutral rate and proposed tax rate as required by statute 79-2988.

Commissioner Johnson opened the hearing for public comments, allowing each person three minutes to voice their concerns.

Kathleen Hampton, a Linn County resident, expressed concern about the 23% overall increase in her property taxes, with a 30% increase specifically on her residence. She mentioned being on a restricted income at 81 years old and stated that the tax increase was beyond her budget, especially with rising insurance costs.

Rhonda Cron, who has lived on her property for 42 years, stated that her property taxes had doubled in one year with no improvements to her 1,200 square foot home. She noted that on Social Security, such a dramatic increase was devastating.

Sherry Nutt from Sugar Valley Lake complained about a 70% increase in her property assessment despite no improvements to her 600 square foot home. She expressed frustration that residents were being "taxed out of their homes" and questioned what services Sugar Valley Lake residents received from the county in exchange for their taxes.

Robert Tyson, whose family has been in Linn County for 154 years, stated that despite the power plant paying 60% of the county's property taxes, Linn County's property taxes were higher than surrounding counties. He suggested that government size had expanded too much, and suggested that decreasing spending by 20% would make the county more competitive. He thanked Commissioner Johnson for voting against the tax increase.

Sandy Sands from Sugar Valley Lake reported that her lot taxes increased by 667% between 2023 and 2024. She questioned whether anything could actually be done to address these increases or if the public hearing was merely a formality.

Dave Inloes, a four-year resident of the county, pointed out that the mill levy, not property appraisals, was what the commissioners controlled. He suggested that after public safety and infrastructure, everything else was "fluff" and encouraged difficult decisions to keep people in the county.

Kansas Senator Karen Tyson thanked the commissioners for remaining revenue neutral in previous years. She noted that the county valuation went up approximately 9%, and the proposed increase was also 9%. She suggested looking at the overall government structure.

Warren Road stated that for the last four years, Linn County has been one of the highest counties in the state for raising property taxes, with increases over 20%. He urged the commissioners to bring taxes down.

Jeffrey Lund, a resident since 2001, expressed concern that the tax increases were driving people away from Linn County, just as they had left Johnson County for similar reasons. He shared that his vacant lot had increased in value from \$10,000 to \$40,000 despite having no improvements.

Asah Muhammad, who moved to Linn County in 2021, urged the commissioners to fight for residents' interests and find solutions to the tax burden. He asked the commissioners to "be the scientists" for resolving the issue and to "trim the fat" from budgets.

Following the public comments, the County Appraiser, Lisa Kellstadt, explained how property appraisals are determined. She clarified that she is bound by statute to appraise at market value and must follow state statutes and universal appraisal practice standards. She detailed the process of analyzing sales, interviewing buyers and sellers, and building depreciation tables based on local market data. She emphasized that her office analyzes all 19,282 parcels in the county through a mass appraisal process and that property owners have multiple appeal options if they disagree with valuations.

The County Counselor confirmed that commissioners do not dictate how the appraiser conducts appraisals. Senator Karen Tyson provided information about a property tax freeze program for seniors and disabled veterans, noting that the household income threshold is approximately \$58,000 per year, minus Social Security income; this is commonly referred to as the Kansas Homestead Credit. She emphasized that the property tax system is broken and described efforts at the state level to implement a constitutional amendment that would limit taxable value increases to 3% or less annually.

After discussion among the commissioners regarding the revenue neutral rate and budget options, Commissioner Johnson expressed his preference for staying at the revenue neutral rate.

Commissioner Johnson moved that the county stay at revenue neutral. Commissioner Hamilton seconded. The motion failed with a 1-1 vote (Commissioner Johnson in favor, Commissioner Hamilton opposed). Since the motion to stay at revenue neutral failed but no motion to exceed revenue neutral passed, the default position became that the county must stay at revenue neutral.

Immediately following the conclusion of the Revenue neutral hearing, Chairman Johnson Budget Hearing to order and opened public comment.

Senator Karen Tyson suggested looking at the economic development position that was recently vacated as a potential area for budget savings, questioning what Linn County had gained from this position in

recent years.  
Commissioners discussed the need to schedule budget workshops to identify necessary cuts to stay within the revenue neutral rate. County CPA Scott Lloyd provided information about the county's current budget situation and potential approaches to reducing the budget, noting that a 2% cut across the board would yield approximately \$441,000 in savings per year.  
Commissioner Johnson moved to schedule budget workshops on September 15th, 22nd, and 29th following the regular meetings. Commissioner Hamilton seconded. Motion carried unanimously.  
Commissioner Johnson moved to close the budget hearing and adjourn. Commissioner Hamilton seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission Chair

Attest:

County Clerk

September 2, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair; Jason Hightower, Member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Poletta, County Counselor.

Commissioner Johnson called the Linn County Hearing to order followed by the pledge of allegiance and Pastor Brandon Clark of the Mound City Christian Church led the invocation.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from last week's meeting as written. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Commissioner Johnson also made a motion to approve the minutes for the revenue neutral hearing and budget hearing, which was seconded by Commissioner Hightower and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$215,292.99. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Upon discussion of the consent agenda, county clerk reported that AMR's Dawn Brooks would not be present but had sent her report. She also noted that Public Works requested a 10-minute executive session for job description and a 20-minute executive session for employee performance under non-elected personnel. Matt Casner requested to present on behalf of economic development during the department head section, and Mike Murray, who had been scheduled for last week but was unable to attend due to illness, requested to be added to the agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the agenda with the discussed changes. Second:

Commissioner Hightower Vote: Approved unanimously

Commissioner Hightower presented the AMR report for August 2025. The report included call and transport data for various locations: Blue Mound (15 calls, 5 transports), Centerville (6 calls, 2 transports), Lacing (31 calls, 14 transports), Fontana (1 call, 0 transports), Lane (2 calls, 1 transport), Lynn Valley (8 calls, 4 transports), Mableton (1 call, 1 transport), Mound City (42 calls, 14 transports), Parker (9 calls, 4 transports), Pleasanton (31 calls, 20 transports), and Prescott (7 calls, 3 transports). In total, there were 153 calls with 68 transports for the month, with an average response time countywide of 16 minutes and 38 seconds.

Commissioner Hightower presented the Sheriff's report, which included 48 total prisoners with 19 releases in the past week, 47 prisoners in, 1 prisoner farmed out, and 38 prisoners farmed in. The report also noted 81 911 calls, 3,722 jail contacts, 618 total calls for service, 15 civil papers served, 11 VIN inspections, 33 new cases opened, 8 cases closed, 4 vehicle crashes, 100 bailiff contacts with 55 resulting in calls for service, and 1 livestock out.

Randy Hegwald, Lane County Rural Fire and Emergency Management, reported 11 total incidents for the previous week, bringing the yearly total to 423. He presented information about a Ford F-450 available through federal surplus for \$15,000 delivered to Lynn County. Hegwald explained that the vehicle would be converted into a brush unit for Station 950 in Lacing, using a skid unit they already had. The truck has 40,000 miles, a flatbed, and would only need a light bar and lights added. The vehicle would not replace any existing equipment but would be an addition to provide a second brush truck at the station and would better pull the F-500 trailer.

Hegwald requested that the purchase come from the special equipment fund, which he noted had approximately \$600,000 available.

Motion: Commissioner Hightower moved to allow Rural Fire to purchase the F-450 brush unit for \$15,000 delivered to Lane County out of the special equipment fund. Second: Commissioner Johnson Vote: Approved unanimously

Amanda Snyder, Health Department Director, presented statistics showing client appointments for August 2025 were at 271, up from 190 in 2024 and 112 in 2023. She noted that August was busy with immunization appointments, new births, and CPR classes.

She announced upcoming events including the mammogram coach returning to the health department on September 10th, with appointment slots still available. The department will be scheduling flu clinics to begin the first week of October and will be visiting local schools to help students get caught up on immunizations and complete hearing and vision screenings.

Snyder reported that WIC numbers continue to rise, having surpassed the 200-client benchmark. She and Vicki Brown have become certified lactation counselors and are developing a training curriculum for breastfeeding peer counselors within their WIC region, with the first training course scheduled for September 17th. A fall baby sprinkle is planned for November 14th at the health department. Additionally, she mentioned that September is National Preparedness Month, and the department will be running social media campaigns to educate families and individuals on emergency preparedness.

Ben Souza, Planning and Zoning Director, reported that they still need members for the zoning board from districts 1 and 2, with two members needed from each district. He also discussed the retirement of the current survey reviewer, Jim Schmidt, and his contact with Tim Sloan as a potential replacement. Souza noted that Sloan is based in Manhattan, which would require using UPS to ship surveys back and forth, as originals with stamped signatures are required. He mentioned that the fee would remain at \$50 per review, with the only additional cost being shipping. Souza is looking for someone more local to reduce shipping costs and timeframes, noting that he would send digital copies first for preliminary review before shipping the originals for final approval.

Jesse Walton, Public Works Director, reported that he had spoken with Kyle from Everygy about the 2400 Road project and their ditching work. He had also met with their on-call engineer regarding the Baskerville

culvert project, who will be conducting an H&H study.

Walton presented a quote from High-Tech Interiors for completing the jury room soundproofing at the justice center for \$3,200 in labor costs, using materials already purchased by the county. County Counselor Jacklyn Paletta noted that she had reviewed the original contract and found no way to obligate the original contractor to complete the work.

Motion: Commissioner Hightower moved to approve the bid from High-Tech Interiors for \$3,200 for labor using existing materials for soundproofing the jury and courtrooms. Second: Commissioner Johnson Vote: Approved unanimously

Walton proposed hiring Daniel Parsons as the North Shop foreman at pay scale 12A (\$23.7815 per hour) and Rodney Hahn as the Mound City Shop foreman at the same rate.

Motion: Commissioner Hightower moved to hire Daniel Parsons as North Shop foreman at pay scale 12A (\$23.7815 per hour) effective today. Second: Commissioner Johnson Vote: Approved unanimously

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to hire Rodney Hahn as Shop foreman at pay scale 12A (\$23.7815 per hour) effective today. Second: Commissioner Hightower Vote: Approved unanimously

Walton requested a 20-minute executive session for job performance under non-elected personnel. The Commission recessed into executive session for 20 minutes pursuant to KSA 75-4319(b)(1) for non-elected personnel matters, returning at 9:52 AM with no action taken.

Following the executive session, Walton proposed canceling the credit cards for the maintenance department and planning and zoning director.

Motion: Commissioner Hightower moved to cancel the credit cards for Mike Chappell (maintenance department) and Ben Souza (planning and zoning director). Second: Commissioner Johnson Vote: Approved unanimously

Walton mentioned that he would be contacting Ruth James about the courthouse roof and would bring that information to the next week's meeting.

Matt Casner from Red Logic Communications presented updates on the county logo and branding work. He distributed a nine-page document showing three conceptual rounds of logo designs. The first round included initial concepts, the second round incorporated feedback to add maple leaf elements and make revisions, and the third round included concepts that revisited the existing logo while incorporating the maple leaf and saber elements.

After reviewing the concepts, the commissioners expressed preference for Round 3 Concept 7, which was a revision of the existing logo.

Motion: Commissioner Hightower moved to adopt Round 3 Concept 7 as the Linn County logo. Second: Commissioner Johnson Vote: Approved unanimously

Casner committed to preparing the final files within seven days.

Mike Murray addressed the Commission regarding property taxes. He expressed concern about taxpayers having limited input on assessments except through the commissioners and the appeals process. He asked about the relationship between the commissioners and the appraiser, clarifying that while commissioners are elected, the appraiser is appointed.

The commissioners and County Counselor Paletta explained that the appraiser's office is sanctioned by the state and follows a program for assessed values, and that commissioners only control the mill levy, not property appraisals. They noted that appraisers must meet Kansas state regulations and be approved by the PVD (Property Valuation Division).

Murray asked if the Commission could set limits on tax increases, and Paletta explained they could not, noting that such limits would need to be established at the state level. Murray suggested having the appraiser conduct a town hall meeting to explain the process to the public, but Commissioner Johnson mentioned that the appraiser had already given a good explanation during the previous week's revenue neutral hearing, which was livestreamed and available for viewing.

Joey McLiney (identified as the person listed as George McCliney on the agenda) offered his services to help with economic development financing. He distributed information about his work with USDA and SRF advising and economic development finance. McLiney explained that he could assist with financing projects at no cost for initial consultation, mentioning his recent work on a housing development in Inman, Kansas, and a project for Blue Mound where he secured a 4% interest rate instead of the initially offered 5.25%.

McLiney noted that he has worked with various municipalities in the county and can help with financing anything from fire trucks to other development projects. He emphasized that while he runs a for-profit business, he often provides initial guidance pro bono and can connect people with the appropriate financing sources.

The Commission reviewed the public nudity resolution, which had been revised to change the age from under 4 to under 5. Both commissioners expressed support for the resolution as written.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to pass Resolution 2025-16, a resolution preventing public nudity in Linn County, Kansas, and providing penalties for violations thereof. Second: Commissioner Hightower Vote: Approved unanimously

Danielle Souza reported that Dr. Jay Allen had requested the release of \$332,000 in funds for the STARS program. There was discussion about whether there was a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Fort Scott Community College (FSCC). Souza shared that Dr. Allen had provided an MOU with Pleasanton, stating it was the only current contract.

County Counselor Paletta clarified that the MOU between STARS and Pleasanton did not involve Linn County as a party. Commissioner Hightower, who serves on the STARS board, explained that at the last board meeting, they had met with the new president of Fort Scott and their tech college director, and

relationships had improved.  
The MOU provided indicated that Fort Scott would cover annual rental costs for the building and reimburse for property insurance and utilities, and would pay the salaries and benefits of FSCC faculty and provide curriculum and instruction for technical classes. It was noted that the agreement had a 30-day termination clause.  
The Commission decided to table the matter until Commissioner Hamilton could provide input.  
Jesse Walton had previously reported speaking with Evergy about the 2400 Road project regarding ditching work. The Commission discussed approving Evergy to proceed with the work at their cost.  
Motion: Commissioner Hightower moved to allow Evergy to perform ditching and culvert work on 2400 Road at their cost. Second: Commissioner Johnson Vote: Approved unanimously  
No new business was discussed.  
With nothing further on the agenda, There was a motion to dismiss until 9:00 AM Monday, September 8th, 2025.  
Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Second: Commissioner Hightower Vote: Approved unanimously.

Attest:

Commission Chair

County Clerk

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Alison Hamilton, Vice Chair; Jason Hightower, Member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Paletta, County Counselor.

Commissioner Hamilton called the Linn County Hearing to order followed by the pledge of allegiance and County Clerk Danielle Souza led the invocation.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton called the meeting to order. Commissioner Hamilton led the Pledge of Allegiance. Danielle Souza offered the invocation.

Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the minutes as written.

*Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Commissioner Jason Hightower. Motion carried unanimously.*

Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the claims.

*Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton to approve the claims in the amount of \$523,036.42. Seconded by Commissioner Jason Hightower. Motion carried unanimously.*

Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to approve the agenda as written.

*Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton to approve the agenda as written. Seconded by Commissioner Hightower. Motion carried unanimously.*

Dawn Brooks, AMR Director, presented the report for the first week of September (1-7). She reported that Centerville had 2 calls with 1 transport; La Cygne had 6 calls with 1 transport; Fontana had 1 call with 1 transport; Lynn Valley had 1 call with 0 transports; Mound City had 1 call with 0 transports; Parker had 4 calls with 1 transport; and Pleasanton had 8 calls with 3 transports. The total for the week was 23 calls with 7 transports.

Commissioner Hightower presented the Sheriff's report for September 8, 2025. The report indicated 52 total prisoners, 13 releases in the past week, 51 current prisoners, 1 prisoner farmed out for competency evaluation, and 38 prisoners farmed in. There were 59 9-1-1 calls, 3,677 total jail contacts, 646 total calls for service, 16 civil service papers served, 12 VIN inspections, 31 new cases opened, 11 cases closed, 6 vehicle crashes, 166 bail contacts with 47 calls for service, and 0 livestock out.

Commissioner Hamilton mentioned it was time to renew the contract with Wyandotte County and that a copy of the contract was available for review.

Commissioner Hightower asked Sheriff Akes if there was an increase in the Wyandotte County contract. Sheriff Akes replied there would be no increase this year. He explained they were facing stiffer competition for beds as other facilities had been built. He noted they were currently waiting for Wyandotte County to give the go-ahead to farm out inmates and that they had offered to accept as many inmates as Wyandotte County could provide. Sheriff Akes also mentioned an upcoming negotiation for federal inmates that would include a price increase.

Commissioner Hamilton asked about the daily rates of surrounding counties. Sheriff Akes indicated he would need to check but confirmed they were not higher than Linn County's rate.

Sheriff Akes mentioned that he considered the rates to be trade secrets and would be willing to discuss them in executive session if needed.

*Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower to approve the agreement between Linn County, Kansas and the unified government and sheriff of Wyandotte County for the available bed spaces in the jail at \$67.50 for the daily rate for an additional 3 years and allow the chair to sign. Seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

Randy Hegwald, Linn County Rural Fire and Emergency Management, reported 9 total calls for the week, bringing the yearly total to 432. He provided a public reminder that Kansas Highway 31 from 1077 (south of Blue Mound West) to Casta Road would be shut down for culvert replacement from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm that day. He confirmed this information had been shared on both the Fire Department and County Facebook pages.

Ben Souza, Planning and Zoning Director, reported that they were still trying to schedule an appeal hearing but would not have a quorum for the previously scheduled date of September 16th. He asked if he should wait to reschedule since Commissioner Hightower and Commissioner Hamilton both indicated they had names to appoint to the committee.

It was agreed to proceed with appointments so the hearing could be held. Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to appoint Steve Miller and Cheryl Carney from District 2 to the Planning and Zoning Committee. Commissioner Hightower appointed Michael McVicar from District 1.

*Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton to appoint Steve Miller and Cheryl Carney for District 2 to the Planning and Zoning Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Jason Hightower. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower to appoint Michael McVicar for District 1 to the Planning and Zoning Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

Ben Souza also mentioned he had redone the agreement with the survey reviewer, which had been reviewed by Counselor Paletta and was being reviewed by Tim. He expected to have it available for signing the following week. He noted he had not yet heard from anyone regarding a more local reviewer but was still looking.

Jesse Walton, Public Works Administrator, presented several items:

- He presented Burial Permit 2025-15 for Rural Water District No. 3 to bore under County Road 1077 for a new water meter. The project would use 2-inch casing with a 3/4 inch polyline running through it. Walton confirmed there was nothing hindering the project.

*Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower to approve burial permit 2025-15 for the road bore. Seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

- Walton presented propane bids to be opened and read by the commissioners: MFA Oil at \$1.54 per gallon, Heartland Propane at \$1.72 per gallon, and C&J Propane out of Liberal, Missouri at \$1.35 per gallon. It was agreed that Walton would qualify the bids and bring them back the following week.
- Walton presented qualifications from engineering firms for the High Risk Rural Road 1095 project. The commissioners opened bids from Call Valley Engineering and Peppercorn. No pricing was included in the submissions. Walton explained that the state had provided a list of qualified engineers after no one had reached out to the county to be the consultant on the project.
- Walton presented a cost share agreement with KDOT for the 1095 High Risk Rural Road project that needed to be signed and returned to KDHE. The commissioners agreed to allow Walton to sign and return the agreement.
- Walton presented an invoice from Terracon for \$7,139 related to the landfill's berm and vertical expansion. He confirmed this would be paid with ARPA funds. The commissioners agreed to the payment.
- Walton discussed the G Works software migration. He explained that PubWorks would be migrating to G Works, and all information would be transferred. Training would be provided once a new trainer was hired to replace the one who had recently left the company. Walton proposed that he, Jenny, and Joyce take the training and then train other departments. The cost for PubWorks this year was \$3,947, and the cost for G Works next year would be \$13,532. Commissioner Hamilton requested more information on what the implementation includes. Walton agreed to provide this once it was available from the company.
- Walton proposed hiring Mike Nation as an equipment operator at the north shop at pay scale 10F, which is \$20.8011 per hour.

*Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower to hire Mike Nation at 10F for \$20.8011 per hour for the north shop. Seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

- Walton reported on the Baskerville culvert issue. He received information from their on-call engineer who conducted a hydrology and hydraulic analysis, determining the culvert is undersized. The recommendation was to upgrade to an 11-foot culvert for better water flow efficiency and higher road overtopping design for storms. This would require purchasing right-of-way from landowners on both the east and west sides. Walton requested permission to proceed with having the engineer determine the required culvert length and sloping requirements before approaching landowners about purchasing right-of-way.
- Walton reported that yearly inspections were needed on two bridges and that the on-call engineer had been contacted to proceed with these inspections.
- Walton provided updates on the courthouse roof project, noting that KCAMP Insurance company representative had emailed that they were working out a few details before proceeding.
- After reviewing the engineering qualifications for the 1095 project, Walton recommended using Pfeffererkorn as the consulting engineer.

*Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower that for the 1095 high risk rural roads project that we use Peppercorn Engineering for oversight. Seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

During public comment, Renee Slinkard from Parker, Kansas, addressed the commission regarding Devlin Road.

Commissioner Hamilton noted she had watched the previous meeting and was trying to understand why Commissioner Jim (not present) wanted to hold the STARS funds. Commissioner Hightower explained that Commissioner Jim did not want to support the program and hadn't voted for it previously. Commissioner Hamilton expressed concern that the commission had already made a commitment to the program, and the funds had been budgeted and collected through taxation. Commissioner Hightower noted that STARS had provided the information the commission had requested.

*Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower to release the 2025 budget funds to STARS in the amount of \$332,000. Seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

Danielle Souza explained that the Conservation District was requesting the same funding as the previous year, \$43,000, and needed a form approved and signed to send to the state.

*Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower to approve the Conservation District budget in the amount of \$43,000 for 2026 to be signed by the clerk. Seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.*

Commissioner Hightower requested that a discussion about the future of the economic development program be added to the next week's agenda under new business. Danielle Souza reminded the commissioners that a budget workshop would follow next week's meeting, Monday September 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Jason Hightower. Motion carried unanimously.*

Commission Chair

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

September 15, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Alison Hamilton, Vice Chair; Jason Hightower, Member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Paletta, County Counselor.

Commissioner Hamilton called the Linn County Hearing to order followed by the pledge of allegiance and Mathew Young from the Faith Chapel Church in Pleasanton led the invocation.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$73,174.89. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Danielle Souza reported there were no add/abate/refund orders this week.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Danielle Souza noted that Sheri Loveland from Parks and Marina had an emergency and would not be able to appear, requesting to be put on a future agenda. She also requested adding the appraiser to the department heads section and adding an executive session for non-elected personnel for employee review (10 minutes). Commissioner Alison Hamilton made a motion to approve the agenda with those changes. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dawn Brooks with AMR presented the monthly report for September 1 through September 14. She reported Blue Mound had 1 call with 0 transports; Centerville had 9 calls with 3 transports; La Cygne had 9 calls with 4 transports; Fontana had 1 call with 1 transport; Linn Valley had 4 calls with 3 transports; Mound City had 5 calls with 2 transports; Parker had 5 calls with 2 transports; and Pleasanton had 19 calls with 10 transports, for a total of 53 calls and 25 transports.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes with AMR, both commissioners, and the county attorney for contract negotiations and trade secrets. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The commission returned at 9:16 a.m. No action was taken.

Commissioner Jason Hightower presented the sheriff's report for September 15, 2025. There were 51 total prisoners, 12 releases this past week, and 1 prisoner farmed out for competency evaluation. Total prisoners farmed in was 38. There were 94 911 calls, 4,652 jail contacts, 562 calls for service, 27 civil service papers served, 8 VIN inspections, 31 new cases opened, 11 cases closed, 4 vehicle crashes, 121 bail of contacts with 64 resulting in calls for service, and 3 livestock out.

Randy Hegwald, Linn County Rural Fire Emergency Management, reported 5 total calls for the week, bringing the yearly total to 436. He mentioned that the fire department would be at the Parker Day celebration that weekend, and Station 940 (Parker Station) would be hosting a fundraiser breakfast on Saturday from 6 to 9 a.m. to raise funds for a new air compressor.

Randy requested permission to hire Benjamin Souza for Station 910, also known as Mound City station, which would increase their roster to 11 out of 15 positions filled. This would be for a probationary firefighter, forgoing the pre-employment physical and drug exam because he is already a full-time county employee.

Commissioner Jason Hightower made a motion to allow the fire department to hire Benjamin Souza for Station 910 as a probationary firefighter. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris Martin, Linn County IT Director, provided the monthly update. Year to date, there had been 1,210 support tickets opened with 1,199 closed. In the last month, they had set up two new computers, replaced the fairgrounds tower network feed cable due to water intrusion, set up equipment in the 4H building for the tax sale, installed a new window intercom system in the sheriff's office lobby, fixed a witness microphone issue in courtroom B, fixed issues with the jail water management system, set up an AVL interface for Jesse (Public Works Administrator), fixed two outdoor cameras at remote sites, installed a wireless access point at the Parker public works site, programmed and distributed all the new radios for public works, started setting up SRO offices in schools for secure connections to the sheriff's office record management system, replaced hard drives in network video recorders for security cameras, finalized mutual aid radio antennas on the justice center roof, updated radio repeater firmware at all tower sites, addressed an electrical problem affecting network equipment at the marina, and planned to install monitoring on domestic hot water boilers at the Justice Center.

Chris also discussed email signatures, recommending they be applied at the server level rather than having users set them up individually. He noted this would provide consistency across all email accounts and handle group mailboxes properly. The commissioners agreed to have Chris set up signatures for the commissioners first as a test before implementing them county-wide. Commissioner Hamilton requested that the county counsel provide appropriate legal disclaimer language for the signatures.

Ben Souza, Planning and Zoning, reported on the recent zoning board meeting. A rezoning request was tabled to the next meeting as the zoning board needed more information to make a clear decision. The board also discussed implementing battery energy storage solutions into their codes. Ben noted that two of the three zoning board members were present at the meeting, and the new third member had visited his office and committed to attending future meetings.

Jesse Walton, Public Works, requested approval of the propane bid from CNG Propane at \$1.35 per gallon for the next season, which was the lowest bid received.

Commissioner Jason Hightower made a motion to accept the bid from CNG Propane for \$1.35 per gallon. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jesse presented the Federal Fund Exchange agreement, which would provide \$71,152.46 to the county. He proposed using these funds to help pay for the overlay on the 1850 road project and noted they would only need to submit receipts showing how the money was used.

Commissioner Jason Hightower made a motion to accept the federal funds distribution for the federal funds exchange for 2025 and allow Jesse Walton as Public Works Administrator to sign. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jesse then had the commission open bids for the perimeter berm at the landfill. Two bids were received: one from Cohen Construction Services LLC of Fredonia, Kansas for \$211,540.15, and another from Neil Excavating LLC of Bethany, Missouri for \$66,022.00.

Jesse also requested opening a charge account specifically for Planning and Zoning at Coleman's for UPS shipments of survey plats. He explained they already had charge accounts for the courthouse and road maintenance, but wanted one specifically for Planning and Zoning to properly track those expenses.

Commissioner Jason Hightower made a motion to open a charge account with Coleman Hardware for their UPS drop-off for Planning and Zoning. Commissioner Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton made a motion to go into executive session for 10 minutes with the clerk, both commissioners, and the county counselor to discuss non-elected personnel job performance in Register of Deeds department. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The commission returned at 9:48 a.m. with no action taken.

The commission extended the executive session with the commissioners, counsel, and Danielle for another 5 minutes regarding job performance. They returned at 9:55 a.m. with no action taken.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton made a motion to reconsider the longevity pay regarding Kristy Schmitz in the Register of Deeds office. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton made a motion to accept the resignation from Kristy Schmitz, Register of Deeds, upon written receipt of her resignation to be effective October 17, 2025, with longevity pay in the amount of \$500 for her 20 years of service. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The commission went into executive session again with Danielle, both commissioners, and counsel for 10 minutes regarding non-elected personnel for an employee review in Parks and Marina Department. They returned at 10:07 a.m. with no action taken.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton made a motion to move Park and Marina under Public Works with Jesse Walton as supervisor. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Danielle presented a hiring request from the appraiser.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton made a motion to hire Erin Keeler as Appraiser 1 at \$17.99/hour, effective September 29, pending pre-employment screening. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No public comments were made.

Mat Casner from Red Logic Communications presented the finalized county logo and brand kit. He explained that the logo was designed to be similar to the previous one but with improvements and standardization. The brand kit includes various file formats for different uses (web, print, signage, embroidery), color options (single, two, or three colors), a reversed version for dark backgrounds, color specifications for online and print use, and a typography library. Mat noted that the vector format (SVG) allows the logo to be scaled to any size without losing quality. He submitted his final invoice to Danielle. The commissioners thanked Mat for his work.

Jesse Walton reported that they had completed the H&H study for the culvert, which recommended an 11-foot diameter culvert. They are now working with their on-call engineer to determine how much right-of-way will need to be purchased from landowners on the east and west sides, as well as the length of culvert needed. This item was moved to the October 20 agenda.

The commission went into executive session to discuss economic development applications for 10 minutes with the commissioners, Danielle, and the attorney under non-elected personnel. They returned at 10:38 a.m. with no action taken.

The commission had planned to work on the budget following the regular meeting but decided to postpone this until the next week when chairman Jim Johnson would be available to discuss it. It was noted that budget workshops were already on the agenda for September 22 and 29.

Commissioner Alison Hamilton made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jason Hightower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair

September 22, 2025

The Board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair; Alison Hamilton, Vice Chair; Jason Hightower, Member; Danielle Souza, County Clerk; Jacklyn Poletta, County Counselor.

Commissioner Johnson called the Linn County Hearing to order followed by the pledge of allegiance and led the invocation.

Commissioner Jim Johnson made a motion to approve claims in the amount of \$543,000.07.

Motion by Commissioner Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Jason Hightower, to approve the claims in the amount of \$543,000.07. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Jason Hightower, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Dawn Brooks, AMR Director, presented the monthly ambulance report for September 1-21. She reported call statistics by location: Blue Mound (1 call, 0 transports), Centerville (11 calls, 4 transports), La Cygne (14 calls, 6 transports), Fontana (3 calls, 2 transports), Linn Valley (4 calls, 3 transports), Sugar Valley (1 call, 1 transport), Mound City (16 calls, 7 transports), Parker (5 calls, 2 transports), and Pleasanton (25 calls, 13 transports). Total calls for the month were 80 with 38 transports.

Brooks also inquired about the contract extension that she had sent. Danielle Souza confirmed she had shared it with the county counselor for review and would send it to the commissioners.

Commissioner Jason Hightower read the Sheriff's Report for September 22, 2025: 51 total prisoners, 17 releases in the past week, 50 prisoners in jail, 1 farmed out, 39 farmed in, 72 total 911 calls, 4,246 jail contacts, 586 total calls for service, 17 civil service papers served, 2 VIN inspections, 39 new cases opened, 17 cases closed, 12 vehicle crashes, 133 bail contacts with 42 resulting in calls for service, and 0 livestock out.

Jason Parker, GIS Administrator, provided updates for August and September. In addition to daily and weekly tasks, he reported: Creating a large map for the treasurer's office, combining multiple layers into a single easy-to-use map, Producing several large format maps for road and bridge projects, Collaborating with road and bridge on road closure story map updates, Working with Randy to provide shape files for ISO evaluation, Holding a joint meeting with the clerks, treasurers, and appraiser's office to review maintenance forms, Printing multiple large format maps for lake communities, Integrating Connect Explorer maps with the appraiser's assessment and tax pro software. When Commissioner Hamilton asked if they charge citizens for prints, Parker explained that small prints are free as a service since citizens pay taxes, but larger prints (24x24 or 36x36) do have a cost.

Ben Souza, Planning and Zoning Director, reported on the appeals hearing for M&M Adventures/Mike Page's subdivision building permit. The board voted 7-0 to deny the revocation of the building permits, allowing Page to continue. Souza was working on letters to both Page and the appellant.

Regarding the surveyor contract, Souza presented an agreement for a new surveyor reviewer that needed signing. He explained that despite efforts to find someone local, most surveying companies declined because they would be making less money (\$50 for a review) than their regular work. The proposed surveyor, Tim Sloan, while not local, has been used by other counties.

Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower, seconded by Commissioner Jim Johnson, to enter into the agreement with Tim Sloan surveyor to serve as the designated official land surveyor for Linn County to review subdivision plots and plot surveys in requirement with KSA 58-2005. Motion carried unanimously.

Walton then requested two executive sessions. The first was for 15 minutes regarding job descriptions with the commissioners, Jacqueline Paletta, and Rose.

Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Jim Johnson, to go into executive session for 15 minutes with commissioners, Jacqueline, Jesse, and Rose regarding job descriptions. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission returned to open session at 9:45 AM with no action taken.

Walton then requested a second executive session for 10 minutes regarding job performance with the commissioners, Jacqueline Paletta, and Rose.

Motion by Commissioner Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton, to go into executive session for 10 minutes for job performance with Jesse, Jacklyn, Rose, and the three commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission returned to open session at 9:55 AM with no action taken. The executive session was extended for an additional 10 minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton, to extend the executive session for 10 more minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission returned to open session at 10:06 AM with no action taken.

Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower, seconded by Commissioner Jim Johnson, to approve the bid from Nail Excavating in the amount of \$66,022 dollars for the vertical expansion at the landfill. Motion carried unanimously.

Walton showed pictures of the Hidden Valley Lakes entrance at the county line between Bourbon County and Linn County. The HOA had reopened an entrance that had been closed for 15 years without getting approval from Linn County, despite the entrance being partly on Linn County property. After discussion, the commissioners directed Walton to enforce county guidelines by requiring the HOA to submit an application for the entrance and to coordinate with Bourbon County on the issue.

Referencing the 1095 road project, the commissioners agreed to move forward after reviewing the financial information.

Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower, seconded by Commissioner Jim Johnson, to authorize the signing of the authority to award contract commitment of county funds for the high risk rural roads on the north half of 1095 in the amount of \$1,360,901 with the grant funds of \$351,000 and the county funds of \$1,140,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Jim Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton, to approve the engineering and environmental consultant work estimate on the 1095 road project in the amount of \$78,950.27. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works office manager provided an update on the G-Works migration from PubWorks. She explained that the new system would be web-based rather than license-based, allowing anyone to access it through the internet. The system would improve the service request process by automatically notifying citizens when requests are assigned and completed. She reported that the migration could happen by mid-October with a one-hour "train the trainer" session, after which county staff would be responsible for training other employees. Commissioners agreed that including road foremen and department supervisors in the training would be beneficial.

Before concluding his report, Walton informed the commissioners that he had ended the employment of Planning and Zoning Director Ben Souza effective that day.

County clerk Danielle Souza requested approval for Cecilia Clay as an elector for ballot destruction supervision according to KSA 25-2708, as one of the previously approved electors was not available for the next scheduled destruction date.

Motion by Commissioner Alison Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Jason Hightower, to approve Cecilia Clay as the election approved elector for the destruction of the ballots according to KSA 25-2708. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower, seconded by Commissioner Jim Johnson, to go into executive session for 15 minutes for financial affairs pursuant to KSA 75-4319(b)(4) with the three commissioners, Jacklyn Paletta, and Danielle Souza. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission returned to open session at 11:20 AM with no action taken.

Janet Reynolds, Treasurer of the Lacygne Historical Society, presented information about the status of the historical society actions they had been working on with Chasity Ware, the Economic Development Director. Reynolds explained that Ware had brought together representatives from Trading Post, Pleasanton, Mound City, Parker, and Lacygne historical societies to discuss collaboration.

Reynolds detailed plans for a coordinated museum tour event scheduled for October 18-19, 2025, with each museum featuring different historical elements and refreshments. The event would include a "passport" system where visitors could get stamps from each location and be entered into a drawing for a gift basket with donations from each historical society.

Reynolds requested the Commission's support for this effort, including funding for advertising and \$100 per museum for refreshments (total of \$500), plus printing costs for passports. Commissioners suggested removing specific dates from the passports so they could be reused for future events.

Motion by Commissioner Jason Hightower, seconded by Commissioner Alison Hamilton, to allow the \$500 dollars, \$100 to each museum, the printing of the passports up to 200, and the half page advertisement in the Linn County News for the Linn County Museum tour to be October eighteenth and nineteenth. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners encouraged Reynolds to keep in contact if additional support was needed and confirmed that social media posts could be created and provided to Danielle for posting on the county's page.

Commissioner Jason Hightower opened a discussion about the future of the Economic Development position. He proposed eliminating the position temporarily due to budget constraints and what he perceived as limited effectiveness. He suggested that the commissioners were not fully utilizing the position for actual economic development activities.

Commissioner Hamilton disagreed with Hightower's characterization, noting that the Economic Development Director had been given clear direction on several projects including the airport, website, and land sales. She expressed concern about what would happen to these projects if the position were eliminated, and questioned who would take over those responsibilities.

Hamilton also advocated for maintaining the Economic Development committee and other committees even if the director position was eliminated, suggesting that commissioners could oversee some of these meetings. She emphasized that she would be willing to help with tourism and history aspects but felt that the commission was trying to delegate everything without taking on additional work themselves.

After further discussion, they agreed to further address the issue during the upcoming budget workshop.

Local news paper representative asked about a rumor that the health department had been running on their generator for over a month because a bill had not been paid. Commissioners indicated this was not accurate, with Commissioner Hamilton explaining there had been an error in switching from physical to online billing that had been quickly resolved when discovered.

With nothing further on the agenda, There was a motion to dismiss until 9:00 AM Monday, September 8th, 2025.  
Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Second: Commissioner Hightower Vote: Approved unanimously.

Attest:

County Clerk

Commission Chair