

January 5, 2026

The board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair, Alison Hamilton Vice Chair and Chasity Ware, Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

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

*Jim Johnson moved to approve the claims in the amount of \$238,158.43. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion passed 2-0.*

*Jim Johnson moved to approve the add/abates 2025-0005, 2025-00121, 2025-00134 through 2025-00145 in the amount of -\$424.84.*

*Adjustment to the Agenda included a 10-minute Executive Session KSA 75-4319 for attorney-client privilege with anticipation of litigation with the 2 commissioners and County Counselor. Adding review of KCamp Risk Assessment results. Jim Johnson moved to approve the adjusted agenda, Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion passed 2-0.*

Dawn Brooks with AMR reported: LaCygne 2 calls, 1 transport, Linn Valley 1 call, Mound City 2 calls, 2 transports, Parker 2 calls, Pleasanton 2 calls, 1 transport, Prescott 1 call.

Sheriff Report: 45 prisoners, 12 releases, 0 farmed out, 27 farmed in, 74 -911 calls, 3618 jail contacts, 600 calls for service, 11 civil service papers served, 13 VIN inspections, 22 new cases opened, 10 cases closed, 3 vehicle crashes, 70 bailiff contacts, 3 livestock out, 0 SRO calls for services

*Jim Johnson moved to approve Sheriff's income report. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.*

Randy Hegwald with Fire and Emergency Management: 1 building fire, 3 wildland fires, 6 EMS assist, 1 vehicle fire, 1 crash detection (no incident found) and 1 follow up. Randy will provide breakdown with the newspaper of numbers of calls for the year. Also discussed a truck from Sheriff's surplus of vehicles. This truck will be used for Emergency Preparedness.

Jesse Walton with Public Works: shared weekly update, working on a bridge in Blue Mound, waiting for as-built invoice to come in and finalizing a few things before paying the invoice, Dave Sutters provided his last invoice, final walk through prior to payment, gutter guy will be here for the gutter on Annex. Jesse will look over the KCamp Risk Assessment documents and report back on January 20<sup>th</sup> regarding findings. Jesse was asked to have Sheri from the Marina provide a monthly report on the rented cabins (what cabins are rented out during the month) moving forward.

Alison Hamilton asked to address the "tabled" items on the agenda. She asked to remove Airport Sale/Lot Split. Chasity Ware confirmed the lot split is complete and she will meet with Lisa Kellstadt to work towards moving current status to agriculture to help eliminate a large portion of taxes. Plans for county buildings in regard to old jail. She would like to see the mold study on the building and then plan to demolish the building. Jesse will set it up to do a bid walk through. Mentions of Chris Martin and items located in the building he would like to remove; he will need to share what those items are. Plan to provide those bids by February 16, 2026. Emergency Survey Plan: discussion took place regarding surveys/polls provided to the employees. Hamilton wanted confirmation from Chris on where we were with emails for all employees. Discussion included Commissioners having final approval of questions that would be provided on any survey they are asking to see results for. Compensation Plan: this included Commissioners asking Chasity Ware to start looking into insurance, compensation plans and benefits for employees now. Matrix discussion took place including needing updated and aligned with other counties. Jim Johnson mentioned he would like to see a top of years and then cost of living as the only raise, possibly bonus provided at the end of the year. Alison Hamilton shared she would like to see comparable

compensation/benefits of other counties. Hamilton shared her concern with organizing items on Sharepoint. Chasity Ware shared she is working on cleaning that up and isn't convinced she has found the best solution but dislikes saving things in 4 different places. She will work on that for a fix by February 9, 2026. KORA process was discussed. Alison Hamilton shared she doesn't like the idea that we charge for something that might only take a few minutes and can be sent electronically. She shared there is a pamphlet that is digital and wants all forms on the current and new website as soon as possible, by February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Public Comment: There were none.

Old Business: Alison Hamilton brought up her concern with the unmatched chairs in the Commissioners chairs and would like to replace the ones that are there. Jim Johnson asked what fund those chairs would be paid from? He suggested we find out where we are on the budget before moving forward.

Order of chair positions will change next week, January 12, 2026. Alison Hamilton will become Chair, Jason Hightower, Vice Chair and Jim Johnson, member.

Alison Hamilton shared report from Health Department, Amanda Snyder.

*Jim Johnson moved to recess for 10 minutes to see if Counselor Paletta will be able to make a call.*

Due to Counselor Jacklyn Paletta being in court, no executive session will take place.

*Jim Johnson moved to adjourn. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.*

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*Chair*

*Attest:*

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*Clerk*

January 12, 2026

The board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair, Alison Hamilton, Vice Chair, Jason Hightower, Member, Jacklyn Paletta, Counselor and Chasity Ware, Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

*Jim Johnson motioned to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

*Jim Johnson motion for Alison Hamilton to become Chair, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motioned carried 3-0.*

*Jim Johnson motioned for Jason Hightower to become Vice Chair, Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

*Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the claims in the amount of \$1,729,589.92. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

*Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the add/abates 2025-0005, 2025-00139, 2025-00146-2025-00150 in the amount of -\$161.42. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

*Adjustment to the Agenda included a 10-minute Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b.1 non-elected personnel with Appraiser. Jim Johnson shared that Jennifer Leach-Harlow is holding an Economic Development Committee meeting tomorrow at 9am, and Alison Hamilton offered to attend. They will discuss Young Entrepreneurship Challenge and land the Committee owns.*

*Add a 5-minute attorney/client privilege, KS 75-4319 b.2, Add another 5-minute Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 2 with three commissioners and Counselor. Add under old business Planning and Zoning appointment for District 2. Add under New Business the Courthouse regarding Heritage Trust Fund and official appointment for Tisha Coleman with Southeast Kansas Mental Health. Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the adjusted agenda, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

*Alison Hamilton motioned to move meeting originally scheduled January 19, 2026, to Tuesday, January 20, 2026, due to Martin Luther King, Jr Day. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

Dawn Brooks with AMR reported: Blue Mound had 6 calls, 2 transports, Centerville 5 calls, 2 transports, LaCygne 9 calls, 6 transports, Linn Valley 4 calls, 3 transports, Mound City 8 calls, 7 transports, Parker 5 calls, 2 transports, Pleasanton 8 calls, 6 transports, Prescott 3 calls, 1 transport for a total of 45 calls and 28 transports.

Sheriff Report: 63 prisoners, 6 releases, 0 farmed out, 48 farmed in, 73 -911 calls, 4101 jail contacts, 716 calls for service, 17 civil service papers served, 10 VIN inspections, 33 new cases opened, 11 cases closed, 11 vehicle crashes, 192 bailiff contacts, 1 livestock out, 104 SRO calls for service.

IT- Chris Martin: shared all employees have a linncountyks.com email, update on Website is moving as scheduled with design completed in March and a live date after that. All items needed/wanted from IT from the old jail building have been removed. Generator will need an engineer to be moved to provide two transfer stations for the Courthouse and old Judicial Building. Clifford Power could be contacted to help with transfer. Jason Hightower and Jim Johnson would like to repurpose the generator to the Courthouse and old Judicial

Building. Chris asked for 5-minute Executive Session KS 75-4319 b. 1 for non-elected personnel.

*Alison Hamilton motioned to go into a 5-minute Executive Session KS 75-4319 b. 1 for non-elected personnel with three commissioners and Chris Martin. Jim Johnson seconded, motion carried, 3-0.*

Auditor, Rodney Burns, 2024 Audit, no cash basis violations, no budget violations, ARPA money had to have money allocated by 2024, and it was. There is \$100,000 of LATCF funds, which is the same as ARPA but distributed on a different basis, all the obligations have to be spent by 2026. Adjustments on APRA money. Since \$750,000 was spent in Federal aid, a single audit had to be completed. Everything was fine through the ARPA funds. Rodney shared a brief overview of the Audit. Discussion of changing auditors every so often. provided a contract to complete 2025 Audit in 2026 for \$18,750.00

*Jason Hightower motioned to enter a contract with Rodney Burns in the amount of \$18,750.00 and possibly an additional \$3000 if a single audit is needed for the 2025 audit. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

Chris Martin with IT- asked to hire Katie Parscale for the IT position at 11A of \$22.1626 per hour. Hire date would be February 2, 2026

*Alison Hamilton makes a motion to approve the hire of Katie Parscale for the IT position at the pay scale of 11A in the amount of \$22.1626 per hour starting February 2, 2026. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

James Akes- Sheriff- came forward to discuss moving funds over to Equipment Reserve. He shared that tasers are about to expire. He is requesting to move \$152,000.00 to Equipment Reserve for tasers. James shared he will improve in areas of saving funds in the future starting with lowering fuel budget with new vehicles being hybrids. Discussion of the unused \$70,000 would go back into the general funds. Sheriff Akes shared jail numbers continue to rise. Vicious dog ordinance is on the books, focusing on the pitbull breed in 1995, he explained that something was going to be done and to start planning towards. Jason asked Counselor to get the resolution and be prepared to talk about it next week.

Treasurer- Joannie Reed: came forward to notify commissioners and department heads to give her at least a week's notice regarding large sums of money to pay invoices. She must move money from different accounts to cover the funds and a couple of days isn't enough time. She explained at the end of the year we are receiving a lot of money and we have to move money out of the NOW account because she can't keep that much in the account. Joannie shared that the large amount (\$1.1 million) was initially supposed to come out in September and that would have caused even more issues because we don't have that much money in the accounts.

Appraiser- Lisa Kellstadt: update on 26 Values, finished up with Cost approach, done with the comparable cells approach and working on the income approach which is commercial for income, still have to value grain elevators and specialty items. She will start hearings next month, she has over 100 payments over protest hearings, and a few BOTA hearings in Topeka. She would like to rehire an employee, Trevor Mandrigues, at same amount he left at which is 8C, \$18.

*Alison Hamilton motioned to hire Trevor Mandrigues at 8C, \$18.2486, starting date will be 1/20/2026, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

Sheriff Akes came back to podium to ask about illegal dumping. He shared it happened on 2400Rd near LaCygne. Paint buckets were dumped on 1700 rd and Hatsell. He asked who is responsible for picking up and it was shared that Public Works will take care of it after putting in a work order ticket.

*Alison Hamilton motioned to go into a 10-minute Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b.2 for attorney client privilege pending litigation with three commissioners, counselor and clerk and Lisa Kellstadt, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. No action.*

Emergency Management – Randy Hegwald: last week there was 1 structure fire, 1 land fire, 5 EMS assists, 3 vehicle crashes, and 1 cancelled in route. Total calls for the week are 11, total for the year is 18. Next Thursday, January 23, will be the LEPC meeting at 11am, Duane Banzit from Neosho retired fire chief will share about the event at the Aerosol plant event in 2016. Alison said she will attend.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Public Works- Jesse Walton: Jesse shared a turbo on dump truck seized up and it cost \$6470.56 to fix, some money will be reimbursed on the core charge when returned.

*Jason Hightower made a motion to approve to pay the \$6470.56 to fix the truck, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

Jesse shared and discussed last year's budget with clerk from last year. The amount left over was \$1.6 million. He shared they spent \$1.140,000 to the KDOT for the high-risk road commitment which leaves \$550,223.42. He would like to move that amount to Special Road & Bridge fund. There is a bridge project of the Old Military bridge that will require funds to pay the on-call engineer and then funds to pay for engineer for the south half of 1095 bridge. Shared a list of other departments to move money to Equipment Reserve Funds; \$24119.23 Custodian, \$40,427.52 Planning and Zoning, \$44,174.01 Noxious Weed, and \$158,408.90 Solid Waste. Discussion took place regarding why money would be transferred for Planning and Zoning and what the money would be spent for, possibly used to mail out plats to be approved. Planning and Zoning exceeded their funds in 2023 when they purchased the truck. Alison Hamilton feels a form is needed so department heads can complete ahead and plan for what they are going to use funds for in Special Equipment. Jason Hightower is ok with moving \$20,000 from Planning and Zoning to Equipment Reserve and the remainder goes back into general funds. Hightower suggested transferring solid waste funds to equipment reserves.

The clerk requested for a 10-minute recess to provide documents to the commissioners prior to

Jesse shared more regarding the KCAMP risk assessment. Jesse is going to reach out to see if these are required or suggested and if these are going to decrease our premiums. He wants others to understand that this will cost us time and money. Jesse will come back after visiting with KCAMP.

Highway 546 west out of Centerville, culverts need to be replaced in middle of February. Two culverts at 500 and 1077 that need placed and two culvers on 1095 going north to 1650. Ad had been sent to newspaper for old jail demolition bids, January 14 will be the walk through for Cabin 7, and those bids are due January 23, 2026, by Friday, 3pm. Tire bids will be brought in next week. Alison asked about the generator over to Courthouse and old Judicial building. Potholes have been being patched by Todd and his crew. Gworks update consist of waiting for a solid date from them, training to coming soon. Alison shared she is concerned about login is under Sheri's personal name and account, discussion of how we host them was mentioned. Sheri sent out documents regarding cabins and how many nights they were rented out. Planning and Zoning is still short in district one and two of a representative for those districts.

*Alison Hamilton motioned to appoint April Umphenour for District 2 effective immediately, Jason Hightower seconded, motion carried 3-0.*

Jesse shared the county is still short a surveyor is looking for one particularly local if possible. Contract to survey plats for plats not for the county.

Clerk – Chasity – nothing to report.

*Alison Hamilton motioned for Executive Session for 5 minutes for KSA 75-4319 b.2 attorney client privilege with anticipation of litigation with three commissioners, counselor and clerk. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. No action.*

*Alison Hamilton motioned for Executive Session for 5 minutes for KSA 75-4319 b.2 attorney client privilege pending litigation with three commissioners and counselor. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. No action.*

Mike Murray came forward asking about the sanitation. The counselor shared she couldn't find a statute regarding the sanitation is not the county's responsibility and the hauling is done by private entities. He shared about mental health and the importance of it for our county. Discussion took place regarding the salary to the director but the importance of services. Mike shared that he wrote a letter to the appraiser and asked about gravel roads. He shared about Douglas County has a better solution regarding gravel roads.

Clerk- Chasity Ware: discussion of the Handbook and reviewing the few changes. Chasity will go back to HR Consultant and make the final changes or clarifications and plan to have a fully updated handbook to review and adopt at February 2, 2026, meeting.

Tisha Colemans appoint was January 11, 2021, that would put 2024 as her 3-year mark. January 2027 would be the end of her second term. Discussion of appointing board members to have individuals serve. Discussion of a calendar year of appointing board members from year/term to year/term.

Alison Hamilton shared the Courthouse Heritage Trust Fund application that is due in November each year. She would like Jesse to come up with a plan, possibly asking SEKRPC to help with this. There is a 50/50 match for non-profit and a 80/20 match option. Free workshops are offered in the summer.

*Alison Hamilton motioned for a 5-minute recess, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

*Alison Hamilton motioned for a 10-minute recess, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

Discussion of the over/under budget took place. Commissioners reviewed the different funds and their over/under numbers.

Resolution 2025-32 & 2025-33, dated back to 12/29/2025 per Auditor, Rodney Burns.

*Jason Hightower motioned to approve Resolution 2025-32 that included: District Court \$5,000, IT- \$24,000, Emergency Preparedness - \$15,000, GIS - \$40,000, Appraiser - \$40,000, Economic Development - \$40,000, Clerk - \$2,900, Marina - \$25,000 to Equip Reserve and \$25,000 to Park Contingency, Public Works: \$10,000 for Custodial, \$158,396.72 for Solid Waste, \$20,000 for Noxious Weed and Sheriff- \$152,000. The mentioned amounts and funds will be moved to Equipment Reserve. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-0.*

*Alison Hamilton motioned to approve Resolution 2025-33 to move \$550,223.42 to Special Road & Bridge fund from Road and Bridge. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.*

*Alison Hamilton motioned to adjourn, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

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Chair

Attest:

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Clerk

January 20, 2026

The board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Jim Johnson, Chair, Alison Hamilton, Vice Chair, Jason Hightower, Member, Jacklyn Paletta, Counselor and Chasity Ware, Clerk. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

*Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

*Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the claims in the amount of \$616,163.21. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

*Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the add/abates in the amount of \$783.94. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

*Alison Hamilton added 5-minute executive session, KSA 75-4319 b.2, attorney/client privilege pending litigation to the agenda. Jason Hightower added P & Z appointment of member to new business. Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the adjusted agenda, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

AMR Report read by Jason Hightower: Blue Mound had 12 calls, 5 transports, Centerville 2 calls, 1 transport, LaCygne 15 calls, 8 transports, Linn Valley 8 calls, 5 transports, Mound City 16 calls, 11 transports, Parker 9 calls, 3 transports, Pleasanton 11 calls, 8 transports, Prescott 4 calls, 2 transport for a total of 77 calls and 43 transports.

Sheriff Report: 69 prisoners, 1 releases, 0 farmed out, 54 farmed in, 55 -911 calls, 4248 jail contacts, 747 calls for service, 18 civil service papers served, 22 VIN inspections, 25 new cases opened, 5 cases closed, 11 vehicle crashes, 123 bailiff contacts, 7 livestock out, 144 SRO calls for service.

Appraiser: Lisa Kellstadt – asked for a 10-minute Executive Session meeting for KSA 75-4319 b.1 for non-elected personnel, job performance with three Commissioners, Counselor and Lisa Kellstadt.

*Alison Hamilton motioned to go into a 10-minute Executive Session meeting for KSA 75-4319 b.1 for non-elected personnel, job performance with three Commissioners, Counselor and Lisa Kellstadt. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

GIS/Mapping: Jason Parker – shared 911 issues at the lakes has now been updated, completed state requirement report, department heads had started meeting occasionally, started scanning old 911 paperwork, and printing maps for upcoming appraiser hearings.

Fire/Emergency Management: Randy Hegwald – shared he has worked with GIS/Mapping quite a bit and has been pleased with their services, shared Fire call summaries of 2 building fires, 3 wildland fires, 2 EMS assist, 3 vehicle crashes, 1 gas leak and 2 mutual aids, visited with Anderson County, they are needing 4 cascade bottles, and our department no longer uses them. Permission was granted for Randy to place the bottles and other items no longer needed on Purple Wave.

The clerk failed to add the remaining funds in the budget for Fire and Emergency Management to the Special Fire Equipment funds resolution. Per Rodney Burns, the auditor, he asked to amend Resolution 2025-33, and add the fund amount to the resolution.

*Jason Hightower motioned to move \$106,045.74 from Fire and Emergency Management to Special Fire Equipment fund in Resolution 2025-33 as an amendment, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

Public Works: Jesse Walton – Tire bids were presented to Commissioners, Goodyear and Pumps tire provided bids; Jesse will qualify the bids and return next week with a full amount. Cost estimate for grader came in at \$10,473.36. \$11,000 was approved.

*Jason Hightower motioned to approve \$11,000 for the fixing of the motor grader, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

Dump truck is currently getting worked on and the estimate is coming next week. There is a computer issue with the Pleasanton dump truck, this continue to be an issue within these dump trucks, foremen have been asked to develop a list for items to go to Purple Wave.

March 2,3 & 4, 2026- Johnny & Carl will attend a County Weed of Kansas conference. There is another page from KDOT that needs to be signed by Chair and Clerk to complete the Federal Aid certification. As-built dirt work is done at the landfill. All of this will be turned into KDHE and then meeting with KDHE soon to look at expanding to the east. Inspection list for the KCAMP Risk Management report, there are 46 items on the list, 10 items we don't need to do anything with. Fixing anything on the list does not make our premiums any cheaper. Bid walks at cabins took place, bids should be coming in. Old jail publicity was shared and bid walk will come soon. Generator will be moved with the assistance of an electrician.

Clerk: Chasity Ware – asked for Election Deputy to have her own credit card so the record keeping and budget records are kept separate.

*Jason Hightower made a motion for the Election Deputy to have a credit card with a credit limit of \$1000.00. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion. Jason Hightower moved to amend the motion to be \$2000 instead of \$1000. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.*

The airport liability insurance can be locked in for a \$2625 yearly rate if paperwork is signed.

*Jason Hightower motioned to approve the liability insurance for the airport in the amount of \$2625.00 for the next three years, Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.*

*Alison Hamilton motioned to go into executive session for 5 minutes for attorney/client privilege for KSA 75-4319 b.2 with three commissioners and attorney. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.*

Public Comment: Sharon Welch shared cabin food for thought and she would like share her thoughts on the rental home to be renovated so the area could be used for family reunions and making the rental home become an AirBnb, she would like to see fireman in the park and training of burning locust trees with volunteer firefighters, would like to see more volunteers to come in and help with staff, would like to see the shelter house being used but the regulator doesn't work at the fireplace, there is a hole on the right side of the fireplace ceiling and her consideration of not having a swim beach.

New Business: Jennifer Leach- Harlow and Janel Aust came forward representing the Economic Development Board/E-Community Board. The boards held a meeting to discuss the future of the boards. The message is clear they do not want to continue to move forward without a leader. This board was designed to help clients develop Economic Development by being a bridge in the gap. Network Kansas provides low interest, gap loans for clients and can't be provided without an E-Community Board. Network Kansas been able to help provide \$247,600 that included but not limited to Spencer Collision, Tripe T lodging and Blue Dog Winery. This board helps help along Network Kansas for YEC and other resources. The board stated the position did not fail, the people you hired did not fail, it was the misdirection that failed. Jason Hightower agreed that he felt that the Economic Development Director position was watered down with other job duties and felt the county wasn't developing the county and why he didn't want to hire another Economic



Development Director. Jim Johnson agrees with Jason. Moving forward, the board will finish up the YEC and decide on what to do. Counselor Paletta asked several questions and inquired what the business structure is unable to provide some business advice. Alison Hamilton shared her opinion that she feels the position needs to stay open for Economic Development for Linn County, she agrees” it has been watered down and we haven’t been able to give clear direction as far as what we want”. There was then discussion about the E-Community vs. Economic Board. Paletta shared she believes they are two different entities due to the business structure that each may have. Paletta is going to look into the business structure before giving any other guidance. This will be tabled until February 9, 2026.

Vicious Dog Law: Counselor Paletta mentioned the codes/process of Vicious Dog Law and the process comes into play and may need some review. This will be tabled until February 9, 2026.

*Alison Hamilton makes a motion to table the Vicious Dog Law to February 9, 2026. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.*

*Jason Hightower motions to table the Economic Development committee to further allow Jacklyn to research until February 9, 2026. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.*

*Jason Hightower motioned to approve the appointment of Brad Aust to the Planning & Zoning Committee to represent District #1. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.*

Alison Hamilton will be attending the LEPC meeting on 1/22/26.

*Alison Hamilton motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.*

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*Chair*

*Attest:*

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January 26, 2026

The board of Linn County Commission met in regular session at 9:00 AM in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Linn County Courthouse Annex, Mound City, Kansas. Present were Chair - Alison Hamilton via Zoom, Vice Chair - Jason Hightower, and Member – Jim Johnson, Clerk - Chasity Ware. Jim Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

*Jason Hightower motioned to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-0.*

*Jim Johnson motioned to approve the claims in the amount of \$645,655.54. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-0.*

*Jason Hightower motioned to approve the add/abates in the amount of in the amount - 9152.54. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

*Jason Hightower motioned to approve the agenda as presented, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

AMR: read by Jason Hightower: Blue Mound had 12 calls, 5 transports, Centerville 4 calls, 1 transports, LaCygne 19 calls, 10 transports, Linn Valley 9 calls, 6 transports, Mound City 22 calls, 14 transports, Parker 9 calls, 3 transports, Pleasanton 18 calls, 11 transports, Prescott 5 calls, 3 transport for a total of 98 calls and 53 transports.

Sheriff Report: Read by Jason Hightower: 70 prisoners, 13 releases, 0 farmed out, 54 farmed in, 5067 jail contacts, 683 calls for service, 20 civil service papers served, 15 VIN inspections, 26 new cases opened, 9 cases closed, 4 vehicle crashes, 151 bailiff contacts, 0 livestock out, 111 SRO calls for service.

Health Department: Amanda Snyder- January Highlights included providing CPR/First Aid to Jayhawk Transportation staff, in office flu shots, WIC appts in office and at Blue Mound, 27 expecting babies, 6 already born in January, Regional RN training that included disease investigation training and rabies presentation and answered question from Jayhawk transportation regarding car seat installs. Upcoming events include prenatal classes, FIFA World Cup preparations, ATL Grant application, PHEP Regional exercise with communicable diseases, soil testing/seed starts for the Nutrition Nook Garden and WIC NSP were accepted. There will be an Expecting Together/Preparing for Baby event on February 28 at Highpoint Venue. Amanda shared the paid parental leave started around 2016 when she and Cindy Holt worked in the office together and on the handbook. The commissioners at that time adopted 3 weeks parental paid leave for primary caregiver and 8 days for secondary caregiver. State of Kansas provides 8 weeks of parental paid leave for their primary caregiver and 4 weeks to secondary caregiver. Amanda would like to see us adopt 6 weeks for primary parent and 2 weeks for secondary parent. She would also like to see 20 hours of paid leave for pregnancy-related appointments. In order to receive this you would have to be able to qualify for FMLA, which means you would have to be employed for a year, the primary parent would use their short term disability first, for a pregnancy our short term pays 5 weeks, first week is considered the waiting period, so short term will pay for 5 weeks at 66 2/3 of their salary and employee can supplement that with sick and vacation time and then could use their parental leave the county provides them, and anything beyond that would be vacation, sick time or unpaid leave and these employees would not be eligible for sick bank hours. She shared she believed this would improve physical and mental health for parents, stronger bonding time, better infant health outcomes, long-term development benefits and lack of prenatal care. She shared that an average healthy prenatal visit schedule could include roughly 3.5 hours per visit that includes driving time and appt time and multiply by the 14 visits would be roughly 44.94 hours. An hourly employee earning 40 hours of sick time would take them 5 months. Benefits for the county include competitive advantage for hiring, improved employee retention and turnover, increased employee morale and productivity and alignment with county values and public service mission.

Marina: Sheri Loveland and Jesse Walton- there were 2 bids provided for the remodel of the cabins. Aaron James Schackleford with a bid of \$18,259.77 and Miller Brothers, LLC with a bid of \$24,810.00. Sheri and Jesse will qualify the bids. Sheri shared cabins 1-6 really need to be remodeled. Her concern is commissioners want to remodel cabin 7 that is 15 years old and the others are 40 years old. Cabin 7 is rented out over 160 days out of the year, and Cabin 6 is rented out over 150 days out of the year. Commissioners are requesting record over the last 5 years of what the cabins have been rented out.

Sheri and Jesse would like to possibly allow loops to go to gravel and do chip and seal on the main drive into the park. This would be a 2-year project, year one would do patching swags and year two would do the chip and seal, milling out and doing a hot seal. Jesse will figure the number of miles that will include.

Public Works: Jesse Walton – Burial Permit BP2026-01 to consolidate water district #1, road crossing at Farris and 900 rd, there are no concerns for this.

*Alison Hamilton makes a motion to accept the Burial Permit BP2026-01 for consolidating water district #1 between Farris and 900 road, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

Tire Bids- after reviewing, Jesse would like to use Pomp's Tire. The cost was broken down by each tire versus a total amount. It was shared that road crew was out over the weekend and currently, as built at the landfill was looked at and looks good, mowing bids going out soon, GWorks had a virtual meeting, and kinks are being worked out. Military Bridge- paperwork was sent to the state and information to come. Tire bid total was \$52,919.20

Clerk- Chasity Ware- gave an update with the Airport Insurance, it was announced last week the locked in 3-year annual rate would be \$2625.00 however, that did not include the terrorism amount that would include \$263.00 so that actual annual cost will be \$2888.00. Update on Cheyenne the Election Deputy has applied for an Election Security Grant from the state, she has applied for \$21,667.00, allowing her to get new door, filing cabinets and more secure things for the election room. Questioning a better way of knowing who the commissioners appoint as board members and where is the record of those that have been appointed that include their terms, planning to post this on the website in the future. Counselor Paletta asked that BOCC approve the ROZ (Rural Opportunity Zone). The ROZ is regarding student loans; we don't provide any funds as a county.

*Jason Hightower motioned to approve the ROZ Applications Resolution 2026-1, with the county not paying anything towards the student loans. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried.*

*Jesse came back in with a total tire bid from Pomp's Tire which includes \$52,919.20.*

*Jason Hightower motioned to use Pomp's Tire in the amount of \$52,919.20, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.*

No public comment opened and closed due to no one being present.

*Jason Hightower motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.*

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Chair

Attest:

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Clerk