

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 20th 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 17th.

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.

Chair

Attest:

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 Higtower 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.

Chair

Attest:

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.

Chair

Attest:

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.

Chair

Attest:

Clerk

February 2, 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, and Member – Jim Johnson, Clerk -Chasity Ware and Counselor Jacklyn Paletta. Alison Hamilton led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation from Caleb Richardson.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion carried 2-0.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the claims in the amount of \$\$285,256.50. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion carried 2-0.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the add/abates in the amount of in the amount -789.18. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

Agenda adjustment to add 5 minutes Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b.1, non-elected personnel, job performance and a 5-minute Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 2 attorney/client privilege with anticipation of litigation.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the agenda with adjustments, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

AMR: Dawn Brooks: Blue Mound had 16 calls, 6 transports, Centerville 4 calls, 1 transports, LaCygne 26 calls, 16 transports, Linn Valley 15 calls, 8 transports, Mound City 31 calls, 18 transports, Parker 10 calls, 3 transports, Pleasanton 25 calls, 16 transports, Prescott 5 calls, 3 transport for a total of 134 calls and 71 transports.

Sheriff Report: Read by Jim Johnson: 70 prisoners, 1 releases, 0 farmed out, 53 farmed in, 73- 911 calls, 4507 jail contacts, 686 calls for service, 20 civil service papers served, 9 VIN inspections, 35 new cases opened, 12 cases closed 11 vehicle crashes, 121 bailiff contacts, 0 livestock out, 74 SRO calls for service.

Fire & Emergency Preparedness: read by Alison Hamilton: 2 Building Fire, 2 Wildland Fires, 3 EMS assist, 4 vehicle crashes, 1 Mutual aids (canceled enroute), 12 calls for the week, 56 calls for 2026.

Planning & Zoning: Jenny Cummings shared that District 3 initially had Charlene Sims that expired July 25, 2025, then Hal Aggers was appointed August 19, 2024, to finish out the term. Jenny is asking to allow Hal Aggers to finish his term from July 25, 2025, to July 25, 2028.

Jim Johnson makes a motion to allow Hal Aggers to District 3 seat for Planning & Zoning board for the remainder of the term ending in July 2028. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

Alison Hamilton confirmed that this was indeed Hal's first term and that because he was appointed it doesn't stop him from serving a second full term. Counselor Paletta confirmed that was correct.

Jenny then shared two businesses before Planning and Zoning to move current property from agricultural land to industrial land. The P & Z committee unanimously voted to allow that to take place. First business was Evergy Kansas Metro that went before the board January 13, 2026, and ask for 596.17 acres to be moved from agricultural to light industrial use for public utility and services. This land is known as south of the power station, east of 2200 rd between Yancy and Wakefield. Notice was posted in official county newspaper, Linn County News, Dec. 24, 2025, and notice was sent to landowners within 1000 feet pursuant to state law and Linn County P & Z. Melissa (sound was unable to be heard due to microphone being accidentally turned off). Jenny shared a map of the two locations mentioned above.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the rezoning of US-KS 107.LU 2025-8 from agricultural to light industrial for public land, utility and services. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

The second business is Youthfront to rezone from Agricultural to Heavy Industrial. This is section 19, township 19, range 25, commonly addressed as 22724 E 2400 rd Lacygne, KS. Notice was properly posted in newspaper on December 24, 2025, in addition notice was sent to owners of all properties within 1000 feet pursuant to state law and Linn County P & Z. Topher Philgreen, Executive Vice President with Youthfront. They are a large youth ministry

and would like to renovate this camp. No direct plan of use but with the heavy industrial on three sides of the property and a 4 lane on the fourth, planning for what may come.

Alison Hamilton motioned to take a 10-minute recess to review property line boundary to look at certified mail receipts to review who received notifications.

After a 10-minute recess it was brought forward that not all landowners received property notification. After reviewing, Counselor Paletta shared that not all the landowners received property notification and her recommendation is to send it back to P & Z to ensure everyone receives statutorily proper notice.

Alison Hamilton motioned for Jenny to go back to P & Z to have all landowners notified. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

Public Works: Jesse Walton – shared mowing bids will go out this week, fuel bids coming at the end of the month, old- jail walk-thru is at 2pm on Tuesday, 2/3/26, a request for another as built at the landfill, snow removal has been done, 4H-building has two heater issues that caused an alarming carbon dioxide issue due to heat exchanger(changed out 4 or 5 years ago that needs to be changed, that cost is \$4987 each, price to replace units is \$18,985 per unit. Per counselor the county is not responsible for providing a building for 4H. Alison Hamilton asked that it be confirmed the county was not responsible. Paletta says county is not, but there are other things she needs to investigate. Alison would like to revisit with 4H stuff, asking Abbie Powell to show up to next meeting to discuss. All funds collected are delivered to the treasurer's office. Cleaning is provided by 4-H leaders. Advised to look for any contracts there may be between county and fair association. There are some other concerns that the 4H building needs taken place; fryers not working, oven, etc.

Alison Hamilton makes a motion for the 4H building to have events cancelled until February 17, 2026. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

Dump truck in Pleasanton, the housing cracked in the 2006 truck. The cost to fix is \$12,169.20 with labor and hauling the truck to be fixed. The truck wasn't an issue or had any maintenance.

Jim Johnson motioned to fix the truck in amount of \$12,169.20. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

1095- south ½ of project paperwork is done, on-call engineer from Cook, Flatt & Strobel, held a preliminary hearing, KDOT need paperwork to get started, this will start in 2027.

Alison Hamilton motioned to sign the agreement with Cook, Flatt & Strobel for the south ½ of 1095 project. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

Park Cabins will be tabled until February 9, 2026, since Jason is absent and Sheri couldn't be here.

-Alison Hamilton motioned to go into Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 2 for attorney/client privilege with anticipation of litigation with attorney, 2 commissioners, clerk and Jesse Walton for 5 minutes. No action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike White, Mound City shared that he isn't complaining about the roads being graded in Linn County but hauled a trailer over to Anderson County and noticed hitting the county line going west out of Centerville. The surface is 3 years old now and I noticed the clearing of the road was night and day difference. Discussion took place of what might be on their surface in Anderson County versus Linn County and to look into what the future could hold for Linn County and the cost.

Clerk: Chasity Ware shared an invoice for TriKo in the amount of \$11,646.50. The amount budgeted for TriKo is \$49,385 for 2026.

Jim Johnson motioned to approve of paying the TriKo invoice in the amount of \$11, Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

An invoice for SEKRPC in the amount of \$3838.65 was presented, after discussion, commissioners decided to wait until return of Jason Hightower. Discussion of the boards that commissioners were appointed to. Tabled for February 9, 2026, meeting. Meetings mentioned, STARS, SEKRPC, LEPC, Economic Development, Area of Aging, etc.

Alison motioned to go into 5-minute Executive session KSA 75-4319 b. 12 Information Security with 2 commissioners, clerk, and attorney. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried, 2-0. No action taken.

Alison Hamilton motioned to go into 5-minute Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 2 attorney/client privilege pending litigation with 2 commissioners, attorney and clerk. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

Alison motioned to go into 5-minute Executive session KSA 75-4319 b. 12 Information Security with 2 commissioners, clerk, Chris Martin IT and attorney. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried, 2-0. No action taken.

Alison Hamilton motioned to go into 5-minute Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 2 attorney/client privilege pending litigation with 2 commissioners, attorney and clerk. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0. No action taken.

Alison Hamilton motioned to go into 5-minute Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 1 for non-elected personnel, job performance with 2 commissioners, clerk and attorney. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried, 2-0. No action taken.

Handbook tabled until February 9, 2026, Old Business.

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

Chair

Attest:

Clerk

February 9, 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, Vice Chair – Jason Hightower and Member – Jim Johnson, Clerk -Chasity Ware and Counselor Jacklyn Paletta. Alison Hamilton led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation from Brandon Clark.

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

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the claims in the amount of \$\$354,028.82. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-0.

Jason Hightower motioned to approve the add/abates 2025-05, 2025-00174-00189, in the amount of in the amount-21,225.44. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Agenda adjustment to add 5-minute Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 2 attorney/client privilege with anticipation of litigation change from current agenda from attorney/client privilege to non-elected personnel, KSA 75-4319 b. 1.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the agenda with adjustments, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

AMR: Dawn Brooks: Blue Mound had 4 calls, 1 transports, Centerville 0 calls, 0 transports, LaCygne 2 calls, 1 transports, Linn Valley 4 calls, 4 transports, Mound City 12 calls, 7 transports, Parker 5 calls, 0 transports, Pleasanton 7 calls, 3 transports, Prescott 3 calls, 0 transport for a total of 37 calls and 16 transports.

Sheriff Report: Read by Jason Hightower: 68 prisoners, 17 releases, 0 farmed out, 50 farmed in, 62- 911 calls, 3755 jail contacts, 797 calls for service, 23 civil service papers served, 11 VIN inspections, 31 new cases opened, 16 cases closed 11 vehicle crashes, 130 bailiff contacts, 1 livestock out, 163 SRO calls for service.

Fire & Emergency Preparedness: Randy Hegwald: 4 Wildland Fires, 7 EMS assist, 1 vehicle crash, 1 Rubish Fire 13 calls for the week, 69 calls for 2026. Any open burns need a permit, just call the Sheriff's office prior to outdoor burning. Asked permission to purchase 202 Dodge Ram pickup truck from Sheriff's office for the price of \$20,000. Amount will be paid out of Special Fire Equipment and deposited into Sheriff's Equipment Reserve. This truck would replace the last Ford Excursion at Station 910.

Jason Hightower made a motion to allow Fire & Emergency Management to transfer the 2020 Dodge Ram in the amount of \$20,000 from Fire Special Equipment to Sheriff's Special Equipment. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

GIS/ MAPPING: Jason Parker- shared 3 quotes for a large scanner. Drexel Technologies at \$10,972.15, Salina Blue for \$12,495.00 and Sumnerone for \$12,999.00. His recommendation was Drexel Technologies.

Jason Hightower made a motion to purchase a scanner from Drexel Technologies in the amount of \$10,972.15 from Special Equipment Funds. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Public Works: Jesse Walton:

Planning & Zoning: Jenny Cummings: asked for approval Resolution 2026-02 to move forward with finalizing zoning change for case #US KS 107 LU 2025-8.

Alison Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02 for changing the classification from agricultural to light industrial. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

County Attorney: Justin Meeks: asked for Executive Session.

Alison Hamilton motioned to go into Executive Session for KSA 75-4319 b.2 – attorney/client privilege pending litigation for 7 minutes with three commissioners, county counselor and Justin Meeks. Jason Hightower seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. No action taken.

Alison Hamilton motioned to go into Executive Session for 3 minutes, KSA 75-4319 b. 1- non-elected personnel with 3 commissioners, clerk, county counselor and Justin Meeks. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. No action taken.

Alison Hamilton made a motion to go into Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 1 non-elected personnel, job duties with Jason Parker, three commissioners, counselor and clerk for 10 minutes. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Public Works: Jesse Walton & Sheri Loveland (Park): Shared Marina income of \$14,437.40 and expenses of \$6965.14. Shared cabin rentals for 2021 of 909, 2022- 1002, 2023- 1037, 2024- 783 and 2025 had 884. Discussion took place regarding the remodeling of the cabins. Discussion took place regarding Airbnb. Discussion of sewer on Cabin 6 is a concern and Jason shared he felt the data shared Cabin 6 may need the remodeling instead of Cabin 7. More discussion took place regarding remodeling. Decision was made to get Cabin 6 sewer issue taken care of. Inquiring about time frame for remodeling of approximately 3 weeks and only a 3-week window of the cabin being not being rented. Discussion of surrounding Airbnb's and cost comparison. Discussion of renting a cabin for 1 night free for every 2 nights rented in the winter. Sherri shared that helps bring in winter business and helps pay utilities. More discussion about the remodel, Commissioners are asking to start with cabin 6, Jesse will reach out to those that placed bids on the cabins and ask for a bid for cabin 6 that will provide a more accurate bid.

4-H Building: Abbie Powell – Abbie shared how the Extension office rents/runs the 4-H building. It was shared of the item's things needed to be fixed/replaced at the 4-H building. It was discussed that the county is not responsible for providing a building to the Fair, but discussion of who should continue to own/maintain the building. Abbie shared she has found other places for those that had rented the building to host their events until decision was made regarding the 4-h building. Jesse shared the roof should be done in the next couple of weeks and the HVAC. Abbie shared that they schedule the events, collect the funds and then take those funds to the Treasurer's office. 4-H clubs do the cleaning after events have been held in the building and the county pays for the county/supplies. Utilities go to the clerk's office to be paid. Extension office does not want to take on the financial responsibility or ownership of the 4-H building. Abbie shared Miami County and Bourbon County fair board owns their 4-H buildings. Abbie shared the kitchen doesn't have to have an industrial kitchen set up, but a couple home stoves/ovens would be nice. The rental for the 4-H building is currently \$75. Jason Hightower shared that the county could push this off on to the Fair board, but if we do, we will see an increase in this budget to offset this budget. Jim Johnson shared they would take their portion of their mill. Jason shared if we take care of the 4-H building it falls under the county budget, if the fair board takes care of it, will fall under their budget which will be taken off our tax rolls, which is still county money. Alison shared she understood what was being said about the budget, but she feels the Extension office needs for the 4-H building are not being taken care of in a timely manner. The commissioners feel the fair board may have better control over the care of and needs of the 4-H building if they own it. Jim Johnson would like the fair board to come to the meeting and discuss what the future may look like for the 4-H building. Abbie shared when the remodel of the extension office took place, a meeting room for council meetings.

Jesse shared the roof and 2 sides of the building are being fixed and paid for by insurance. Alison would like the other 2 sides to be addressed. Jesse will talk to Dave Sutter. Discussion regarding the HVAC situation took place and was discussed to go out for another bid to repair and the current contract with Jason Weber is up at the end of February. The parts that need replaced in the furnace were done two years ago. Jason shared that the county budgeted for the 4-H building this year and should maintain that until the end of the year.

Alison Hamilton motioned to go into Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 2, with three commissioners, counselor and Jesse. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. No action taken.

Jesse shared that KDOT will begin replacing the large box culvert at Lavendar farms by the high school (on 52). This will take about 65 days and there will be no thru traffic. Traffic will be redirected to go by Lyman Road and 750 rd. Jesse mentioned the bridges that are on 750 rd can only hold up to 80,000 lbs so not big trucks.

2/23/26 Public works will be replacing culverts on paved roads starting at 500 rd & 1077 in Blue Mound then outside of Bush City there will be 3 culverts. The next section will be on north end of 1095, there are 3 of them that are 7ft. tall and 11 ft. wide by 84 feet long. Jesse would like to reach out to on call engineer to see if they could do smaller culverts, commissioners agreed to go out for bid.

Good turn out for the old-jail bid walk through, there was a test for asbestos that came back negative of any asbestos.

Jesse asked for two burial permits.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve Burial Permit 2026-02 with LCRWD#2 at 950 rd and Paine Road, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the Burial Permit 2025-03 with LCRWD#3 at 1525 west of K7, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.

Jesse shared a Terracon invoice for perimeter berm/vertical expansion.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve payment to the Terracon invoice in the amount of \$7130.75, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Landfill trucks will start building on 2/11/26.

Jesse would like to hire Grace Kellum from interim to full-time.

Jason Hightower motioned to hire Grace Kellum from interim to full-time at \$18.64, 8F, Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Jesses asked for Grace to be able to have a credit card with a limit of \$5000 for Public Works.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve a credit card with credit limit of \$5000 for Grace Kellum, Public Works, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.

Jesses would like to hire Jason Sabine for Solid Waste Coordinator pending passing drug test and fit test.

Alison Hamilton motioned to hire Jason Sabine as the Solid Waste Coordinator for \$23.1536, 11G, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.

Jesse will meet with Terracon to see what the cost will include to expand the landfill to the east. He has the quality checks back on the perimeter berm of \$66,022. The funds will come from ARPA.

Jesse is requesting Kwik-Com invoice for \$58,000 to complete contract.

Jason Hightower motioned to pay Kwik Com in the amount of \$58,000 completing contract, Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

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

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

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

Clerk: Chasity Ware- discussed the handbook in more detail, discussion of sick leave, HR consultant would like to confirm if an employee isn't physically working and not getting paid, they would not be able to accrue sick time or vacation time. Parental Leave was discussed; Jason and Alison were in favor of 6 weeks for primary caregiver and 2 weeks for the secondary caregiver and providing 20 hours of prenatal care payment (Senate Bill 153). Jim shared the county is on a tight budget and should stay where we are. Lactation Accommodation will include paid breaks to express milk discussion took place. Leave without pay discussion took place. Civil leave took place. Drug and Alcohol testing took place.

Clerk: shared that 6th Judicial needing an appointed nominating commission member.

Alison Hamilton motioned to have Todd Schneider to serve the upcoming term from 3/2/26-3/5/2030 as the 6th District Judicial Nominating Commission member. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Clerk asked for an Executive Session.

Alison Hamilton motioned to go into Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 1 non-elected personnel, job performance, counselor, commissioners and clerk for 5 minutes. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. No action taken.

Counselor: Jacklyn Paletta shared more information regarding Title 4E- Foster care legal representation cost reimbursement will come.

Economic Board Development: discussion took place regarding E-Community vs. Economic Development board and decided to table this until February 23, 2026.

Vicious Dog law: Counselor is working with codes officer and sheriff's office to plan how to move forward. Asking to table that until February 23, 2026.

Airport/Lot Split: tabling to March 9, 2026, due to BOTA hearings.

SEKRPC invoice: grant writing, loan funds and other funds that could be useful to our county.

Jason Hightower motioned to pay the SEKRPC invoice in the amount of \$3838.65, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Discussion regarding onboarding/offboarding protocol and it's process needs to be added to the protocol.

Fence Laws: Kansas is a fenced in state and the counselor will get some clarification regarding this.

Mike Murray is not here to speak (as posted on the agenda).

Alison Hamilton motions to move the meeting from February 16th to February 17th due to the holiday, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.

Alison Hamilton motioned to move Handbook and Vicious Dog Law to February 23, 2026. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried, 3-0.

Alison Hamilton motioned to move Economic Development Board and Lot Split to March 9, 2026. Jason Hightower motioned to second the motion, motion carried 3-0.

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

Chair

Attest:

Clerk

February 17, 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, Member – Jim Johnson, Clerk - Chasity Ware and Counselor Jacklyn Paletta. Alison Hamilton led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation from Mathew Young.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion carried 2-0.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the claims in the amount of \$\$372,319.40, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion carried 2-0.

Jim Johnson motioned to approve the add/abates 2025-190- 204, in the amount of in the amount -6949.00. Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the agenda as written. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried, 2-0.

AMR: read by Alison Hamilton: Blue Mound had 16 calls, 6 transports, Centerville 4 calls, 1 transport, LaCygne 26 calls, 16 transports, Linn Valley 15 calls, 8 transports, Mound City 31 calls, 18 transports, Parker 10 calls, 3 transports, Pleasanton 27 calls, 16 transports, Prescott 5 calls, 3 transports for a total of 134 calls and 71 transports. Average response time is 17:57 for District 1, 20:46 for District 2 and 24:02 for District 3.

Sheriff Report: Read by Jim Johnson: 63 prisoners, 13 releases, 0 farmed out, 44 farmed in, 72- 911 calls, 4466 jail contacts, 842 calls for service, 17 civil service papers served, 13 VIN inspections, 23 new cases opened, 12 cases closed 7 vehicle crashes, 113 bailiff contacts, 1 livestock out, 149 SRO calls for service.

Fire & Emergency Preparedness: Randy Hegwald: 4 Wildland Fires, 2 EMS assist, 1 rubbish fire, 1 crash detection, 1 rubbish fire, 1 vehicle fire, 9 calls for the week, 78 calls for 2026. Was in contact with National Weather Service regarding Marias Des Cygne crested on Sunday but no flood warning was issued. There will be a pancake/sausage feed at Parker Library on Saturday for station funds. Half of the proceeds will go to the Honor flight. Everyone is welcome to attend.

IT: Chris Martin: year to date on support tickets is 237, 218 of them have been closed, 7 after hour calls and 11 new computers set up thus far. Installed a cold weather kit on the K-7 tower site generator, working on replacing an oil pressure sensor at the health department, installed a new camera of 360 degree in the jail kitchen, completed phase 1 of the law enforcement radio encryption project, 48 have been done. Replaced 911 – mounting equipment and headset issue in dispatch. An issue in the jail HVAC unit has been fixed. Replaced wireless access point at Emergency Management, and replacing a router. Verified radio in the 8 patrol cars and found 5 problems and have been fixed. Annual tower site inspections have begun. Fixed an antennae alignment issue at the park cabins, no one was aware it was messed up and pointing down, but it has been fixed. Currently transitioning all the sheriff cellphones to First Net.

Alison inquired about zoom/team capabilities and the concern of the lack of hearing/visual for any guest that may call in. Chris will investigate what the possibilities may consist of.

Public Works:

Planning & Zoning: Jenny Cummings- an amendment to 2026-02 was requested.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the amendment to Resolution 2026-02 for classification to KCPL Company & Gas & Electric, submitted by Evergy Kansas Metro Inc. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

Jesse Walton: Introduced Jason Sabine as the new Solid Waste Coordinator. Shared the KDOT project on K-52 will be starting today. Cabin 6 – an ad goes into the paper tomorrow, would like to replace the roof with a metal roof, the smell/water issue has been addressed. An ad will go in the paper for culvert projects, engineer advised we go out for permit for the culverts on 1095, he would like to go out for bid on that project, he will reach out to schools to let them know road projects so bus routes can plan accordingly, cat grader broke down and is at Chanute, sign truck needs fixed and will cost \$5046.13.

Alison Hamilton motions to approve Custom Bid at One Source for the sign truck to be fixed in the amount of \$5046.13. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

A track loader that has a hydraulic pump is causing high pressure problems. The cost to fix it from Foley will be \$9672.30, just gave a heads up.

Jim Johnson approved to have the track loader to be fixed in the amount of \$9672.30, Alison Hamilton seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

Jason Webber came in to share information regarding the HVAC units at 4-H Building. Jason found out that one HVAC unit has a warranty for 2 more years (heating exchange to be replaced). The inducer motor, roll out switch and LP conversion kit are recommended to be replaced. This is the second failure in 5 years with these units. Jason shared a couple options to either fix or replace the two units. After a bit of discussion and reviewing the options, Alison Hamilton asked for some time to review the options.

Alison inquired about going out for bids on 2 new units and the contract with Jason Webber.

Jesse Walton shared about the bids for the old jail that will be turned in by February 27, 2026. Moving the generator from old jail to the courthouse is in progress.

Clerk: Chasity Ware – inquired about the newspaper ads for available employments and what the protocol is due to a large amount of funds being paid out for them, the ads are to be ran in two week increments and paid out of courthouse. Clerk inquired why they weren't paid out of the department funds, after discussion it is believed to be paid out of courthouse funds due to HR, but to also develop a protocol for departments. Clerk is going to add the employment ad protocol in the handbook.

Alison shared that Mine Creek Gravel Battle will be held March 28, and they would like to use the courthouse parking lot as a break spot. Contract with Jason Webber was provided, it was shared it is not exclusive to not be able to get bids. Alison mentioned if units are being checked is there a checklist that shows an itemized list of what has been completed and if it has been checked, then how did two units fall through the crack, Jim shared he would like to see a check off list for quarter checks, Jesse shared he has not seen a checklist come across his desk. Clerk inquired where the signed contract with Commissioners is located, the contract shown only has Jason Webber's signature and then has options. No resolution was found, funds paid to Webber included \$39,462.70 from February 16, 2024, to December 31, 2025. Alison asked about going out for bids regarding new units and Jesse shared since it is under \$25,000 amount they won't have to go out for bids.

Alison Hamilton motioned to go into Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 2 for Attorney/client privilege in anticipation of litigation for 5 minutes with Jesse, two commissioners and counselor. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Counselor: Jacklyn Paletta – is continuing to figure out the Economic Development and the connection with E-Community. She is requesting a little more time.

Alison Hamilton motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0.

Chair

Attest:

Clerk

February 23, 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, Vice Chair – Jason Hightower and Member – Jim Johnson, Clerk -Chasity Ware and Counselor Jacklyn Paletta. Alison Hamilton led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation from Joe Perkins.

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

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the claims in the amount of \$898,632.52. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-0.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the add/abates 2025-205-218, in the amount of in the amount -\$15,521.36. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Agenda adjustment by clerk to add 10-minute Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b. 2 attorney/client privilege with anticipation of litigation. Alison Hamilton motioned to take handbook off the agenda today and move to March 16.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve the agenda with adjustments, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

AMR: Dawn Brooks: Blue Mound had 6 calls, 2 transports, Centerville 3 calls, 1 transport, LaCygne 19 calls, 10 transports, Fontana 1 call, no transports, Linn Valley 10 calls, 7 transports, Mound City 27 calls, 15 transports, Parker 10 calls, 0 transports, Pleasanton 24 calls, 10 transports, Prescott 3 calls, 0 transport for a total of 103 calls and 45 transports.

Sheriff Report: Read by Jim Johnson: 52 prisoners, 14 releases, 0 farmed out, 35 farmed in, 78- 911 calls, 4783 jail contacts, 790 calls for service, 32 civil service papers served, 12 VIN inspections, 23 new cases opened, 12 cases closed 02 vehicle crashes, 161 bailiff contacts, 0 livestock out, 134 SRO calls for service.

Fire & Emergency Management: Randy Hegwald: 4 Wildland Fires, 4- EMS, 2- Rubbish fires, 1-MVA, 2- Fire Alarms, 1- structure fires, 1- smoke investigations, weekly total of 15, 93 for the year. Shared Burn Ban and by issuing the burn bans helps keep us from having issues they had out west. Randy shared he looks at National Weather Service and states EOC as resources to issue the burn bans. Looks as if burn ban will be in affect tomorrow.

Public Works: Jesse Walton- pushing culvert project in Blue Mound to 3/2/26, grader is down in the shop, suggestion is to pull the transmission to see if the issue is the transmission or the motor (Unit #322). The reconditioned motor is the same amount as a new transmission, total cost of the grader to get it up and running is \$11,072.83. The grader has 99,400 hours on it and a new one is \$300K+. By fixing the grader it will provide a 5000 hour/3 year warranty. Warranty

Jason Hightower motions to spend \$11,072.83 to Caterpillar/Foley to remove the Unit 322. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Dump truck price difference is \$12,711.16 to fix/repair the dump truck.

Jason Hightower motions to pay the \$12, 711.16 for repairs on the dump truck, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Jim Johnson motioned to approve Burial Permit #2026-04, for the crossing at 2100 rd & Gireau rd. of 3200 ft. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Alison Hamilton motioned to approve Burial Permit #2025-05 for the crossing at Yankee Rd and 950 rd., Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried. 3-0.

Contract for the old Military Bridge was presented, the county state agreement and what the county will pay for (the right-a-ways purchase/utilities/engineer). This contract is only if

we decide to move forward, not bound until hiring of an engineer to see what needs to be done. Counselor Paletta reviewed the contract. KDOT will pay for all construction and preliminary engineering up to the maxes spelled out in project 883. The 883 is the programming document spells out the funding and that's in case the maximum fund is over \$2 million dollars.

Jesse requested to post positions including Public Works Office Assistant and Public Works Assistant Director. Job Descriptions were provided to the commissioners after a recess.

GWorks update has been a headache and Jesse would like to hire more people in the office to learn the program and training this Wednesday.

Counselor Paletta shared in paragraph 10, the county will be responsible for liability associated with anything that happens on the project, they won't be self-insured. This is their standard contract. Confirmation with KCamp that this follows under out insurance policy.

Jason Hightower motioned to enter into the agreement with KDOT for the Military Bridge, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Alison asked about going back out to Solid Waste, Jesse shared this will be addressed next week.

Clerk- Chasity Ware shared an update with the new payroll system, kicking off training Tuesday and Wednesday will be able to attend. Several calls have been received regarding the 3 grants that Economic Development has handled in the past. See Old Business. The Treasurer of the Linn County Fair Board, Wade Teagarden, asked for a \$70,000 payment now.

Jason Hightower motioned to pay the Linn County Fair Association per their budget in the amount of \$70,000. Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Alison Hamilton motioned to go into Executive Session KSA 75-4319 b.2 for attorney/client privilege with anticipation of litigation with clerk, counselor and three commissioners, Jim Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. No action taken.

Public Comment: Chuck Stevens, President of Tanglewood, first wanted to share that a sign at 1850 Rd. has been down for approx. 6 months, this is outside of Gate 3. The second thing is asking about paperwork from their attorney. Counselor Paletta shared there is a lawsuit with Tanglewood that is in litigation, a meeting will County Attorney in Executive Session. Chuck also shared there was a fire at the compactor and the county was a huge help.

Alison Hamilton motioned to go into a recess until 10am, Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Alison Hamilton motioned to go into Executive Session for 15 minutes KSA 75-4319 attorney/client privilege pending litigation with counselor and three commissioners. Jason Hightower seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. No action taken, no public comment.

Old Business: Counselor looked into contracts/liabilities and dismantling Economic Development Board. Paletta shared the county agreed our end to continue to have an Economic Development Board to disburse of grants and loans. Businesses within Linn County that receive the loans and grants. Dissolving Economic Development Board, that would dissolve the cooperation with E-Community, which would in turn mean that those businesses that are currently benefiting from those loans and grants would no longer be funded. Decision needs to be made to potentially dissolve the Economic Development board. Jim Johnson was curious how Miami County handled when they got rid of their Economic Development Director. Commissioners shared the concern of the businesses affected by not having an E-Community Board. Paletta shared for commissioners to come up with a long-term plan and to stipend/contract an individual that could tie up these loose

ends. The clerk will find out how many years the county is looking at the attachment for the E-Community/Economic Board and the businesses. Jason Hightower would like to see hiring an interim to tie up some loose ends.

Public Works provided job descriptions and asked to place ads in the newspaper for Public Works Office Assistant and Assistant Administrator, Jesse shared by hiring the of an Assistant Administrator to help assist with the Landfill and other pressing issues.

Alison Hamilton would like an updated Flow Chart of employees after positions have been filled.

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

Chair

Attest:

Clerk