

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 13, 2026

- Agenda: 8:30 – Bills
8:45 – Cammie Heaton – Comm Health updates
9:00 –
9:15 – Clint Meyer – Pioneer Electric
9:30 – Tony Martin – Public Works
9:45 –
10:00 – Landfill Loader Bids
10:30 – Dave Piper – Hospital updates
11:00 – Edgar Ortuno – OC Quality Custom Homes, LLC

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners met in a regular session with all members present. County Attorney Paul Kitzke, and County Clerk Amy Jo Tharp were also present. Tron called the meeting to order. Shannon moved to approve minutes from the last meeting. Joe seconded. Motion carried. Shannon moved to approve the county vouchers. Joe seconded. Motion carried. The County Clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the Treasurer chargeable to the various funds of the county for the following amounts:

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|-------------------------|----|-------------------|
| General | \$ | 133,532.02 |
| Judicial District | \$ | 3,013.13 |
| Road & Bridge | \$ | 114,125.23 |
| Airport | \$ | 12,752.14 |
| Landfill Closure | \$ | 1,393.74 |
| Noxious Weed | \$ | 4,048.46 |
| EMS | \$ | 19,371.08 |
| Fire | \$ | 25,224.56 |
| Building | \$ | 754.58 |
| Community Health | \$ | 35,483.94 |
| Airport Grants | \$ | 53,815.18 |
| Special Law Enforcement | \$ | 5,596.00 |
| Emp Misc W/H | \$ | 900.00 |
| Library | \$ | 86,563.00 |
| Diversion | \$ | 119.88 |
| Sheriff | \$ | 82,923.42 |
| <u>TOTAL:</u> | \$ | <u>579,616.36</u> |

Rodney Kelling came to check in with the commissioners. They discussed emergency management positions and what that position entails.

Tony Martin and Jeff Cox were in attendance.

Cammie Heaton was first on the agenda and stated she spoke at the Governor's Conference. She said the ECDC is beginning enrollment, and the health department will do health assessments for \$30.00 cash for each child. Cammie also informed the commissioners the preschool is all day instead of half (1/2) a day and the school will possibly eliminate kinder-prep. Cammie informed the commissioners the community health department was over budget from 2025, and it is possibly due from grants not being reported during the year 2025. The Pioneer Manor residents are all up to date on the pneumonia/RSV vaccines as there was an RSV outbreak at the care home. Cammie asked Tony to have someone spray the weeds by the chiller at the health department. Trane completed the bi-annual checkup on the heat and air system and said everything looked good. Cammie discussed the upcoming budget for 2027 and explained to the commissioners there is no place she can foresee cutting her budget fifteen to twenty percent (15% - 20%).

Clint Meyer and Nate Gillespie with Pioneer Electric were next on the agenda. Clint said the company would like to build a facility in Hugoton west of Flatlanders. This raises the question of would the commissioners allow multiple exits on Optima Road to help with the flow of traffic. Joe said the commissioners' goal is to keep less drivers from entering or exiting off Optima Road that close to an intersection. Clint relayed they have not spoken with the City of Hugoton yet but will be soon. Tony stated he had heard about possible rezoning of the city but is not sure when that could take place. Tron said he would like to know what the City of Hugoton's thoughts are about the situation.

Amy stated the UniFirst rates have risen about seventy-five percent (75%) in just over a year. She said the contract states the amount should not go up unless there are changes with the product and/or services. If there seems to be a discrepancy it needs to be addressed in writing. Amy has drafted a letter for UniFirst to see what is happening with the courthouse bills. Amy informed the commissioners that the election grant totaling \$5,945.00 was approved with the county covering ten percent (10%). The commissioners viewed the final plans for election security which consist of a wire cage in the storage room where the election equipment is held as well as an extra shelf and election equipment security tape. Amy said due to the cage being built to an existing county building she is asking for a motion of approval to be made.

Joe made a motion to accept the construction of a wire security cage to protect the election equipment in the storage room of the county clerk's office. Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

Rex Evans was in attendance.

Tony handed the commissioners a quote from Terracon for approval on the monitoring wells costing a total of \$9,400.00 (\$4,700.00 per monitor per well).

Shannon made a motion to approve the quote from Terracon for the well monitoring cost of \$9,400.00. Joe seconded. Motion carried.

Tony told the commissioners that he and Jeff will be attending the planning and zoning conference April 21 through 22, 2026. Joe asked Tony to find out more about battery centers so the county will have reliable information and can stay ahead. Tony said he has done some research on data and battery

centers, and the newer models do not seem to use as much water or electricity. Tron stated he heard NextEra wants to put in a battery station.

Dustin Murphy and Jen Tolston with Murphy Tractor, and Dustin Daniels with Foley Equipment were present.

The commissioners opened bids for a new front loader for the landfill:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Murphy Tractor | \$311,895.25 |
| Foley Equipment | \$289,289.53 |

Tony reviewed the specs from both companies and informed the commissioners they match the county specs. Joe expressed his disappointment with Foley Equipment's rebuilding of the current loader stating the county paid almost as much as a new loader would've been, only for it to run three (3) years and only receive \$85,000.00 on the trade-in value.

Shannon made a motion to accept the loader bid from Foley Equipment in the amount of \$289,289.53. Joe discussed his dissatisfaction with CAT but seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tony asked Dustin Daniels how soon the delivery of the loader would be. Dustin replied, mid to late May.

Jennifer Featherston, Angela Piper, and Dave Piper with the Stevens County Hospital were in attendance. Dave informed the commissioners the hospital budget would not be available in April as requested but sometime in July-August. Dave said the pulmonary resuscitation department is doing well and is growing. The medication prices have increased as well as property insurance. The hospital is currently working with Brown Adams on cyber security. It seems to be working well and has helped keep patient files and information safe from cybercrime. Jennifer discussed rural health and is working on grants through CMS. They are hopeful the extra grant funds will help. Jennifer said if the 340B program is put into place it could potentially hurt the hospital. Jennifer said Dr. King is a great asset to the hospital and is helping to lighten Dr. Sam's patient load. Tron and Shannon exclaimed the positive words they have heard about the hospital and are pleased the changes have made an improvement. Joe asked where the care home is with the new shed. Jennifer said they are currently receiving bids and looking into a possible grant for the shed. Tron asked if the care home has considered possible independent living apartments. Dave said the idea has been discussed but at this time the care home is in need of updates such as furniture and regular upkeep.

Edgar Ortuna and Mica Ratzlaff with OC Quality Custom Homes, LLC arrived.

Joe asked Paul about the east industrial park land that Jet Land and Cattle, LLC are wanting to purchase. Paul stated that due to the LLC, laws have changed and now a form of closing must be conducted. Paul is currently talking with American Title to get costs, and the commissioners will then need to decide who should be responsible for the closing and filing.

Edgar and Mica expressed their intent to purchase several lots in the Pioneer Addition and begin building residential homes. They presented the commissioners with photos of current homes they have built along with timelines per home. Phase One of their project is building on four lots and Phase Two is building on a whole block of Pioneer Addition. Phase One will begin as soon as feasible and the outcome of that will determine proceeding with Phase Two. The commissioners agreed and will have a notice in the newspaper within the next week or two.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman