

*****August 20, 2025 *****

The Board of County Commissioners met in a regular session on Wednesday, August 20, 2025. Commissioner Culbertson; Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Misty Brown, County Counselor; Jon Khalil, Deputy County Counselor; Aaron Yoakam, Buildings and Grounds Director;

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kirsten Workman, Sharon Plum, Loren Gottschalk, Betty Klinedist, Virginia Stewart, Sherry Jaster, Sara George, David Espenshade, Tiffany Leach commented.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

The Board spoke about the budget, property taxes, unfunded mandates and RHID's.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Stieben to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, August 20, 2025 as presented.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Aaron Yoakam requested approval of a base bid for the substrate for the outside of the Courthouse.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reid and seconded by Commissioner Stieben to approve Pullman SST, Inc. for the base bid in agreement with Treanor for the substrate for the outside of the Courthouse in the amount of \$5,879,454.00 with a 5% contingency.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Mark Loughry provided a presentation for the County budget.

The Board recessed for 5 minutes.

Resolution 2025-28, levying a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate for the tax year 2025 was presented.

Commissioner Smith opened the public hearing.

No one spoke in favor or opposition at this time.

Commissioner Smith closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve Resolution 2025-28, levying a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate for the tax year 2025 to fund budget expenditures for fiscal year 2026.

Motion passed, 4-1, Commissioner Reid voting nay.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to place the economic development funds from fiscal year 2025 and 2026 in a separate County

fund and to be used for economic development and have a work session to determine how that will be assigned.

Commissioners Culbertson and Stieben withdrew the motion and second.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to leave it in the current economic development fund and the Commission itself will meet in a work session to determine the disposition of those funds.

Motion passed, 4-1, Commissioner Reid voting nay.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to have the front door be closed to public and the rear door only for public entrance for the County Courthouse at an estimated savings to the budget of \$100,000.00.

Motion failed, 2-3, Commissioners Smith, Dove and Reid voting nay

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Dove to require that all department's salaries increase be limited to the 2% that was asked and requested with the exception in the Sheriff's Department deputies' salaries be allowed to increase by 4% , other positions will only go up the 2% that all the other officers and staff in that County that will save \$60,000.00.

The motion was amended by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Dove that requires all department budgetary salary increases be limited to the requested 2% with the exception that deputies' salaries will be allowed to an increase of 4% and that's with the Sheriff's Office with a savings of \$60,000.00.

Motion passed, 4-1, Commissioner Culbertson voting nay.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Dove to add an additional \$5,000.00 to the funding of Sparrow Clinic.

Motion failed, 2-3, Commissioners Culbertson, Smith and Dove voting nay.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Reid to add \$5,000.00 seed money for historical societies, arts and cultural fund and set a work session to determine the oversight and future funding for cultural and art events.

Motion failed, 2-3, Commissioners Culbertson, Smith and Dove voting nay.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Dove to remove \$126,000.00 from the County Attorney's budget that funds that particular item.

Todd Thompson spoke.

Motion failed, 2-3, Commissioners Culbertson, Dove and Reid voting nay.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the Leavenworth County budget for 2026.

Motion passed, 4-1, Commissioner Reid voting nay.

Resolution 2025-29, levying a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate for Leavenworth County Special-Other Funds for tax year 2025 was presented.

Commissioner Smith opened the public hearing.

No one spoke in favor or opposition at this time.

Commissioner Smith closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Stieben to approve Resolution 2025-29, levying a property tax rate exceeding the revenue neutral rate for Leavenworth County Special-Other Funds for tax year 2025 to fund budget expenditures for fiscal year 2026.

Motion passed, 4-1, Commissioner Reid voting nay

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to approve the Leavenworth County Special Other Funds budget.

Motion passed, 4-1, Commissioner Reid voting nay.

Commissioner Smith attended the Port Authority meeting.

Commissioner Reid requested feedback from the Economic Development Summit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stieben to adjourn.

Motion passed, 5-0.

The Board adjourned at 11:50 a.m.