

\*\*\*\*\*August 6, 2025\*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met in a regular session on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. Commissioner Culbertson; Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Commissioner Smith is absent; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Jamie VanHouten, Community Corrections Director; Bill Noll, Infrastructure and Construction Services;

Commissioner Culbertson nominated Mike Stieben as temporary chairman for today's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Dove to nominate Mike Stieben as temporary chairman for today's meeting.***

***Motion passed, 3-0, Commissioner Stieben abstained.***

Commissioner Dove suggested the Board contact the Department of Agriculture about a disease that is affecting horses in the area on how to help prevent this disease from spreading.

The Board briefly discussed the costs and the impact of a RHID.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Dove to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, August 6, 2025 as presented.***

***Motion passed, 4-0.***

Bill Noll requested approval of a supplemental agreement for engineering services on bridges SH-54 and SH-61.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve the supplemental agreement with Finney and Turnipseed for construction engineering for bridges SH-54 and SH-61.***

***Motion passed, 4-0.***

Todd Thompson addressed the Board regarding the County Attorney's budget.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Dove to restore the \$130,000.***

***Motion passed, 4-0.***

Jamie VanHouten requested approval of the adult and juvenile comprehensive plan amendments.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Reid to approve the FY25 Adult Comprehensive Plan Budget Amendment.***

***Motion passed, 4-0.***

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve the FY25 Juvenile Comprehensive Plan Budget Amendment.***

***Motion passed, 4-0.***

Dates for Budget hearings were presented for approval.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve the Notice of Hearing to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget Hearing set for August 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.***

***Motion passed, 3-1 Commissioner Reid voting nay.***

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve the Notice of Hearing to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget Hearing for Special Other Funds set for August 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.***

***Motion failed, 2-2 Commissioner Reid and Culbertson voting nay.***

***A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Dove Notice of Hearing to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget Hearing for Special Other Funds set for August 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.***

The Board directed staff to present a revenue neutral budget for next week.

***Motion passed, 3-1 Commissioner Reid voting nay.***

The Board discussed the 2026 legislative session topics.

It was the consensus of the Board to include reform revenue neutral statute.

It was the consensus of the Board to include no more State unfunded mandates.

It was the consensus of the Board to include to let each County vote on a tax system that works for them in lieu of relying solely on property taxes.

It was the consensus of the Board to include to place a State wide cap on property taxes.

It was the consensus of the Board to include competitive bids for water district projects.

It was the consensus of the Board to include changing the 30-day time frame in the RHID law.

It was the consensus of the Board to include verified parental consent for abortions.

It was the consensus of the Board to include an amendment to allow the dissolution of Fire Districts.

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

*Motion passed, 4-0.*

The Board adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Final Approved

\*\*\*\*\*August 6, 2025 \*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met in a joint economic development summit with governing entities on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. Commissioner Stieben, Commissioner Reid and Commissioner Dove are present; Commissioner Culbertson and Smith were absent; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator

Also present were : Jeff Klemp – Kansas Senator; Beverly Gossage – Kansas Senator; Pat Proctor – Kansas Representative; David Buehler – Kansas Representative; Loren Feldkamp – USD 464 Superintendent; Evan Dean – USD 464 School Board; Linda Vernon – USD 464 School Board; David Frese – Tonganoxie Mayor; George Brajkovic – Tonganoxie City Manager; Dan Porter – Tonganoxie Assistant City Manager; Chris Donnely – Tonganoxie City Council; Matt Partridge – Tonganoxie City Council; Jacob Dale – Tonganoxie City Council; Chris Vignery – USD 458 Superintendent; Dick Drennon – Basehor Mayor; Maddie Bouten – Basehor Deputy City Administrator; Shari Standiferd – Basehor City Council; Vickie McEnroe – Basehor City Council; Scott Peterson – City of Leavenworth City Manager; Kerry Brungardt – USD 469 School Board, Lansing City Council Member; Tim Vandal – Lansing City Administrator; Josh Gentzler – City of Lansing Community & Economic Development; Greg Kaaz – LCPC; Doug Schimke – LCPC; Lisa Hack – LCDC; Mary Mack – LCDC; Harland Russel – LCDC; Dave Vodarik – LCDC; Josh Hoppes – LCDC; Brian Habjan – LCDC; Jeremy Greenamyre – LCDC; Joe Wilson – LCDC; David Schroeder – LCDC

Key points discussed were economic development achievements from LCDC, challenges in housing and growth, rural housing incentive districts, infrastructure and property taxes and better communication and coordination among all entities.

\*\*\*\*\*August 13, 2025 \*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met in a regular session on Wednesday, August 13, 2025. Commissioner Culbertson; Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Commissioner Smith is absent; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Misty Brown, County Counselor; Jon Khalil, Deputy County Counselor; Bill Noll, Infrastructure and Construction Services

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rebecca Mahan, John Redden, Daniel Clemens, April Cromer, Caleb Christopher, Tim Vandall, Tom Dials, Sara George, Richard Paz, Trena Gilford, Dave Vodarick, Mary Ryan, Betty Kleindist, Harland Russell, William Page, Jane Engelhardt, Paul Cromer, Ryan Burton, Mike Kenaga and Janie Stockman commented.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Reid addressed comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Culbertson addressed the parking places for Commissioners.

Commissioner Stieben spoke about infrastructure and road projects from federal funding and unfunded mandates.

Commissioner Dove spoke about RHID and tax abatements.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, August 13, 2025 as presented.***

***Motion passed, 5-0.***

The Board recessed for 5 minutes.

Bill Noll presented a contract with Pfefferkorn Engineering for the 235<sup>th</sup> St. project.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to approve the contract with Pfefferkorn Engineering Environmental, LLC for construction engineering for the 235<sup>th</sup> St. project in the amount of \$910,134.17 with a 7.5% contingency.***

***Motion passed, 5-0.***

A right-of-way policy was presented for approval.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Stieben to table for two weeks.***

***Motion passed, 5-0.***

***A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Dove that the Board recess for a closed executive meeting to consult with our attorneys and discuss confidential matters related to the legal interest of the County which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship as permitted under the Kansas Open Meetings Act and that Board resume open meeting at 11:40 a.m. in the meeting room of the Board.***

***Present in the executive meeting will be Commissioners Mike Smith, Jeff Culbertson, Vanessa Reid, Willie Dove, Mike Stieben, County Administrator Mark Loughry, County Counselor Misty Brown and Deputy County Counselor Jon Khalil.***

***Motion passed, 5-0.***

The Board returned to regular session at 11:40 a.m. No action was taken and no decisions were made. The subject was limited to the legal interests of the County.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to approve Resolution 2025-27, finding that the proposed reinvestment housing incentive district will have an adverse effect on Leavenworth County.***

Chris Colson and Joe Oakes spoke about the Riverbend Heights RHID.

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

The Board recessed for 5 minutes.

Jeremy Greenamyre conducted a presentation for Fairlane RHID.

Mark Loughry presented a revenue neutral budget.

It was the consensus of the Board to not cut anything from the budgets of Road and Bridge, the Health Department, Council on Aging, Commissioners, Treasurer's Office, Planning and Zoning, Sheriff, Courthouse General, Economic Development, District Court, Building maintenance, Noxious Weed and outside agencies.

It was the consensus of the Board to revisit the County Attorney's budget.

There were no cuts shown to the budgets of Employee Benefits, Clerk's Office, Register of Deeds, EMS, County Counselor, Information Systems, Human Resources, Appraiser, GIS, Elections and Administration.

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

***Motion passed, 5-0.***

The Board adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*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.

\*\*\*\*\*August 27, 2025 \*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met in a regular session on Wednesday, August 27, 2025. Commissioner Culbertson; Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Misty Brown, County Counselor;

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Joe Herring commented.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Stieben suggested the county form a government efficiency committee.

Commissioner Smith reminded the Board the County Administrator's evaluation is due Friday.

It was the consensus of the Board to add the government efficiency committee to a future agenda.

Commissioner Reid requested an executive session to discuss the evaluation tool used for the County Administrator.

Commissioner Reid indicated she was fine with adding it to a future agenda.

Commissioner Stieben expressed appreciation to the County Administrator for putting together a revenue neutral budget on short notice.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, August 27, 2025 as presented.***

***Motion passed, 5-0.***

Misty Brown presented the right-of-way vacation policy.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to adopt a policy with amended language in subsection E under three.***

***Motion passed, 5-0.***

Lisa Haack presented a quarterly report for LCDC and LCPA.

The Board reviewed proclamations for September.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith to support the September proclamations.***

***Motion passed, 5-0.***

***A motion was made by Commissioner Reid and seconded by Commissioner Dove that the Board recess for a closed executive meeting to consult with our attorneys and discuss confidential matters related to contract negotiations and the legal interest of the County which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship as permitted under the Kansas***

***Open Meetings Act and that Board resume open meeting at 10:47 a.m. in the meeting room of the Board. Present in the executive meeting will be Commissioners Mike Smith, Jeff Culbertson, Vanessa Reid, Willie Dove, Mike Stieben, County Administrator Mark Loughry, County Counselor Misty Brown and Deputy County Counselor, Jon Khalil.***

***Motion passed, 5-0.***

The Board has returned to regular session at 10:47 a.m. No action was taken and no decisions were made. The subject was limited to the legal interests of the County.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to direct staff to extend the contract with Fort Leavenworth for 30 days and then pay one million dollars a year for the continuation of ambulance services as a prerequisite for continuing with the contract.***

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

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

***Motion passed, 5-0.***

The Board adjourned at 10:48 a.m.