

\*\*\*\*\*May 6, 2026 \*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Also present: Misty Brown, County Counselor; John Jacobson, Planning and Zoning Director

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jim Karleskint, Ann Brockoff, Dee Karleskint, Cary Holton, Brian Morley, McKinley Fall, Denise McCullough, Elizabeth Groff, Zack Pistora, Lisa Thorn, Wally Pilat and Richard Paz commented.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Stieben read an article from the Tonganoxie Mirror regarding the data center.

Commissioner Smith recognized Iris Arnold who opened the Leavenworth Mission Food Pantry who will be retiring.

Commissioner Reid mentioned Edged Data Center opened in December 2024 in Kansas City and focuses on a closed loop waterless cooling system for operation.

Commissioner Stieben read a proclamation recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Commissioner Smith read a proclamation recognizing May 10-16 as National Police Week.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, May 6, 2026, as presented.***

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

Mark Loughry presented a letter of support for the funding of a Leavenworth County Mobility Study.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve a letter of support for the funding of a Leavenworth County Mobility Study in matching funds up to \$10,000.00.***

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

Misty Brown presented a cost funding agreement with Western Meadowlark Project Co. LLC.

The Board recessed for 10 minutes.

Commissioner Dove requested the discussion on the data center regulations should be before the moratorium discussion.

John Jacobson presented draft data center regulations.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt a moratorium or pause on further development on project Bluestem and any other data center projects within Leavenworth County for a period of 90 days. During the period the Commission shall further investigate all aspects of data center development including the impact on the electrical grid, the local water supplies, the protection of the environment and other issues as we continue the process of delving appropriate regulations. During this period, the County will move toward those regulations. No additional work by staff shall proceed towards the project or facilitation of the project in any other manner while the data for the development of regulations continues and this moratorium shall apply also to battery storage and crypto storage facilities if they are proposed. No application from any data centers shall be received by Leavenworth County.*

*Motion failed, 4-1. Commissioners Smith, Dove, Reid and Culbertson voting nay.*

*A motion was made by Commissioner Reid and seconded by Commissioner Dove to enter into a cost funding agreement with Western Meadowlark Project Co. LLC, to allow the County to receive upfront funding to cover expenses of third-party consultants and incur other related third-party expenses.*

*Motion passed, 3-2 Commissioners Smith and Stieben voting nay.*

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

*Motion passed, 5-0.*

The Board adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*May 6, 2026 \*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met to hear budget presentations on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Stieben and Commissioner Dove are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator

Also present: Todd Thompson, County Attorney; John Jacobson, Planning and Zoning; Fran Keppler, County Clerk; Stacy Driscoll, Treasurer; TerriLois Todd, Register of Deeds; Bob Weber, Appraiser

The Board heard budget presentations from the County Attorney's Office, Planning and Zoning, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds and County Appraiser.

The Board ended the presentations at 2:28 p.m.

Final Approved

\*\*\*\*\*May 13, 2026\*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Misty Brown, County Counselor; Senator Jeff Klemp; Bill Noll, Infrastructure and Construction Services;

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dee Karleskint, Jim Karleskint, Richard Paz, Brian Morley, Alicia Mein, Wally Ridgestone, Ted Grinter, Elizabeth Groff, and Gary Blackmer commented.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Stieben inquired about an advisory election.

Misty Brown informed the Board that advisory elections are not favored and non-binding.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith that Leavenworth County adopt a 90- day moratorium on further development of Project Bluestem or any other data center proposals, battery storage facility or crypto storage facility. This will serve as a pause until the County has time to consider and adopt regulations for such facilities. During this period the Commissioners will hold additional work sessions and hearings to give proper opportunity for all aspects of this massive and transformational project to be considered and so that we can obtain and receive more information and no application for project proposal will be received by the County within this period.***

***Motion passed, 3-2, Commissioners Dove and Reid voting nay.***

Commissioner Stieben read a proclamation recognizing EMS week as May 17-23.

Commissioner Stieben read a proclamation recognizing National Public Works week as May 17-23.

Senator Jeff Klemp updated the Board on the latest legislation in Topeka and what will be happening in the next session. He also answered questions from the Board.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, May 13, 2026, as presented.***

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

Penny Holler, Leavenworth City Assistant Manager, presented the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and requested approval of an interlocal agreement with the city of Leavenworth, Leavenworth County and USD#453.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to renew the interlocal agreement with the city of Leavenworth, USD#453 and Leavenworth County for the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.***

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

Bill Noll requested disposal of surplus equipment.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to dispose of surplus equipment as recommended.***

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

Commissioner Reid suggested add to the agenda to stop airing the meetings on Youtube since the majority of the Board does not support data centers.

Commissioner Stieben responded to the suggestion by Commissioner Reid.

Commissioner Reid read comments from the 5<sup>th</sup> District that are on line.

Commissioner Smith commented on his vote on the moratorium.

Commissioner Smith attended a farewell ceremony for Iris Arnold, Leavenworth Mission Pantry.

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

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

The Board adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*May 13, 2026 \*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met to hear budget presentations on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Stieben and Commissioner Dove are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator

Also present: Tammy Saldivar, Solid Waste Director; Aaron Yoakam, Buildings and Grounds Director; Bill Noll, Infrastructure and Construction Services

The Board heard budget presentations from Solid Waste, Buildings and Grounds and Public Works

The Board ended the presentations at 12:24 p.m.

Final Approved

\*\*\*\*\*May 20, 2026 \*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Misty Brown, County Counselor; Connie Harmon, Council on Aging Director; Aaron Yoakam, Buildings and Grounds Director; Roger Marrs, Deputy County Counselor; Bill Noll, Infrastructure and Construction Services

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ed Irvine, Brian Morley, Dee Karleskint, Jim Karleskint and Nancy Carpenter commented.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Reid attended the LCDC and Port Authority meetings indicating there may be some movement in Leavenworth County.

Commissioner Smith attended the Port Authority meeting.

Commissioner Stieben will be posting information on datacenters on his county webpage.

Commissioner Stieben read a legal brief from a local veterinary and local attorney regarding horse tripping and steer tailing.

Misty Brown indicated she disagreed with the legal opinion.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, May 20, 2026, as presented.***

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

Connie Harmon requested to accept bid from TRIO Community Meals for nutritional services and catering.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve the bid from TRIO Community Meals for FY 2026-2029 nutritional services and catering.***

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

Aaron Yoakam requested renewal of a 3-year contract with Clearwater Enterprises for gas sales.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve a 3-year contract with Clearwater Enterprises, LLC for gas sales beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.***

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

Roger Marrs requested approval to proceed with tax foreclosure proceedings.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve Board Order 2026-7, directing tax counsel to initiate judicial tax lien foreclosure proceedings.  
Motion passed, 5-0.***

Bill Noll requested approval of a 3-month lease on a Hydradig.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve a 3-month lease on a JCB 110W Hydradig from Kan Equip in the amount of \$25,000.00.***

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

The Board held a hearing on a proposed island annexation by the city of Easton by Resolution 2026-1.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to find that this island property is adjacent to the KDOT roadway and is not expected to impact County roadways or present any concerns regarding access or maintenance. Based on the totality of the record, I find that the proposed annexation will not hinder or prevent the proper growth and development of the area or that of any other incorporated city located with the County, and I move that this Board adopt these findings.***

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

The Board held a hearing on a proposed annexation of one County owned lot in the city of Easton.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Stieben that the Board of County Commissioners consent to the annexation of this County owned parcel, identified as parcel 052-064-18-0-00-00-015.00-0 into the city limits of Easton and direct staff to file the County's consent to annexation with the city.***

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

Commissioner Culbertson would like to amend a resolution regarding high pressure gas lines.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Smith 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 the board resume open meeting at 10:45 a.m. in the meeting room of the board. Present in the executive meeting will be Commissioners Mike Smith, Jeff Culbertson, Willie Dove, Mike Stieben and Vanessa Reid, County Administrator, Mark Loughry and County Counselor, Misty Brown.***

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

The Board has returned to regular session at 10:45 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 Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to adjourn.  
Motion passed, 5-0.*

The Board adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Final Approved

\*\*\*\*\*May 20, 2026 \*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met to hear budget presentations on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Stieben and Commissioner Dove are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator

The Board heard budget presentations from outside agencies to include: Soil Conservation, The Guidance Center, LCDC, Alliance Against Family Violence, CASA, Sparrow Clinic, Riverside Resources, Fair Building and Fair Premiums and Extension Office.

The Board ended the presentations at 1:22 p.m.

Draft

\*\*\*\*\*May 27, 2026\*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator;

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Wally Ridgestone, Dee Karleskint, Mary Bowes, Lisa Thorn, Tyler Carpenter, Brian Morley, Nanette Hope and Nancy Carpenter commented.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

Mark Loughry commented on the city of Leavenworth's Opportunity 2.0 zone letter of support.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to sign the letter of support for Opportunity Zone 2.0 for the city of Leavenworth.*

*Motion passed, 5-0.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to have the meeting next week at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Stieben withdrew his motion.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Reid to bring the moratorium back up for discussion.*

*Motion passed, 3-2 Commissioners Smith and Stieben voting nay.*

A brief discussion took place regarding submission of written public comment.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, May 27, 2026, as presented.*

*Motion passed, 5-0.*

Commissioner Stieben will be speaking the Tonganoxie Public Library on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. about data centers.

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

*Motion passed, 5-0.*

The Board adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*May 27, 2026 \*\*\*\*\*

The Board of County Commissioners met to hear budget presentations on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Stieben and Commissioner Dove are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator

The Board heard budget presentations from Council on Aging, District Court, Human Resources, Information Systems, Community Corrections/Juvenile Detention, Leavenworth County Sheriff and Emergency Management/911 Operations.

The Board ended the presentations at 11:34 a.m.

Final Approved