*******August 5, 2026 ********

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, August 5, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Commissioner Reid by phone; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Misty Brown, County Counselor; Monica Swigart, Human Resources Director

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ronald Grossman, Aaron Stickelman, Annette Hamilton, Dee Karleskint, Tammy Patton, Cecilia Pruitt, Andrea Bradfield, Linda Steele, Lucas Patton, Austin Lunsford and Jim Karleskint commented.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Commissioner Stieben inquired about the corporate hog farm law and the referendum.

Misty Brown gave a brief overview of the corporate hog farm law.

Commissioner Stieben inquired as to who handles the complaint against a commissioner submitted by a citizen.

Ms. Brown indicated the Commission will need follow up with the complaint.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to remove Commissioner Stieben as chair and immediately a new chair be selected by the vote today.

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

Mark Loughry reported the County is working on an informational website and offered a virtual town hall once a week.

It was the consensus of the Board to continue with the website and virtual town hall.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, August 5, 2026.

Motion passed, 4-0.

Monica Swigart presented the 2026-2027 renewal rates with Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve the 2026-2027 benefit plan year renewal rates and authorize the County Administrator to sign a one-year extension with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

Motion passed, 4-0.

Ms. Swigart presented amendments to the Wellness Incentive Policy.

Final Approved

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to approve the amendments to the Wellness Incentive Policy as presented.

Motion passed, 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Resolution 2026-13, providing for a moratorium on applications on data centers in the unincorporated area of Leavenworth County through January 31.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith items D and E be tabled at this time.

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

Cecilia Pruitt, Ronald Grossman, Ted Grinter, Lucas Patton, Tammy Patton, Robin Hungerbeeler, Sherry Brown, Annette Hamilton, Jerry Pruitt commented.

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

Motion passed, 4-0.

The Board adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Final Approved

*******August 12, 2026 ********

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, August 12, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Misty Brown, County Counselor; Anne Marie Yatsula, Assistant County Counselor; Fran Keppler, County Clerk; Bill Noll, Infrastructure and Construction Services

Commissioner Stieben recused himself from the canvass indicating Commissioner-Elect Klasinski will take his place in the voting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Dove to adjourn as the Board of County Commissioners and convene as the Board of County Canvassers.
Motion passed, 5-0.

Fran Keppler reported on the August 4, 2026 primary election and the audit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove. to allow Ms. Klasinski to serve on the Board of Canvassers in Commissioner Stieben's place.
Motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to elect Mike Smith as chair for the Board of Canvassers.
Motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to adjourn as the Board of County Canvassers and convene at a later time.
Motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners.
Motion passed, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lynn Looney, Janette Labee-Holdeman and Ron Grossman commented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove that the Board recess for a closed executive session to discuss confidential matters related to the legal interest of the County which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship as justified by K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) and that Board resume open meeting at 9:35 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 Assistant County Counselor Anne Marie Yatsula.
Motion passed, 5-0.

Final Approved

The Board returned to regular meeting at 9:35 a.m. No action was taken and no decisions were made. The subject was limited to the matter related to non-elected personnel.

Public Commented continued: Lee Hungelbeeler, Jane Dent, Robin Perkins, Mary Brown and Dee Karleskint commented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Smith convene as the Board of County Canvassers.

Motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reid and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the provisional ballots.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Ms. Keppler indicated the races remained about the same with the provisionals.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the official results for the August 4, 2026 primary election.

Motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to adjourn as the Board of County Canvassers and convene as the Board of County Commissioners.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Public Commented continued: Ann Trusty-Hulsey, Jim Karleskint, Joan Murnane, Jerry Pruitt, Teresa Lynch Mashburn and Kelly Guthrie commented.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Dove requested to add the animal cruelty resolution on the agenda for August 19, 2026 and allow proponent to show a video demonstrating cruelty involved in the form of horse tripping and steer tailing and possible violations of our current SUPs.

Motion passed, 4-1 Commissioner Reid voting nay.

Dennis Bixby commented.

The Board briefly discussed the sound system and call- in system for the Board room.

Mark Loughry updated the Board on the virtual town hall indicating he has scheduled a virtual question and answer session for August 19th at 12:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Dove to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, August 12, 2026.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Final Approved

Bill Noll requested the approval of a sale agreement for two dozers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to allow Public Works to enter into a sale agreement for two CAT road and bridge dozers.
Motion passed, 5-0.

Anne Marie Yatsula presented the Multiple Occupancy Private Spaces Policy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the Multiple-Occupancy Private Spaces Policy creating administrative procedures for compliance with Kansas laws requiring the designation of multiple-occupancy private spaces in public buildings for use by only one sex.
Motion passed, 5-0.

Misty Brown presented Resolution 2026-13, disorganizing Fire District #1.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve Resolution 2026-13, disorganizing Fire District #1.
Motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith to add a moratorium discussion to the agenda for next week.
Motion passed, 4-1 Commissioner Reid voting nay.

Commissioner Stieben read accomplishments of the Board.

Commissioner Reid asked that Steven Skeet and Robert Owens recused themselves as members of the Planning Commission if a data center application is brought forward.

Public Comment: Jim Karleskint, Joan Murnane, Ron Grossman, Jane Dent and Teresa Lynch Mashburn commented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to adjourn.
Motion passed, 5-0.

The Board adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Final Approved

*******August 19, 2026 ********

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, August 19, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Misty Brown, County Counselor; Bill Noll, Infrastructure and Construction Services; David Martin, IT Director

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard Paz, Jim Karleskint, Ron Grossman, Tammy Patton, Cary Holton, Wally Pilat, John Hulsey, Brian Long, Warren Benson, Kim Colvert, Russ Dent, Kevin Grow, Laura Fowler, Dejah Galicia, Robin Perkins, Sandra Blatts, Dee Karleskint, Lee Hungerbeeler Linda Steele, Cecilia Pruitt, Teresa Lynch Mashburn, Jane Dent, Gary Blackmer and Maryam Hjersted commented.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Mark Loughry updated the Board on the virtual town hall.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith to have an evening meeting in September in Tonganoxie.

Motion passed, 4-1 Commissioner Dove voting nay.

Commissioner Stieben inquired about the seating and sound in the meeting room.

It was the consensus of the Board to add to the agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Stieben requested a consultation with Kutak Rock.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

Motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Reid to remove item E from the agenda.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Misty Brown requested an executive session for 15 minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to recess for a closed executive meeting to discuss security measures and protocols for public meetings, including security procedures and emergency response planning because discussion in an open meeting could jeopardize the security of the governing body, its employees and members of the public as justified by K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(12) and that board resume open meeting at 11:45 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,

Final Approved

County Administrator Mark Loughry, County Counselor, Misty Brown and Assistant County Counselor, Anne Marie Yatsula.

Motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Dove to amend the motion to include outside IT as needed.

Motion passed, 5-0.

The Board returned to regular session at 11:45 a.m. No action was taken and no decisions were made. The subject was limited to matters related to non-elected personnel.

Dave Martin presented a contract for a firewall project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reid and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve a contract with Heartland Business Systems for the County enterprise firewall project in the amount of $115,000.00.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Bill Noll presented a contract with SMH for phase 1 for improvements on County Road 1.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reid and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve the engineering proposal and contract with SMH for phase 1 of the Pavement Preservation and Turning Movement Improvements on County Route 1 and 222nd St.

Motion passed, 4-1 Commissioner Stieben voting nay.

Mr. Noll presented items that need to be listed as surplus equipment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reid and seconded by Commissioner Smith to move the equipment listed to the disposal list as presented.

Motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Reid to recess for 1 hour.

Motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reid and seconded by Commissioner Smith 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 justified by K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) and that board resume open meeting at 1:28 p.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 Assistant County Counselor Anne Marie Yatsula.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Final Approved

The Board returned to regular session at 1:28 p.m. No action was taken and no decisions were made. This subject was limited to matters related to specific non-elected personnel.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith to have the Planning and Zoning Director come and answer questions on zoning and the PUD. Motion passed, 3-2 Commissioners Dove and Reid voting nay.

John Jacobson answered questions regarding PUD's.

David Arteberry presented a public revenue analysis on Bluestem.

Rebecca Davis, Lee Hungerbeeler, Annette Holden and Linda Suffert commented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Reid to adjourn. Motion passed, 5-0.

The Board adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Final Approved

*******August 26, 2026 ********

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, August 19, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Commissioner Reid by phone; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Misty Brown, County Counselor

Commissioner Stieben requested public comment be held at the end of the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Mark Loughry inquired about the scheduling of an evening meeting on September 16.

Mr. Loughry addressed reimbursements for data center site visits.

Mr. Loughry has the WebX site set up for questions and answers regarding the data center.

Commissioner Smith would like a discussion on how the meetings are conducted and public comment.

Commissioner Dove would like a discussion on property taxes.

Commissioner Stieben wants to address the power plant proposal in a work session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, August 26, 2026.
Motion passed, 5-0.

Mr. Loughry presented the Leavenworth County general funds and specials funds.

Commissioner Stieben opened public hearing for the General fund budget.

Laura Fowler spoke in favor of the revenue neutral budget.

Commissioner Stieben closed the public hearing for the General fund budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben that the Board of County Commissioners approve a one- time redirection of approximately $85,658.000 from the Economic Development Reserve Fund balance to establish an Arts Vanities and Historical Societies grant program to support historical societies, historical programs, arts and humanities or historical educational institutions and protecting Leavenworth County history and culture to be overseen by the Board of County Commissioners or a Board subsequently established by the Commission on the basis that such programs constitute economic development effort by attracting visitors to Leavenworth County effective upon adoption of the fiscal year 2027 budget or by separate board order as appropriate.

Motion dies for lack of a second.

Final Approved

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben that the Board of County Commissioners approve a reduction of approximately $150,000.00 in the fiscal year 2027 budget by eliminating the monitoring of the front public entrance of the Courthouse by two deputies and limiting public entrance to the single rear handicap access entrance only effective upon the adoption of the fiscal year 2027 budget and direct staff to implement the corresponding operational budgetary adjustments.

Motion dies for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dove to approve the 2027 Leavenworth County budget.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Commissioner Stieben opened the public hearing for the Special Other Funds budget.

No one spoke in opposition of in favor.

Commissioner Stieben closed the public hearing.

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

Motion passed, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Karleskint, Richard Paz, Tammy Patton, Robin Hungerbeeler, Dee Karleskint Lee Hungerbeeler, Linda Sturgeon, Kim Colvert, Annette Holden, Jane Dent and Lori Putthoff commented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith to bring the moratorium proposal off of the table for consideration.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith to instruct staff to prepare a procedure for conducting a countywide vote on whether we should have hyper datacenters within the County prior to regulations being developed.

Commissioner Dove mentioned an agreement that motions are supposed to be placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Stieben withdrew his motion.

Final Approved

A motion was made by Commissioner Stieben and seconded by Commissioner Smith to place having staff prepare for a countywide vote on the hyper datacenters to be placed on the agenda for discussion for next week's meeting.

Motion passed, 3-1 Commissioner Dove voting nay.

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

Motion passed, 4-0.

The Board adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Final Approved