

*****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 5th 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.