

*****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.