

*****July 22, 2026 *****

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Culbertson, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Dove and Commissioner Stieben are present; Also present: Mark Loughry, County Administrator; Misty Brown, County Counselor

Commissioner Culbertson requested to add the public comment policy to the agenda for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Hannah Houck, Cecilia Pruitt, Chase Green, Lisa Haack, Tammy Patton, Jim Karleskint, Dee Karleskint, Jerry Pruitt, Byron McFee, Ted Grinter, Rebecca Davis, TerriLois Todd and Kim Colvert commented.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Commissioner Reid attended a data center and utility summit in Topeka and will provide material to the Board.

Mark Loughry updated the Board on what Fort Leavenworth is doing for EMS services per Commissioner Stieben's request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Culbertson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to accept the consent agenda for Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Mr. Loughry presented an exemption form for NEK-CAP.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Smith to authorize the chairperson to sign the exemption form for the environmental review for NEK-CAP per the County Clerk.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Misty Brown presented an agreement for legal services related to data center development.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Culbertson to enter into an agreement with Kutak Rock to provide legal services related to the proposed data center development and associated legal matters.

Motion passed, 4-1 Commissioner Stieben voting nay.

Commissioner Dove attended the NACO conference and will relate more information to the Board.

The Board recessed for 10 minutes.

The Board reconvened at 10:57 a.m.

Commissioner Stieben ruled that the video will not be shown and that it is a discourteous act.

Commissioner Reid indicated the chairperson stated at a forum that the Board voted for the budget because of his leadership. She stated she wanted to give the rest of the Board a chance to state as to why they voted for the budget.

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

Motion passed, 5-0.

The Board adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dove and seconded by Commissioner Smith to reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Rebecca Davis, Cecilia Pruitt, Tammy Patton, Dee Karlskint, Annette Holton, Byron McFee and Jane Dent commented.

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

Motion passed, 5-0.

The Board adjourned at 11:24 a.m.