

ELK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved Minutes

January 26, 2026

If you would like to attend the meeting via zoom, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87323202564?pwd=1cjjOG8CSFg7CmpFgd5U93QLONiBlb.1>

select join meeting and enter meeting ID: 873 2320 2564 Password: 435009

Regularly Scheduled Meeting

1:00 p.m. - Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance & Prayer

Minutes Approval – January 12, 2026

1:05 p.m. – Public Forum

1:10 p.m. – Department Reports

Ambulance	Rural Fire
Appraiser	Sheriff
Emergency Management	Treasurer
Health	County Counselor
Public Works	County Clerk
Register of Deeds	County Attorney
Community Development	

Old Business:

Real Estate @ 1285 Evergreen, Moline

New Business

2:00 p.m.

Four County Mental Health – Greg Hennen

Executive Session Legal – County Attorney

Executive Session Legal – Public Works

Appointment of New Beginnings Enterprises Board Member

Executive Session Non-Elected Personnel - Employee Review- Sanders

Executive Session Non-Elected Personnel - Employee Review- Cordell

Commission Discussion

Abatements: PP26-005,PP26-006,PP26-009,PP26-010,RE26-007,RE26-008,PP26-011,PP26-014

Presentation of Claims

Other

Adjournment

Future Events: April 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2026 County Audit

Commissioner's Present:

Perry Russell, District I

County Counselor: Paul Dean

Doug Hendricks, District II

Jake Liebau, District III

County Clerk: Kerry Harrod

Others:

Don Sanders, Public Works

Todd Winscher, Rural Fire

Diane Cucar, Community Development

Erica Cordell, EM

Chris Miller, Deputy Appraiser

Kristina Kraft, Deputy Treasurer

Stefni Hebb, Deputy Clerk

Malarie Chamberlain, Payroll Clerk

Greg Hennen, Four County Mental Health

Call to Order

Chairman Hendricks called the regular meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Commissioners Liebau and Russell were present as well as County Clerk Kerry Harrod and County Counselor Paul Dean.

Minutes' Approval

Commissioner Liebau moved and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 12, 2026, as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

EMS

A full-time EMT has been hired and there will be an interview next week as well.

Appraiser

Chris Miller presented a new NRP application.

Emergency Management

Erica Cordell attended the Integrated Weather Team in Independence. This was a meeting with NWS other area partners for training and discussion. Ms. Cordell also attended the Homeland Security Council Meeting in Chanute and the Kansas Pipeline Assoc annual training meeting in Independence. Ms. Cordell was drawn for the grand prize

and will be receiving \$1,000 for the Emergency Management Department. The next LEPC meeting will be February 19, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cox Building.

#### Public Works

Don Sanders gave a report on the bridge south of Moline. They have 41 calendar days left until completion.

#### Community Development

Questions were asked about the value being high on the old church in Moline. Chis Miller will look into the value and talk to the appraiser about it. Diane Cucar talked about the site certification on 1285 Evergreen. Commissioner Liebau moved and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion to move forward with ASM Engineering Consultants to perform the Scope of Services as outlined in paragraph A of the contract for the development of a road for the industrial park not to exceed \$27,500.00. Motion carried 3-0.

#### Rural Fire

Todd Winscher stated parts are coming in for the Hemet. Mr. Winscher stated they are looking for a tank for it.

#### County Clerk

Kerry Harrod stated Special Liability fund is low and a transfer will need to be made. Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Liebau seconded the motion to transfer \$4,000 from the Wind Farm Fund to the Special Liability Fund. Motion carried 3-0. Ms. Harrod stated a correction was made on the wage scale. Commissioner Liebau moved and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion to approve and adopt the corrected wage scale. Motion carried 3-0.

#### Executive Session 1:46 p.m.

Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Liebau seconded the motion to recess into executive session for legal matters with County Counselor Paul Dean and Public Works Supervisor Don Sanders present, not to return to open session until 1:56 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Back in session 1:56 p.m.

No Action taken

#### Four County Mental Health

Greg Hennen with Four County Mental Health stated they no longer needed the property on Elk Street by the EMS/Health Department. Mr. Hennen presented a Kansas Quitclaim Deed granting the property back to Elk County. The County stated they will be a sponsor for Four County for the CBDG grant and this will not cost the County anything. Mr. Hennen submitted his retirement letter in January to Four County.

#### Appointment of New Beginnings Enterprises Board Member

Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Liebau seconded the motion to appoint Jewell Mitchell for a 3-year term to the New Beginnings Board. Motion carried 3-0.

#### Executive Session 2:08 p.m.

Commissioner Liebau moved and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion to recess into executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss employee review with County Counselor Paul Dean present not to return to open session until 2:18 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Back in session 2:18 p.m.

No action taken.

#### Executive Session 2:19 p.m.

Commissioner Liebau moved and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion to recess into executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss employee review with County Counselor Paul Dean and Public Works Supervisor Don Sanders present not to return to open session until 2:24 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Back in session 2:24 p.m.

Action: Commissioner Liebau moved and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion to increase Don Sanders hourly rate from \$28.54hr to \$28.89hr for a merit increase. Motion carried 3-0.

#### Executive Session 2:30 p.m.

Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Liebau seconded the motion to recess into executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss employee review with County Counselor Paul Dean and Erica Cordell present not to return to open session until 2:35 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Back in session 2:35 p.m.

Action: Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Liebau seconded the motion to increase Erica Cordell's hourly rate from \$21.59hr to \$22.59hr for a merit increase. Motion carried 3-0.

#### Recess 2:37 p.m.

Commissioner Liebau moved and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion to recess for 5-minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

Back in session 2:42 p.m.

Warrants

Commissioner Liebau moved and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion to approve the warrants in the amount of \$296,273.68. Motion carried 3-0.

Abatements

Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Liebau seconded the motion to approve abatements PP26-005, PP26-006, PP26-009, PP26-010, RE26-007, RE26-008, PP26-011, and PP26-014. Motion carried 3-0.

Resolution 26-03

Commissioner Liebau moved and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion to adopt resolution 26-03 a resolution denying a petition to extend County Road 4 and finding that the subject property is not landlocked with the meaning of KSA 68-117. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjournment

Commissioner Russell moved and Commissioner Liebau seconded the motion to adjourn at 3:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Kerry E. Harrod  
Elk County Clerk

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Perry Russell, District I

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Doug Hendricks, District II(Chairman)

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Jake Liebau, District III