

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
January 5th, 2026

Commissioners Present: Keith Ascher, Trish Giordano, and Kathy Tremont

Others present: Courtney Gilbert, County Clerk, Betsy Edwards County Counselor

Chairman Ascher called the County Commission meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Commission Review and Update:

Tremont:

Nothing to report

Ascher:

Nothing to report

Giordano:

Noted evaluations of department heads will begin soon, suggesting an executive session with fellow commissioners to discuss prior to meeting with department heads.

ATA Bus and K18 connector between Junction City and Manhattan started January 1st, 2026.

Commissioner Tremont moved to amend the agenda today to do an executive session for 15 minutes with HR director to discuss evaluations from 11:45am – Noon, Commissioner Giordano seconded, all voted in favor aye

Crystal Malchose, Human Resources Director, gave the weekly report:

- Out of office notifications were presented and signed by commissioners.
- Nex-Tech is updating their domain name system.
- At the KAC annual conference meeting, a commissioner from Pottawatomie asked Mrs. Malchose to share with the commissioners a framework for county property tax relief packet, Commissioner Giordano recommended commissioners to send this to state representatives.
- Everbridge test wasn't great, HR and Emergency Management are working to update contact information, due to the Holiday participation may have been low. Will complete a new test in a few weeks.
- HR completed year end and will begin on W2's soon, January 31st is the deadline to get them out.
- IRS has updated W4's for 2026, employees do not need to make changes unless they need to.

Schedule and appoint road viewers for the request of vacation of certain Geary County Right-of-Way located at intersection of Walker Road and Walker Access Road North, Geary County Kansas, Section 2 Township 11 South, Range 5 East

The board of commissioners have recommended:

Alan Hilderbrand, Terry Heldstab and Bobby Miller – Chairman Ascher will contact those individuals to see if they are willing and available to be road viewers.

Grandview Plaza Fire Chief Bramwell arrived at the meeting.

Garry Berges, Emergency Management Director, Rural Fire Chief and Curt Janke, Assistant Rural Fire Chief, gave the monthly report:

2025 Fire runs presented: 126

Dollar loss: \$320,350.00

Responses: 754

Hours on Fire Ground: 1,062.50

Unit Responses: 298

- Appreciation dinner was held last month
- Bake and craft sale that the auxiliary held was a success and they were able to purchase a portable phone unit with those funds
- John Moyer is retiring today after 32 years of service
- Next Wednesday evening at 6:00pm is their training and they will have a ceremony to acknowledge retirees.

Mr. Berges requested the board approval of using Sole Source for the purchase of Air Pacs and related equipment, this would be for the 2024 A.F.G Grant that was awarded to Geary County. The grant covers the purchase of air pac, related equipment and RIT pac for Geary County Fire, Grandview Plaza Fire and Milford Fire Departments.

Commissioner Tremont moved to approve, Commissioner Giordano seconded, all voted in favor aye

- Mr. Berges reminded Boller Road should be shutting down today and proper notification was given to emergency personnel for alternate routes.
- 8 weeks is the estimate time to be closed.
- Resolution for Officially adopting the 2025 KS Region Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented:
Commissioner Giordano moved to approve Resolution 01-05-2026A, Commissioner Tremont seconded, all voted in favor aye
- Tabletop exercise was held last month with city and county personnel. In March or April, there will be another exercise, but it will not be a tabletop.
- In the process of revitalizing a team that assists after disaster situations, which dissolved after COVID-19. Mr. Berges met with Riley County and Pottawatomie to potentially combine and make a regional team; applications will be available to those who are interested.
- Risk Management team will be ramped back up again this year. KCAMP continues to cut back on how much the county gets back each year. Requirements are the same each year but continuously receive less back.

Jeremie Myers, Public Works Administrator & Kayln Ross, Administrative Services Manager, gave the bi-weekly report:

- Big Lakes Regional Household Hazardous Waste 2026 Assessment was presented. The assessment fee for 2026 will be \$20,067.50, the same assessment amount we have had for the past three years. Big Lakes Regional HHW is made up of 11 county HHW's and the assessment is determined by population. Below is what these assignments go to:
Administration, Labor, Fuel, Repairs, Supplies, Insurance, Building Rental and Training.
Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the Big Lakes HHW assessment, Commissioner Tremont seconded, all in favor voted aye
- Energy efficiency & conservation block grant program (EECBG) has had no movement in over a year; Mrs. Ross has requested to withdraw their application for now until EECBG has hired a Technical Assistant Administrator to administer this grant.

- **Kansas local bridge rating program update:**

As part of statewide inspection program we have been advised that bridge 4.2-U. S (000000000310020) needs to be posted at or below 22 tons. This is a reinforced concrete through arch fixed bridge on West Lyons Creek Rd between Latzke Rd and State Lake Rd, constructed in 1930. We will place the R12-5 sign that will show 22 ton for straight truck (2 axels and 43 ton for combo style vehicle more than 2 axels such as truck and trailer. The program is wrapping up, and we will receive final delivery submittals in the coming weeks.

2 axels = 44K lbs. or 22 tons

3 axles = 86k lbs. or 43 tons

- **Kaw Valley contract for McNeal Bridge 19.6-T.7 replacement:**

Kaw Valley has submitted an agreement for the McNeil Rd Bridge Project. As discussed in a past meeting, KVE began working on this and had a signed contract in 207 for this project. Some of the work done is still useful therefore that cost is reflective of the current proposed cost in the new agreement. Mr. Myers has recommended board approval of the agreement with KVE \$74,872.00 special bridge fund.

Non-participating PE Design costs were entered at \$98,834.00

Commissioner Tremont moved to approve the agreement with KVE, Commissioner Giordano seconded, all in favor voted aye

Commissioner Giordano moved to approve resolution 01-05-2026B for increasing the fee schedule for Geary County Transfer Station, Commissioner Tremont seconded, all in favor voted aye

- Mr. Myers followed up with Chairman Ascher on bridge inspections. Geary County has 69 bridges in their inventory, 65 of those get inspected every two years, four bridges that are inspected annually with a total of 69 bridges.
- Mr. Myers stated a local company for the camera and sound system to stream the meetings will have a quote on his desk this week.
- Quarter 4 slide show project presentation was shown to the county commissioners.

Raquel Cinco, CVB Director, gave the monthly report:

- New visitor guide is out
- Mrs. Cinco met with EDC Director.
- Grandview Plaza fire chief was not aware that Great Western Inn had turned into apartments and had concerns. Working with local government and property owner on that issue.
- Mrs. Cinco is leaving for Denver on Wednesday, show starts on Thursday. Monthly CVB Board Meeting is on Thursday, and she will call in for that.
- Beautification grants have been dropped off at hotels.
- TGT Report dropped 2%, Mrs. Cinco attributed that to I-70 closure and 4 hotels closing and/or rebranding.
- Secured 3 fishing tournaments for 2026, Bass Nation, Catfish Chasers and Milford Lake Blues.
- Increase in TGT should be held off by hotels until they hear official word to increase.
- Marketing position at the CVB is open.
- Mrs. Cinco toured the new Hideaway formally the Country Club and it is designed to host events.
- Three Sister's Venue is also a new event center, and Mrs. Cinco has reached out to them to tour it.

11:45am, Commissioner Giordano moved to go into Executive Session for non-elected personnel with HR director for 15 minutes, Commissioner Tremont seconded, all voted in favor aye

12:00pm, Commissioner Giordano moved to extend the Executive Session for non-elected personnel with HR director for 10 additional minutes, Commissioner Tremont seconded, all voted in favor aye

12:10pm, back from executive session, no action taken

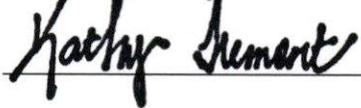
Public Comment, no one from the public was present

Commissioner Giordano moved to approve change orders 2025012138-2025012159 for corrections to the tax roll for Real Estate, Personal Property and Trucks due to clerical errors, Commissioner Tremont seconded, all in favor voted aye

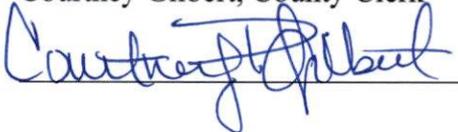
Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the minutes from 12-22-2025, Commissioner Tremont seconded, all in favor voted aye

Chairman Ascher adjourned the meeting.
Adjourn

Chairman, Kathy Tremont



Courtney Gilbert, County Clerk


_____ 1/12/2026