

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES  
January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

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

Chairman Tremont called the County Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Commission review and update:**

**Giordano:** Ms. Robison, Ms. Edwards and Commissioner Giordano spoke to Lead JC about County Leadership.

Attended the employee task force meeting.

Attended the dinner for the Brigade Baseball team.

Attended the Flint Hills Regional Council Meeting, they hired two grant writers on a contract basis as needed, mentioned EMS has received a \$700,000 grant.

Attended the Martin Luther King JR celebration.

Attended Local Health Equity Action Team meeting, with some funding they provided some cold weather gear, they are looking to get some additional funding to assist people with getting their GED.

Mentioned Old Troopers have asked the board to renew their membership.

**Commission Ascher moved to approve the Old Trooper Dues for \$450.00 for 2026, Commissioner Giordano seconded, all voted in favor aye**

**Ascher:** Attended the PBC meeting, Jeff Kline came to give an update about the Hospital, states \$57,000 was received in accounts receivable last month.

Attended the Seals and Crofts show at the Opera House.

**Tremont:** Attended the Martin Luther King Jr celebration as well.

Mentioned January 28<sup>th</sup> is Local Government Day at the Capitol and says she will attend.

Chairman Tremont asked if rural citizens were allowed to dispose of tires at the City/County wide clean up project, Commissioner Giordano mentioned that it was a joint effort and all Geary County residents were allowed to dispose of tires and it was a joint cost. Chairman Tremont had a meeting with some department heads about the tax roll which brought up other topics of discussion. Are department head meetings beneficial or would they be more productive to be dedicated to specific departments. There is a department head meeting scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> and the commissioners will ask the department heads what they think about the structure of these meetings going forward.

Chairman Tremont asked the other commissioners their opinion on the potential of a 3% max on valuations.

**Garry Berges, Emergency Management Director:**

Presented the Fireman Relief Association document for signature, retired volunteer fire fighter John Moyer who served 34 years would receive his annuity payout.

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

**Crystal Malchose, Human Resources Director, gave the weekly update:**

- Employee task force meeting went well last week, discussed the survey that was sent out last week, as well as fundraising. One of the suggestions for a fundraiser was that each employee would pay \$5 per Friday to wear sweats/joggers to work. The fundraiser would go to purchase socks, coats, gloves and hats for all Geary County residents in need.

- Spirit Week for the Super Bowl will be February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Geary County and the Sheriff's Office have officially changed to .GOV
- Collection of food items for United Way will be the last two weeks of April outside of the ROD office.
- The break room door has a frosted window now.

ADS is compiling an estimate to install a FOB/Badge access lock to the basement and to switch FOB/Badge entry from first entrance door to the second door in the ROD office.

**6:30pm Commissioner Giordano moved to go into executive session for non-elected personnel to include HR director, Ms. Edwards, for department head evaluations for 15 minutes, Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye**

**6:45pm Commissioner Giordano moved to go into executive session for non-elected personnel to include HR director, Ms. Edwards, for department head evaluations for 15 minutes, Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye**

**7:00pm, back from executive session, no action taken**

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

Request and Petition was presented

**Commission Ascher moved to approve the request and petition, Commission Giordano seconded, all voted in favor aye**

- Geary County has received quotes for 4 county owned elevators that during the inspections for the state that occurred in late 2025, code compliance issues were identified and need correcting as soon as possible. As always with elevators, these carry a heavy price. If corrections are made individually the cost to complete them will be higher due to additional travel charges, Mr. Myers feels it would be in the best interest of the county to do them all at once. The total cost for all 4 quotes is \$28,720 this would be paid out of the Facility Fund. Finance Director has been advised of this. **Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the corrections, Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye**
- The Sheriff has requested to have a couple of trees removed on Franklin St, east of the Sheriffs Office. The trees are causing obstruction to some of the cameras that they have had installed to monitor the parking lot where their vehicles are parked. Mr. Myers has asked the City for their approval and was granted permission from PW Administrator on 01/15/2026. **Commissioner Ascher moved to approve to get quotes for tree removal, Commissioner Giordano seconded, all voted in favor aye**
- Mr. Myers received a quote from a local vendor to upgrade the commission chamber's technology, which came in at around \$40,000. Commissioner Giordano asked Mr. Myers to send the quote to each commissioner so they could review it.
- There are six chairs currently sitting in the basement of the Office Building. These have sold twice on Purple Wave now and the buyers have not shown up for them. Purple Wave will not list them again because of this. Mr. Myers will email Department Heads to see if anyone would want them.
- LTAP Classes will be hosted at their location again this year. The first two classes will be held in February, on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. One class is for Culverts & Drainage and the other is for Culvert Inspections. They intend to send some of their staff to these classes and will welcome personnel from other entities.
- **Mrs. Ross presented the Safe Streets & Road for All (SS4A) Website:**  
As mentioned previously, a portion of this grant has a public engagement piece as they need the public's input on their view of Geary County. With that, some tools have been created that they would like to share. The TAC that has been formed will be asked to share within their respective

departments, we will post on their website & social media pages, they will do a press release on JC post, and can ask businesses, libraires and around the community to post the fact sheets to help spread the word.

- Mrs. Ross believes it is time for Public Works to have their own Facebook Page. With this, their goal is to have more community outreach and share news with the public.
- Chairman Tremont asked Mr. Myers to get an estimate for some additional lighting in the employee parking lot for early mornings and late evenings.

**Commission Ascher moved to open the board of public health, Commissioner Giordano seconded, all voted in favor aye**

- Charles Martinez, Health Department Director gave the monthly report:
- Gave an update on the workforce development grant, they owe us \$43,000. The computer system needs to be fixed for the Health Department to receive the funds.
- Quarterly reports for grants have all been submitted.
- Additional grants have been submitted and he is awaiting response.
- Flu season is here and it's hitting Geary County hard. Mr. Martinez is expecting this to get better in February.  
Influenza A is the most popular strain right now and the vaccine is showing effective.
- Acute respiratory illness is up because of the flu; COVID numbers are down also.
- Sensitive disease surveillance, everything is reporting where it should be.
- The two cases of tuberculosis are two separate cases and not related.
- There is some training coming up provided by the State which his staff will attend.
- December is a slow month financially, there was an issue with Vax Care and their billing, they are working to correct this.

**Commission Ascher moved to close the board of public health, Commissioner Giordano seconded, all voted in favor aye**

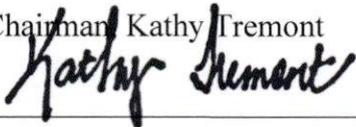
**Commission Giordano moved to approve change orders 20260000006-20260000031, Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye**

**Commission Giordano moved to approve the minutes from 01/12/2026, Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye**

Public Comment: There were no members of the public were present

Chairman Tremont adjourned the meeting  
Adjourn

Chairman Kathy Tremont



Courtney Gilbert, County Clerk

