

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
January 26th, 2026

Commissioners Present: Keith Ascher (arrived at 11:00am), 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 10:00 a.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Commission review and update

Giordano:

Attended the MAC breakfast

Attended The Regional Growth Summit, comments that it was informative, believes that Geary County should have been better represented and advertised.

Gave appreciation to Geary County and City of Junction City Public Works for working hard and long hours to clear the roads.

Ascher:

Attended the MPO meeting last week, focus right now is on HWY 24 corridor in Pottawatomie County, putting in a second bridge over the river.

Attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting, Ashley King is the chair for 2026.

Attended the annual soil conservation dinner.

Tremont:

Attended the juvenile detention meeting and the board voted no to pay the retired directors insurance.

Attended the MAC breakfast.

Attended the soil conservation annual meeting and dinner, first time attending and it was informative.

Attended The Regional Growth Summit on Friday with Commissioner Giordano, Mrs. Robison, Ms. Edwards. Commented that Geary County needs to do a better job at selling itself and promoting what is happening in Geary County.

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

- Out of office notifications were presented and signed by commissioners
- County Day is March 3rd at the Capitol.
- Geary County website has transitioned to .GOV

Tami Robison, Finance Director, gave the bi-weekly report:

- 1099 and W2's were distributed.
- Audit will begin in either March or April.
- LATCF funds are still available, \$13,083.28 available to spend, Ms. Robison recommends identifying a project to use those funds and getting it closed out.
- Fresh Start sent over information on a summit on homelessness by Kansas State Homeless Coalition and it is held in Manhattan this year, there was a link emailed to commissioners if they would like to sign up to attend.

Commissioner Giordano moved to appoint Jayme Coffey to a 3-year term as a Founder Representative for the Flint Hills Regional Leadership Board, Chairman Tremont seconded, two voted in favor aye

Commissioner Giordano moved to approve change orders 2026000032-2026000033, Chairman Tremont seconded, two voted in favor aye

Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the minutes from 01/20/2026, Chairman Tremont seconded, two voted in favor aye

Commissioner Giordano moved to approve Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses for Thunderbird RV Park & Resort and Flagstop Resort & RV Park, Chairman Tremont seconded, two voted in favor aye

CIP work session with finance director, Tami Robison.

- First CIP work session of 2026.
- Ms. Robison presented two CIP requests from the Sheriff's Office, one for the purchase of 3 patrol vehicles and the second to purchase 10 computers.
- Further discussion and questions are needed to approve the CIP request for 3 new patrol cars. This will be tabled and will be presented again later.

Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the Sheriff's Office CIP Request for \$20,000 for 10 new computers, Chairman Tremont seconded, all voted in favor aye

Joint meeting with the Public Building Commission:

Ryan Garrison, John Moyer and Rodney Glessner were present.

- Ryan Garrison presented the financials, accounts receivable for December were \$59,360.37, \$1,132.31 in expenses, with net being \$57,683.
- Accounts receivables are used to pay costs for building insurance, bookkeeping services and UnderVault storage. Eventually these funds will be used to pay towards the hospital bond.

Frank Catalo, Silver Hair Legislator gave an update:

- Legislators believe property tax is too high and want to try and find tax relief.
- The governor is considering transportation on the budget which is on their radar as well.

Chief Lankas, Junction City Fire Chief and Kent Vosberg, EMS Chief gave the 2025 fourth quarter update:

- Total charges posted \$1,439,804.25.
- Total payments posted \$826,695.28.
- Total bad debt write-off adjustments \$234,788.81.
- Total contractual insurance write-off adjustments \$338,496.67.
- Total adjustments, both bad debit and contractual insurance write-offs \$573,285.48

Public Comment: No members of the public were present

Discussion of potential 3% cap on valuations with County Appraiser, Travis Lilly

- Commissioner Giordano has major concerns about this.
 - Does not believe a cap would guarantee a lower property tax. Constituents need to understand that a mill levy is set based on the dollar needs of the taxing entity, not based on what the valuation does.
 - Does not believe this would be fair when Geary County is largely a transient community due to the military base, Fort Riley and due to houses changing ownership often for military versus

someone who has been in their residence for a long period of time.

- Commented that County Appraisers are following a process put in place by the legislature and if that is done correctly then the issue is with the process not the appraisers' role.
- Commented the State has mandated services that they require Counties to do, but do not fund them fully, which then puts the cost burden on Geary County residents to make up the difference.
- Commented that she is in favor of RNR (revenue neutral rate) that holds taxing entities accountable and transparent.
- Mr. Lilly states he will still have to value at market and if there is a cap, systematically how would that take place with the current software.
 - The KCAA (Kansas County Appraiser Association) is currently neutral on this bill.
 - Commented that a cap on values will not necessarily do the same as a cap on budgets.
- Chairman Tremont comments that she does believe that the valuation has a role in how the mill levy is set.
 - Comments that there needs to be something done with property tax, the 3% cap may not be the solution but believes there needs to be a change.
 - If we want to save on property taxes, there may be cuts Geary County would need to consider like services and/or appropriations.
- Commissioner Ascher asked historically what the valuations have done in the past, COVID really had a large impact on valuations which is when RNR became effective due to the large increase.
 - Commissioners in the end agreed a 3% cap is not the solution.

Sheriff Nate Boeckman gave the bi-weekly report:

Jail average daily population 93, accidents 8, assist outside agency 32, battery assault 2, burglary 0, citations 55, civil papers served 129, domestic incidents 0, drug investigation 1, DUI 2, motor vehicle thefts 0, prisoner transport 7, sex offense 0, shots fired 1, theft 1, traffic stops 153, weapons violation 0, arrest 14, miscellaneous calls 92, total calls for service 497.

- Commissioner Giordano praised the Sheriff's Office for their cost savings in overtime from 2024 to 2025.

Sheriff Boeckman noted that this was due to schedule restructuring and becoming fully staffed.

City/County Jail and Dispatch agreement:

The City of Junction City Commissioners have approved the agreement for exchange of services for Jail and Dispatch in Geary County. Geary County will utilize City of Junction City dispatchers, and the City of Junction City will continue to house inmates at the Geary County Jail operated by the Sheriff's Office. There will be no monies exchanged for these services, this is an agreement to exchange services.

Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the Agreement for exchange of services for jail and dispatch with Geary County and City of Junction City, Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye

Department Head Meeting:

Sheriff Nate Boeckman, reported on over time savings and jail/dispatch update agreement. Nova's (K9) retirement ceremony is this Friday.

Appraiser Travis Lilly, attending local government day at the Capitol.

Public Works Administrator Jeremie Myers, reported that plowing and snow removal went well.

Treasurer Sherri Childs, nothing to report.

GIS Director Troy Livingston, \$7,200 in permits so far.

Health Department Charles Martinez, COVID numbers are still down. Flu is continuing to spread, encourages people to get vaccinated.

Assistant County Attorney David Huckabee, nothing to report.

Finance Tami Robison, reported that 1099's are out, audit is expected to begin in March/April, finance updated employee email's with Commerce Bank, new mileage sheets were sent out via email, thanked

employee's for taking her work hours survey, budget process will begin in March.

Human Resources Crystal Malchose, reports some employee complaints have come in that they are not happy with benefits and that they don't feel like Bukaty is looking out for their best interest, Bukaty will be here to update the commission and answer employee questions.

Reminder to approve payroll the Monday after payday by 10am.

W2's have gone out.

1095c's are no longer required.

Emergency Management Garry Berges, posted on Facebook about Geary County Public Works snowplows and it was a very popular post with 189 shares and 641 "likes". Notes severe weather training will be in March.

CVB Director Raquel Cinco, new marketing position has been filled, attended an expo in Colorado, handed out thousands of new visitor guides

County Clerk Courtney Gilbert, Deputy Clerk Therese Hoff has been out on leave and should be back in February and looks forward to her return.

County Counselor Betsy Edwards, nothing to report.

Commissioner Ascher, nothing to report

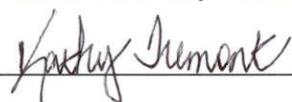
Commissioner Tremont, asked for feedback from the department heads on if collectively these meetings are beneficial or if they would prefer them to be structured a different way. Department Heads will think about this and get back to the commission prior to the next scheduled Department Head Meeting.

Commissioner Giordano, nothing to report.

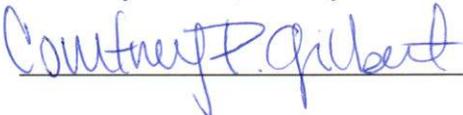
Chairman Tremont adjourned the meeting

Adjourn

Chairman, Kathy Tremont



Courtney Gilbert, County Clerk


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