

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
February 17th, 2026

Commissioners Present: Keith Ascher (arrived at 6:40pm), Trish Giordano, and Kathy Tremont

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

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:

- Lunch meeting with Jeremie Myers, Ray Ibarra and Kim Zimmerman to touch base on the Joint City/County clean up and East St. East St. belongs to the county, and the county will address that.
- Attended the Childcare Coalition meeting, Geary County's Childcare Coalition became a "childcare champion", first county in the state to receive that title based on meeting the requirements for training, resources and support.
- Attended the MAC meeting, they talked about the parades and thought that two parades in a short time is very taxing, however, they would like to potentially have a Veteran's Summit to recognize the Veteran's. Commissioner Giordano brought up issues about MAC finances and how they ended 2025 -\$18,000. They have now received their appropriation from the City and the County so they are now positive, however, they need to find out where the deficiencies are and how they can be corrected going forward.
- Alan Bontrager would like to have a marketing campaign to promote Geary County. The CVB should be leading this project. Commissioner Giordano would like to add this to the joint/city/school meeting agenda.
- Sheriff Boeckman asked Commissioner Giordano to sit on a promotional oral board today for a lieutenant position in Corrections.
- Impressed with Main Street and think it has been a good return of investment.

Ascher:

- Attended the employee task force meeting last week.
- Bukaty will here March 9th, 2026, to meet with the commission.

Tremont:

- No meetings this week.
- EDC Meeting last week was cancelled.
- Watched the committee hearing on property tax live.
- Department Heads were sent a survey for their opinion on the current monthly department head meetings, some of the questions were as follows:

Are they beneficial to you? Four replied yes.

Would you prefer them to be structured differently if so, how? Some felt that it would be more beneficial if there was an active task that needed to be worked on. Some felt that it should be structured better. Some felt a one-on-one with commissioners would also be more beneficial. Some recommended going quarterly rather than monthly and having a set agenda of topics.

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

- Out of office notifications were presented to the commission for signature.

- Paige Mendoza from the Health Department is overseeing the employee newsletter, she is currently working on the 4th quarter newsletter.
- Received a sticker in the mail from the Junction City Chamber of Commerce for the 2026 membership.
- Tax year 2024 and going forward, IRS no longer requires Human Resources to provide a 1095-C form.

David and Cece Schneider arrived at the meeting.

Raquel Cinco, CVB Director, requested approval to attend a trade show:

Travel and adventure show that is in Colorado. Current booth price is \$3,695.

Mrs. Cinco or Sam Adams would attend the show. Hotel range on average \$600.00 for 3-night stay. Fuel would average \$100.00; food would range on average around \$186.00.

Commissioner Giordano notes that this is a unique show and thinks it would be worth CVB to go

Commissioner Giordano moved to approve CVB to attend, Chairman Tremont seconded, two voted in favor aye.

Commissioner Giordano moved to open the meeting as the County Board of Health; Chairman Tremont seconded two voted in favor aye.

Commissioner Ascher arrived at the meeting.

Charles Martinez, Health Department Director gave the monthly report:

- GCPHD is still awaiting grant funding that was previously approved and has yet to be paid out to GCPHD by the State.
- STI rates have dropped 6% from 2024 to 2025.
- Disease Surveillance and Outbreak statistics were presented.
- Personal Protective Equipment annual training for GCPHD staff.
- Community outreach activities
- SAFE Kids expansion.
- OPEIS Program expansion.
- No new staffing updates
- Facility updates on urinal, outside lights, removal of unused filing cabinets and fire alarm parts replaced.
- GCPHD financials were presented.

Commissioner Giordano moved to close the meeting as the County Board of Health; Commissioner Ascher seconded and all voted in favor aye.

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

- **KONE Courthouse Public Elevator Quote:**

As part of the code corrections to the elevators that were previously approved by the commission, we have received an additional quote for installation of a phone line in the traveling cable of the courthouse public elevator. This elevator did not have the necessary phone line for installation of the communication device as required by code, this would cost \$1,724.00 from the facilities fund.

- **Detention Center Lock 2-Year Service Agreement:**

We have received a proposal from INA Alert Inc for a service agreement on the doors located at the Detention Center. In years past we utilized Willo for this service at a cost of \$24,683.00 per visit for a two-year term.

INA Proposal = \$14,500.00. for two-year term

Willo Products = \$18,504.00 for two-year term

Commissioner Giordano moved to accept a two-year lock service agreement with INA Alert Inc, Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye.

- **Sheriffs Generator Preventative Maintenance Contract:**

Two proposals were received for a preventative maintenance contract for the two generators located at the Sheriff's Office. Preventive Maintenance documentation is required by the State Fire Marshal's Office as well as playing a crucial role in ensuring these units are at peak performance should they experience a power outage. Along with the generator preventative maintenance the transfer switches are tested and documented.

Central Power Systems = \$4,200.00

Foley's = \$4,646.90

Commissioner Ascher moved to approve a two-year preventative maintenance contract with Foley's, Commissioner Giordano seconded, all voted in favor aye.

- **Dundon Road Culvert Replacement:**

This culvert is rusted, deteriorated and in need of replacement. Two proposals were received for the replacement of the existing corrugated metal pipe with reinforced concrete pipe and end sections. RCP has a typical life span of 50-100 years versus the CMP of 30-50 years.

Old Castle = \$8,012.00

McPherson Concrete = \$10,760.04

Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the purchase of the reinforced concrete pipe through Old Castle, Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye.

- **Off-System Bridge Agreement Project No. 31 C-5401-01**

Commission received the agreement in their packet. This project will not exceed \$800,000.

Commissioner Giordano moved to approve Agreement No. 57-26 for Project No. 31 C-5401-01. Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye.

- **KVE Survey Quote:**

A quote was received by Kaw Valley Engineering for surveying a lot located at 301 E 8th St. On February 2nd, 2026, an Executive Session was held under KOMA 79-4319 (b) (6) Preliminary Discussion of Acquisition of Real Property. It was discussed that said property could be of use by the Public Works Department for the purpose of an equipment shed to be constructed for the housing of Public Works and Road and Bridge Equipment. The seller accepted the offer of \$15,000 plus survey cost of \$2,250.

Commissioner Giordano moved to enter a contract with the realtor for the purchase of land at 301 E 8th St., Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye.

- **FEMA DR#4824 Update:**

- Project 826584 (buildings) is still in review. There was further insurance questions asked within the last two weeks, hopefully it will be wrapped up soon.
- Project 826801 (Mitigation of Kansas Falls) informed on 02/03/2026 that the Mitigation project has been approved by the mitigation division with FEMA. Environment Historic Preservation (EHP) is requesting a Hydrologic & Hydraulic Study (H&H) to be done. Kaw Valley submitted proposal to conduct this study. This is a reimbursable item from FEMA and will be included in the total project cost.

- Project 826574 (debris) we received payment in the amount of \$19,293.78. Total cost of the project was \$22,698.56 and breaks out with the Federal Share of 75% of \$17,023.92, State share of 10% of \$2,269.85 and County share of 15% of \$3,404.78.
- Project 826583 (roads) we received payment in the amount of \$123,145.27. Total cost of the project was \$144,876.78 and breaks out with Federal Share of 75% of \$108,657.59, State Share of 10% of \$14,487.68 and County Share of 15% of \$21,731.52.
- **Proposal for Preliminary Engineer Report for Kansas Falls Road:**
As previously mentioned under FEMA DR#4824 updates, project 826801, we received a proposal for a Preliminary Engineer report to provide the information requested by FEMA. Kaw Valley Engineering submitted a proposal of \$17,980.00; this would satisfy FEMA's itemized report requirements as well as providing all required supporting documentation for both U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Kansas Division of Water Resources permitting.

Commissioner Ascher moved to approve the proposal from Kaw Valley Engineering, Commissioner Giordano seconded, all voted in favor aye.

- **Solid Waste Management Plan Approval:**
Members of the Solid Waste Management Plan Committee met on Thursday, February 5th, 2026, for the annual review of the Solid Waste Management Plan. Four members were present to discuss the plan and any changes that were necessary.
Some changes to the plan were as follows:
-The Landfill operated at the same time all year round, which is 8:30am-4:00pm, Monday through Friday. On the second Saturday of each month, The Landfill is open from 8:00am-2:00pm.
-The verbiage regarding the new contract with Hamm, Inc was included to show a new contract that took effect January 1, 2026.
-Removed the specific vendor we had used in the past for monitoring well testing at The Landfill. A different vendor was used in 2025, the verbiage changed to state "a selected vendor specializing in monitoring well testing per KDHE guidelines."

Commissioner Giordano moved to adopt and approve the 2025 Solid Waste Management Annual Review Plan, Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye.

- Mrs. Ross gave an update on the Engagement Map for Geary County's Transportation Safety Action Plan (TSAP)

County Counselor, Betsy Edwards presented Resolution 02-17-2026-B, a resolution vacating a certain portion of dedicated right-of-way commonly known as Walker Road

Commissioner Giordano moved to accept Resolution 02-17-2026-B, Commissioner Ascher seconded, all voted in favor aye.

Garry Berges, Emergency Manager Director/Rural Fire Chief presented Air Pak Grant Update:

- We were awarded this grant in the amount of \$711,987.00 for 69 Air Pak's, received two bids that were \$45,000 over what the grant amount was, meaning they could only buy 65 Air Pak's at that cost, which would result in not fulfilling the grant. Mr. Berges has spoken to state representatives, and they have suggested going out for bid and putting the two companies against one another to try and get a better price.

Commissioner Ascher moved to go out for sealed bid, Commissioner Giordano seconded, all voted in favor aye.

Discussion of allocation funding for the Mudd Bogg and Blue & BBQ:

Commissioner Giordano attended the CVB meeting this month, she made it clear to the advisory board that this is her opinion and not the opinion of the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Giordano mentioned that Eric Boland made a request for \$1,000 from CVB for the Mudd Bogg event and the CVB Advisory Board had approved it.

A question was posed at that meeting; "Is giving Mudd Bogg money the same as giving the money straight to Freedom Fest?"

Chairman Tremont mentioned that she does not want the perception to be that Freedom Fest is getting an allocation twice, however, still does not want to take the responsibility away from the CVB Advisory Board.

Commissioner Ascher commented that Mudd Bogg and Blues & BBQ have always been fundraisers for Freedom Fest (previously Sundown Salute)

Commissioner Ascher also noted that transient guest tax is already down.

Mrs. Cinco, CVB Director commented that these events mainly use the monies to better their events to increase attendance. Mrs. Cinco is concerned it will create waves with the advisory board, Commissioner Giordano commented that she will be at the CVB meeting next month if the advisory board has questions.

Commissioner Ascher made a motion to override the CVB Advisory Board to pay \$1,000 to Mudd Bogg, Chairman Tremont seconded, two voted in favor aye, Commissioner Giordano voted nay.

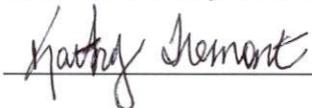
Commissioner Ascher moved to approve change order 2026000063, Commissioner Giordano seconded, and all voted in favor aye.

Commissioner Ascher moved to approve the minutes from 02/09/2026, Commissioner Giordano seconded, and all voted in favor aye.

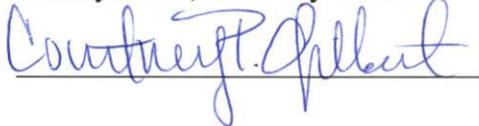
Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

The meeting adjourned at: 8:01pm

Chairman, Kathy Tremont



County Clerk, Courtney Gilbert


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