

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GEARY COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
March 16th, 2026
NIGHT MEETING

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

Others present: Therese Hoff, Deputy County Clerk

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Public Comment (5 minutes per person): No one was in attendance for public comment.

Charles Martinez arrived at the meeting.

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

Charles Martinez, Health Department Director, gave the monthly report:

- Public Health Infrastructure Grant Update-The issue in KGMS has been resolved, and the Health Department is now able to submit the Budget Modification Request. Once KDHE approved the BMR in KGMS, the Financial Status Report can be completed, and they will proceed with reimbursement.
- Annual Grants Applications Submission- The department has successfully submitted all required annual grant applications, including PHEP, State Formula, IAP, and OPEIS funding. These applications ensure continued support for core public health services preparedness activities, and community health programs for the upcoming funding cycle.
- Building Bridges Learning Community Grant-the Health Department was selected as one of 10 health departments nationwide to participate in the Building Bridges Learning Community. This six-month, \$10,000.00 grant focuses on strengthening relationships with community partners. Funding will support \$2,500.00 in staff salary time, certification in SHRM-CP to strengthen internal HR capacity, and development of a joint strategic plan between the Geary County Public Health Department and Live Well Geary County to improve long-term collaboration.
- Grant Development Efforts-The Health Department continues to actively monitor and pursue additional grant opportunities to support public health programs, strengthen departmental capacity, and bring outside funding into the county to expand services for residents.
- Safe Kids Program-The Health Department has established a multi-agency Safe Kids committee that brings together partners with expertise across several injury prevention areas. The committee has begun planning community events, with additional activities to be scheduled throughout the year. As part of the work, Paige Mendoza's graphic design skills were recognized at the state level, and she was asked to develop several posters for use by the State Safe Kids program.
- Reviewed the disease surveillance and outbreak updates for: overdose emergency room visits, acute respiratory illness, RSV, COVID-19, Influenza, and gastrointestinal illness.
- Reviewed the sensitive disease and surveillance report.
- Reviewed the patient encounters.
- Stated the staff will be having personal protective equipment training.
- Stated the Health Department's has current partnership activities with: JC Main Street, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, NE HCC, Konza Prairie Community Health Center, Riley County Public Health, Wildcat Regional PHEP and LWGC. Commissioner Ascher asked about working

with Riley County and how that goes. Mr. Martinez said he has been working with Riley County, and it has been going well.

- Upcoming activities: Safe Kids Program-Poison Prevention Booths-March 17 & 19. Kansas Governors Public Health Conference and a Kansas Immunization Conference.
- Discussed the Health Department is evaluating options to transition to a more cost-effective and robust EMR system. Tara Stewart, the medical biller, identified the opportunity to explore alternative systems that could better support the billing and operational needs, prompting the review. They have met with CureMD to review their platform and have a meeting scheduled with the current EMR provider to discuss a potential counteroffer. The goal of the process is to reduce overall system costs while improving functionality, including an integrated clearinghouse to strengthen insurance reimbursement, the ability to send patient text reminders, and system integration with WebIZ, VaxCare, and EpiTrax to streamline reporting and improve patient care. They are also seeking an EMR solution that provides low or no-cost training when system updates occur.
- Stated the department has begun seasonal facility organization and cleaning efforts to improve workspace efficiency and overall appearance.
- Gave the financial update. Mr. Martinez said they are seeing patients, but the services are non billable. Mr. Martinez left the meeting.

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

Nate Boeckman, Sheriff and Jason Lankas, Junction City Fire Chief arrived at the meeting.

Chief Lankas discussed the current 800 radio system. Chief Lankas said there is a congressional direct spending grant they are wanting to apply. Last year there was a 25% local match, but he cannot get a definitive answer if that is the same this year. he also needs to ask the city for approval. He has been working on a website for the grant. The system has already increased, they are needing new equipment, \$1.69 million for the radio 800 system, upgraded new version, 5-year warranty, for all emergency personnel-if there is a match It would include Rural Fire, JCFD, EMS. Milford would be a 5% match-\$25,400, Grandview Plaza would be \$76,000, County and City would both be 40%-\$203,214.80. They have trouble reaching dead spots in the county and city, commissioners think it is very important, and the Sheriff said it is a liability. Commissioner Ascher asked about using CIP funds, Commissioner Giordano said the sheriff and county attorney could use forfeiture funds. There is already an existing tower on J-Hill, and the county could use that tower for expanding service. **Commissioner Ascher moved to approve Chief Lankas applying for the 800-radio system direct spending upgrade grant; Commissioner Giordano seconded and all voted aye.** Sheriff Boeckman and Chief Lankas left the meeting.

Commission review and update:

Tremont-Attended the employee task force meeting-HR director went over benefits, group to come back with questions or concerns, talked about lunch and learn topics.

Storm spotters training is tonight.

Chairman Tremont said she would like to have community members be able to give feedback when the county is going through their budget process. She would like them to sit in on the budget meetings to see how the commissioners make decisions, and after the budget presentations, the public could give their thoughts. The Chairman wants to have community input about the budget.

Ascher-Attended the Chamber Annual Dinner-congrats to the awardees, it was a very nice event.

Went on a tour of the new early childhood center, it was very impressive, came in under budget and it got done early.

Attended the Crimestoppers Banquet-congrats to those awardees, hats off to Courtney Gilbert for organizing this event-she did a good job, the meal was good, great event. Commissioner Ascher thanked all the local law enforcement agencies.

Giordano: Attended the Chamber Annual Dinner-very well attended-good food, thanked the Chamber for putting on a very nice event.

Went on a tour of the new early childhood center, very nice.

Attended the Community Corrections board meeting-there are a couple bills in the legislature coming out that will affect the juvenile detention center and the jail, could affect the numbers of people in jail, jails will be over flowing, will need more staff in the jail and the courthouse, counties will not be able to afford all of it.

Presented a Letter of Support for Stormont Vail for a Regional Partnership Grant Program.

Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the Letter of Support for Stormont Vail; Commissioner Ascher seconded and all voted aye.

Jeremie Myers, Public Works Administrator and Kalyn Ross, Administrative Services Manager, arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Myers gave the bi-weekly report:

- Presented a Request and Petition to place a culvert on Don Sheffield's property on Mockingbird Road. He recommends approval. **Commissioner Ascher moved to approve the request and petition to place a culvert on Don Sheffield's property on Mockingbird Road; Commissioner Giordano seconded and all voted aye.**
- Presented Resolution 03-16-2026 for approval; a resolution reducing speed limits on certain county roads. Geary County, Kansas gives official notice that on the specific segment of Rucker Road lying between the intersection of Blue Jay Way and Munson Road a/k/a North Ritter Rd, the speed limit shall be reduced from thirty-five to thirty mph, and the specific segment of Munson Road a/k/a/ North Ritter Road between the intersection of Rucker Road and K-18 Highway, the speed limit shall be reduced from forty mph to thirty mph. **Commissioner Giordano moved to approve resolution 03-16-2026; Commissioner Ascher seconded and all voted aye.**
- Presented the Nex-Tech service agreement for the Protect Firewall protection for the Geary County Transfer Station at a cost of \$197.93 a month for the term of 36 months for approval. **Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the Nex-Tech service agreement for the firewall protection at the Transfer Station; Commissioner Ascher seconded and all voted aye.**
- Stated Thermal Comfort Air needs to replace the hot water heater at the Health Department. The current water heater is leading and was installed in the late 1990's. Mr. Myers recommends commission approval. **Commissioner Ascher moved to approve the purchase of a new hot water heater at the health department, with TCA installing it at a cost of \$3,146.00; Commissioner Giordano seconded and all voted aye.**
- When Public Works gave their last bi-weekly report on 3/2/2026, the commission approved the 2026 crack seal material purchase through CRAFTCO for \$15,867.00. However, after receiving rental cost quotes from CRAFTCO for rental of the mobile melting pot at \$500/day, heat lance \$100/day and McConnell & Associated mobile melting pot \$225/day, heat lance \$60.00 a/day, it is Mr. Myers recommendation that the commission rescind the previous approval for the purchase of crack seal material through CRAFTCO, and award the material purchase and equipment rental to McConnell & Associates at \$16,146.00 due to the equipment rental cost and the county cannot rent the equipment at the lower rate if the material is not purchased through McConnell & Associates. **Commissioner Giordano moved to rescind the previous approval for the purchase of crack seal material through CRAFTCO; Commissioner Ascher seconded and all**

voted aye. Commissioner Giordano moved to approve the purchase of the crack seal material through McConnell & Associates; Commissioner Ascher seconded and all voted aye.

- Risk Avoidance Grant (RAG) money received: in late 2025, a fireproof cabinet was purchased for the public works shop with the intent of utilizing RAG monies. Mr. Berges was notified at the time the receipt was turned in for the purchase price of \$1,285.72, the deadline for submittal had passed. However, KCAMP did allow this purchase to be submitted for the 2026 RAG monies, so it was submitted and approved. There is \$714.28 remaining in the RAG monies for 2026.
- KDOT Innovative Technology Grant Denial: Word was received that Geary County was not selected for this round of grant funding for the Pavement Condition Assessment project that these grant dollars were going to be used for. Mr. Myers will be working with Jerod Tremblay, Flint Hills MPO to try and get the roads that are in the MPO boundaries assessed as he has some interns that can assist with this. He will try again for this funding when they make the call later this year.
- Routine Solid Waste Compliance Inspection at the Transfer Station-On 3/6/2026; the Transfer Station had a pop-up compliance inspection. No issues were found that required the county to supply additional information to the inspector. The inspector suggested adding some verbiage of the white goods storage to the facility operating plan. Mr. Myers will review the guidance she sent regarding this.
- Completion of Load Ratings through KDOT Local Bridge Rating Program: This program has been wrapped up, and the county has received the final load rating reports. There have been two additional bridges that have been identified and require posting changes:
 13.8-U.4(000000000310003) Davis Creek north of Derendinger Rd-Reduce bridge posting to 15 tons (single truck sign), previously 19 tons.
 3.1-00(000310867204360 Liberty Hall Rd east of Gfeller Rd-Post bridge at 27 tons (single truck sign) or 27 /43/43 Tons (three truck sign), not currently posted.
 The appropriate signs have been ordered and will be posted when received. Mr. Myers will also attempt to get the word out regarding these changes by posting on the county website and Public Works Facebook page.
- Cloud County Community College mowing quotes: Request for quotes has been sent out and are due back by 4:30 p.m. on April 3, 2026, quotes will be opened at Mr. Myers next scheduled meeting on April 6, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
- Steal Built Leadership Class-Mr. Myers has registered to attend the intentional leadership class being held at the C.L. Hoover Opera House March 23-27.

At 7:15 p.m., Mr. Myers opened the Noxious Weed chemical bids:

Nutrien Solutions	Loveland, CO	Grand Total-\$42,427.30
Van Diest Supply Co.	Abilene, KS	Grand Total-\$40,209.00
Azelis	Ada, OK	No bid submitted
Lone Pine Ag-Services, Inc.	Lecompton, KS	No bid submitted
Central Plains Agronomy	Concordia, KS	No bid submitted
Red River Specialty	Oklahoma	Grand Total-\$50,336.10

Mr. Myers will take the bids back to review and bring his recommendation back to commission at a later meeting.

- Discussed the K18-I70 flyover project. KDOT removed the fence along I-70. KDOT will not put a barb wire fence back in to replace the existing one, they would only put a single cable back. Mr. Myers said the county needs to think about what they want to do about replacing the fence.

Commissioner Ascher said he thinks he should get bids for replacement of the fence with barb wire.

Deputy Clerk Hoff presented county commission minutes for approval. **Commissioner Ascher moved to approve the minutes from 3-9-2026; Commissioner Giordano seconded and all voted aye.**

Commissioner Giordano requested an executive session be put on the agenda next week for non-elected personnel, to include HR and County Counselor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.



CHAIRMAN-COUNTY COMMISSION
KATHY TREMONT



DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
THERESE HOFF

3-23-2026

DATE