

ELLSWORTH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

June 30, 2025

The Board of Ellsworth County Commissioners convened this 30th day of June 2025 at the Ellsworth County Courthouse.

Members Present:

Dennis L. Rolfs, 1st District Commissioner

Gregory C. Bender, 2nd District Commissioner

Shawn Thomas, 3rd District Commissioner

OPENING BUSINESS:

Chairman Bender called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the agenda for June 30th as printed. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the minutes from June 23rd as printed. Commissioner Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENTS:

The Hearing for declaring portions of 27th Road and Avenue J in Carneiro Township as Minimum Maintenance Roads was opened at 9:05 a.m. The following were present: **Gretchen Griffith, Steve Steinhaus, Gail Bettenbrock, Michelle Vanek, Kelly Cikanek, Kathy Henderson and Paul Kasper, County Attorney.** After listening to everyone's comments, the Commissioners said they do not interject how other elected officials do their jobs. The Commissioners said they are making the decision that minimum maintenance is the best solution for these roads and all duties have been fulfilled by the Carneiro Township Board. Commissioner Bender made a motion to pass Resolution 2025R06 declaring certain roads within Ellsworth County as minimum maintenance roads pursuant to KSA 68-5,102 this pertains to 27th Road from K-140 to Avenue K and Avenue J from K-140 Highway to 27th Road. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Cynthia Edgerle, Steve and Liz Donley, representing the Ellsworth County Historical Society, presented the 2026 budget request for \$43,000, no increase from last year.

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to go into executive session with Roberta Waymaster and Paul Kasper for non-elected personnel employee benefits from 9:51 a.m. to 10:01 a.m. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. At 10:01 the Commissioners

returned to open session with no action taken, but requested Lori Miller make an appointment to discuss the \$150 copay and the flow from the provider to Freedom Claims Management, Inc.

Kerianne Ehrlich, Health Department Director, provided the 2026 budget request of \$395,656 a decrease of \$21,082 or 5.1%. Mrs. Ehrlich said LockIT needs to replace the firewall. The Commissioners asked her to work with Keith Haberer to figure out if the firewall is needed. Mrs. Ehrlich asked for advice on the Health Department's sprinkler system. The Commissioners told her to order the new pump needed and only water the front of the Health Department.

David Criswell, Owner of Kansas Foods LLC, is wanting to expand his raw honey business to 527 27th Street in Wilson Kansas. There is no water or sewer at this address and the State of Kansas requires water and sewer to be licensed. The City of Wilson does not have any lines to this address, so Mr. Criswell is seeking permission from the county to bore under Old Highway 40. The Commissioners want to do more homework before approving a business to access the public utility easement.

Bret Dunlap, Road & Bridge Superintendent, provided the updated 2026 budget request to \$2,871,235. Mr. Dunlap presented two bids for work on the overhead door. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to allow Bret Dunlap, Road & Bridge Superintendent, to move forward with the concrete and rock work on the overhead door with Focal Point for \$1,500 to be paid out of the County Building Fund. Commissioner Rolfs seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Brad Homman and Derek Ptomey, representing Goldberg Group Architects, and Kenny Bernard, Ellsworth County Sheriff, displayed the updated Law Enforcement Center Renovations. The next step in this project is to contact Gilmore and Bell for the Sales Tax bond and contact the Public Building Commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rolfs moved to adjourn at 12:14 p.m. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Shelly D. Vopat, Ellsworth County Clerk