

December 15, 2025

Official Minutes

Russell County Commission Meeting

At 9:00 a.m., Duke Strobel called the meeting to order and made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2025, meeting. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Alan Kuntzsch was absent. Others present at the meeting were County Administrator Stephanie Grisham and County Clerk Kristi Whitman.

The Commissioners had their review. County Clerk Kristi Whitman presented an annual Cereal Malt Beverage application for LaSada Lodge. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the cereal malt beverage application for LaSada Lodge. Steve Reinhardt seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Kristi Whitman presented an invoice for Advance Truck and Diesel for Russell County Fire District #5 fire truck repair in the amount of \$27,007.58. Duke Strobel made a motion to pay the Advance Truck and Diesel invoice for \$27,007.58. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Duke Strobel made a motion to appoint Rawly Kaufman to the Russell County Free Fair Board. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Duke Strobel stated he attended the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition meeting. Dean Haselhorst stated he attended the Kansas Association of Counties Conference and thought it was very informative. Dean also thanked Stephanie Grisham for doing a great job as County Administrator.

Justin Mermis, Public Works Director, stated he attended the Kansas Association of Counties Conference and thought it was very informative. They have been blading roads and getting a final mowing done. Justin updated the Commission on the truck repairs. A discussion on purchasing a truck was held.

Elizabeth Ann Blessing-Deyoe gave a Silver Haired Legislature update. There are five resolutions that will be presented to the Kansas Legislature during the 2026 session. These resolutions focus on Medical Cannabis Access, Property Tax Relief, Medicaid and Food Assistance, Protecting Voting Rights, and Senior Transportation. Elizabeth Ann presented a reimbursement request for lodging and travel for the Silver Haired Legislature in Topeka in the amount of \$465.02. Duke

Strobel made a motion to reimburse Elizabeth Ann Blessing Deyoe for lodging and travel expenses in the amount of \$465.02. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:45 am, Duke Strobel made the motion to open the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan public hearing for Lucas Fire District #2 and Paradise Waldo Natoma Fire District #3 for those parts in Osborne County. Steve Reinhardt seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Duke Strobel made a motion to introduce Resolution 2025-18, entitled a resolution adopting the amended neighborhood revitalization plan for the portion of Lucas Fire District #2, located in Osborne County, Kansas. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The hearing was open to public comment and discussion of Resolution 2025-18 and Revitalization Plan. Duke Strobel made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-18 and the Revitalization Plan. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with the votes as follows: Dean Haselhorst voted yes. Steve Reinhardt voted yes. Duke Strobel voted yes. Jason Krug voted yes. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the interlocal cooperation agreement relating to administration of neighborhood revitalization plans for taxing districts within Osborne County, Kansas. Steve Reinhardt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-18

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE AMENDED NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR THAT PART OF THE LUCAS #2 FIRE DISTRICT BOARD, OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS LOCATED IN OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF LUCAS #2 FIRE DISTRICT, OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS, as follows:

1. The four (4) page document (entitled "Revitalization Plan") with all exhibits, attached hereto, is hereby approved and adopted as the Revitalization Plan for the Lucas #2 Fire District, Osborne County, Kansas, the same to be in force and take effect retroactively to January 1, 2026.
2. This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act, as set forth in K.S.A. 12-17, 114 et. seq.

3. This resolution shall be in force and take effect from and after the date of its approval and adoption as shown below.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE LUCAS #2 FIRE DISTRICT BOARD, OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS, on the 15th day December, 2025.

LUCAS #2 FIRE DISTRICT BOARD
OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS,
BY: RUSSELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

s/ Duke Strobel

Chairman

s/ Kristi A. Whitman

County Clerk (seal)

Duke Strobel made a motion to introduce Resolution 2025-19, entitled a resolution adopting the amended neighborhood revitalization plan for the portion of Waldo Fire District #3, located in Osborne County, Kansas. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The hearing was open to public comment and discussion of Resolution 2025-19 and the Revitalization Plan. Duke Strobel made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-19 and the Revitalization Plan. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with the votes as follows: Dean Haselhorst voted yes. Steve Reinhardt voted yes. Duke Strobel voted yes. Jason Krug voted yes. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the interlocal cooperation agreement relating to administration of neighborhood revitalization plans for taxing districts within Osborne County, Kansas. Steve Reinhardt seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Duke Strobel made a motion to close the hearing. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-19

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE AMENDED NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR THAT PART OF THE WALDO FIRE DISTRICT BOARD, OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS LOCATED IN OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF WALDO FIRE DISTRICT, OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS, as follows:

1. The four (4) page document (entitled "Revitalization Plan") with all exhibits, attached hereto, is hereby approved and adopted as the Revitalization Plan for the Waldo Fire District, Osborne County, Kansas, the same to be in force and take effect retroactively to January 1, 2026.
2. This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Act, as set forth in K.S.A. 12-17, 114 et. seq.
3. This resolution shall be in force and take effect from and after the date of its approval and adoption as shown below.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE WALDO FIRE DISTRICT BOARD, OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS, on the 15th day December, 2025.

LUCAS #2 FIRE DISTRICT BOARD
OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS,
BY: RUSSELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

s/ Duke Strobel
Chairman

s/ Kristi A. Whitman
County Clerk (seal)

Mike Parsons, Economic Development Director, introduced Ryleigh Wagner as the new CVB Director. At 9:50 am, Duke Strobel made a motion to open the public hearing for the Russell County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mike Parsons presented the County Neighborhood Revitalization Plan starting in 2026 for five years. The Resolution and Interlocal Agreement will be presented at a later date to give Russell County Townships and School Districts time to have their public hearings if they choose to participate in the NRP. Chris Brown asked if annexed or de-annexed property would affect eligibility. Mike Parsons stated that it would be a legal question that he could not answer. Duke Strobel made a motion to close the hearing. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

David Schneider and Martin Schneider came in to discuss concerns caused by a washout about one mile South of Luray on the East side of the Bunker Hill Blacktop. Duke Strobel stated they

will work with Justin Mermis, Public Works Director, and Penco to decide the best way to fix the problem.

Ryan Lichter, 20th Judicial District Juvenile Services Assistant Director, gave a quarterly update. Ryan stated they will be applying for the State Block Grant and will need “in kind” values from respective counties.

Dustin Finkenbinder, Paradise Waldo Natoma Fire District #3 Fire Chief, stated he would like to purchase a pumper truck to replace the 1996 Ford in Natoma. Dustin asked if the Fire Department could pay travel expenses if the truck was located out of state. Duke Strobel made a motion for Dustin to get pricing on pumper trucks, and travel expenses could be paid out of the Fire Department Budget. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dustin Finkenbinder discussed concerns about road conditions and work being done.

At 10:57 am, Duke Strobel made a motion to enter into a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with County Administrator Stephanie Grisham and Chris Brown, Mapping and Zoning Director, in attendance. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. At 11:03 am, the meeting resumed with no action taken.

At 11:03 am, Duke Strobel made a motion to enter into an executive session for non-elected personnel until 11:30 am, with County Administrator Stephanie Grisham in attendance. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. At 11:30 am, the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Checks were approved and signed to be deducted from the following funds:

100	GENERAL	\$ 96,407.33	290	GORHAM FIRE #1	\$ 1,622.02
110	ROAD & BRIDGE	\$ 31,792.95	300	LUCAS FIRE #2	\$ 59.56
130	NOXIOUS WEED	\$ 1,180.18	310	WAL-PAR-NAT FIRE #3	\$ 1,600.41
140	4-H	\$ 5,943.62	328	RUSSELL CO FIRE #5	\$ 1,092.80
150	CVB	\$ 3,416.42	330	APPRAISER	\$ 7,507.75
155	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 1,390.65	340	SPECIAL R&B	\$ 1,532.62
180	ELECTION	\$ 8,530.05	360	SOLID WASTE	\$ 2,522.91
190	AMBULANCE	\$ 4,387.17	380	EMERGENCY TELEPHONE	\$ 1,173.21
260	COUNTY HEALTH	\$ 6,037.89	718	CITIZEN'S REVIEW BOARD	\$ 1,104.00

Tax corrections 202500072, 202500076, 202500079-202500083, 202500086, 202500087, 202500089- 202500146 with an increase of \$4,069.92.

At 11:36 am, Duke Strobel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting for the Russell County Commissioners will be on Monday, January 5, 2026, beginning at 9:00 am in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF RUSSELL COUNTY, KANSAS

DUKE STROBEL, CHAIRMAN

STEVE REINHARDT, VICE CHAIRMAN

JASON KRUG, MEMBER

DEAN HASELHORST, MEMBER

ALAN KUNTZSCH, MEMBER

ATTEST:

KRISTI A. WHITMAN
COUNTY CLERK

