

January 5, 2026

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 15, 2025, meeting. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Others present at the meeting were County Administrator Stephanie Grisham and County Clerk Kristi Whitman.

The Commissioners had their review. Duke Strobel stated he attended a meeting with Elaine Bowers, Troy Waymaster, and some representatives from the City, School, and County to speak about potential ideas for revenue to go toward the school.

Kristi Whitman, County Clerk, presented Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses for LaSada Lodge. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses for LaSada Lodge. Steve Reinhardt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kristi Whitman, County Clerk, presented Resolution 2026-1 for the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Duke Strobel made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-1 for the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Alan Kuntzsch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2026-1

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RUSSELL COUNTY, KANSAS, THIS 5TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026 pursuant to K.S.A. 1982 Supplement 75-1120a, WHEREAS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RUSSELL COUNTY, KANSAS, HAD DETERMINED that financial statements and financial reports prepared in conformity with general accounting principles as promulgated by the National Committee on Governmental Accounting and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants are not relevant to the requirements of the cash basis and budget laws of the State of Kansas and are of no significant value to the Board of County Commissioners or members of the general public of Russell County, Kansas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Russell County, Kansas, do hereby request a waiver of the requirements of K. S. A. 1982 Supplements 75-1 120a, subsection (a) from the Director of Accounts and Reports to extend through

December 31, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION shall become effective upon passage and approval by the Board of County Commissioners of Russell County, Kansas.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

s/Steve Reinhardt
Steve Reinhardt, District 1

s/Dean Haselhorst
Dean Haselhorst, District 4

s/Jason Krug
Jason Krug, District 2

s/Alan Kuntzsch
Alan Kuntzsch, District 5

s/Duke Strobel
Duke Strobel, District 3

ATTEST:

s/Kristi A. Whitman (seal)
Kristi A. Whitman, County Clerk

Jordan Dettmer, Penco, and Justin Mermis, Public Works Director, discussed the ditch one mile south of Luray and asked Jordan's recommendation on how to fix it. The County will need to talk with the landowners and County Attorney Dan Krug. Duke Strobel stated he would like to make grading roads more efficient. Alan Kuntzsch brought up replacing a structure in the area West of Lucas that was put on hold. Jordan will get a cost estimate for this. Duke Strobel asked about a fiberglass bridge on 15th Street that needs to be patched. Jordan stated Russell County has 193 bridge inspections due in March. The cost will probably be double from last year because of federal changes requiring additional data on each bridge inspection, a corrective action by the State. Jordan will get the bridge inspection contract to us within the next couple weeks.

David Elliott, Emergency Manager, presented a written disaster declaration for the grass fires on December 18, 2025. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-2 disaster declaration for the December 18, 2025, grass fires. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION # 2026-2 AND PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION of a State of Local Disaster Emergency for Russell County, Kansas:

WHEREAS on the 18th day of December, 2025, the Board of Commissioners of Russell County, Kansas finds that certain conditions have caused, or eminently threaten to cause wide-

spread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property in disaster proportion in Russell County, Kansas;

WHEREAS, such conditions have created obstructions which endanger health, safety and welfare of persons and property within the border of Russell County, Kansas.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Russell County, Kansas:

That the Board of County Commissioners of Russell County, Kansas, under and by virtue of the authority vested in it by K.S.A. 1976 Supp. 48-932, does hereby PROCLAIM that a State of Local Disaster Emergency exists.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED that the area within the border of Russell County, Kansas covered by this proclamation/ resolution is the entire area of Russell County, Kansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Board has all rights and/or powers to perform such functions as are vested in said Board by and through the provisions of the Kansas Emergency Preparedness Act of 1975.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED that this resolution shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days unless terminated earlier or renewed by consent of the governing body.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF RUSSELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THIS 5TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

s/ Duke Strobel
DUKE STROBEL, CHAIRMAN

s/ Steve Reinhardt
STEVE REINHARDT, MEMBER

s/ Jason Krug
JASON KRUG, MEMBER

s/ Dean Haselhorst
DEAN HASELHORST, MEMBER

ATTEST:
s/ Kristi Whitman (seal)
KRISTI WHITMAN, COUNTY CLERK

s/ Alan Kuntzsch
ALAN KUNTZSCH, MEMBER

Justin Mermis, Dorrance Fire #4 Assistant Chief, stated one of the firetrucks was involved in an accident during the fires on December 18, 2025. He found a replacement cab and chassis for \$68,993.00 in Hays that the apparatus will switch over for a cost of \$34,000.00. Justin needs to wait to see what the insurance company says. Justin stated that radio communication between fire departments, law enforcement, and EMS needs to improve. It was discussed to talk with Vance Scott for ideas on how to solve this.

Dustin Finkenbinder, Waldo Paradise Natoma Fire #3 Chief, brought in pictures of a firetruck with a purchase price of \$150,000.00 from Orange County Emergency Service District 3 in Little

Cypress, Texas. He did a walkthrough of the truck over FaceTime. The heating and air conditioning do not work. Dustin stated he wants the truck delivered, and there may be a 10% down payment to hold the truck. Dustin will ask them to fix the heat and air and offer to pay the full asking price. Alan Kuntzsch made a motion to purchase the truck from Orange County Emergency Service District 3, located in Little Cypress, Texas, in the amount of \$150,000.00 for the Natoma Station. Steve Reinhardt seconded. The motion passed unanimously

Tax corrections 2025000: 147, 150, 152, 154, 155, 157, 159, 160, 162, 164-171, 173-177, 180-187, 189, 191-215, and 2026000001 were signed with a tax decrease of \$8,684.02.

At 10:26 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 19, 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

