

February 2, 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 January 19, 2026, meeting. Steve Reinhardt 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. Dean Haselhorst attended legislative meetings in Topeka. Jay Hall is leaving the Kansas Association of Counties for another position. Property Tax was a popular topic. The Kansas County Commissioners Association will hold its annual meeting in Hutchinson, Kansas, on April 22nd and 23rd. Dean asked the Commissioners if they would attend. Dean reiterated that there are 18 state mandates (services) that counties are required to fund, taking up roughly 82% of the county's budget. Steve Reinhardt stated he will be attending the Land and Liberty Summit meeting in Texas.

Commissioner Chairman Duke Strobel presented the DSNWK 2026 Agreement for Services between Russell County and Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, levying 0.749 mills for the 2026 Budget. Duke Strobel made a motion to approve the DSNWK 2026 Agreement for Services between Russell County and Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Stephanie Grisham, Administrator, requested that Jayce Dickerson be added to the Fire District #3 roster. Duke Strobel made a motion to add Jayce Dickerson to the Fire District #3 roster pending all paperwork being turned into Payroll. Alan Kuntzsch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Justin Mermis, Public Works Director, presented the Penco bridge inspection agreement for \$195 per bridge for 193 bridges for a total of \$37,635.00. Alan Kuntzsch made a motion to approve the Penco Agreement for \$37,635.00 for 193 bridges. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The annual Township meeting will tentatively be held on March 24, 2026, at the Elks Lodge. The Commissioners agreed to take haying bids this year. Justin will get the publication

ready. Jason Krug made a motion to take bids on used trucks. Duke Strobel seconded. Steve Reinhardt and Dean Haselhorst voted yes. Alan Kuntzsch voted no. The motion passed. A discussion was held on purchasing used or new equipment. Justin will get the bid publication ready to be opened on March 2, 2026. Justin stated he received an email from Joanna Rolf, Floodplain Mapping Coordinator, to set up a meeting in Russell County to discuss the updated floodplains. Stephanie Grisham will follow up on this.

David Gillmore, Appraiser, gave an update on changes in Russell County values. He will be working on setting values in February and mailing them out in March. A discussion on introduced legislation capping valuation increases at 3% was had.

Stephanie Grisham, County Administrator, asked the Commission if she could pursue the possibility of changing the county handbook to add compensatory time for potential cost savings on overtime. The Commission agreed to have Stephanie research and create a policy on Compensatory Time for the Commission to review and approve at a later date.

At 10:10 a.m., Duke Strobel made the motion to enter into a 20-minute executive session for non-elected personnel, with Administrator Stephanie Grisham in attendance. Dean Haselhorst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. At 10:30 a.m., the meeting resumed with no action taken.

Kristi Whitman, County Clerk, asked who the Commission would like to help prepare the 2027 Russell County Budget. The Commission agreed to ask Gudenkauf and Malone, Inc. to help prepare the 2027 Russell County Budget.

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

100	GENERAL	\$ 17,054.79	260	COUNTY HEALTH	\$ 499.50
110	ROAD & BRIDGE	\$ 17,455.81	290	GORHAM FIRE #1	\$ 1,562.53
120	SPECIAL BRIDGE	\$ 255.40	300	LUCAS FIRE #2	\$ 432.82
130	NOXIOUS WEED	\$ 619.90	310	WAL-PAR-NAT FIRE #3	\$ 2,975.10
150	CVB	\$ 4,837.32	325	DORRANCE FIRE #4 SP EQUIP	\$ 68,993.60
155	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 2,122.41	330	APPRAISER	\$ 125.00
180	ELECTION	\$ 2,276.94	340	SPECIAL R&B	\$ 3,062.56
190	AMBULANCE	\$ 1,225.08	360	SOLID WASTE	\$ 12,819.23
250	SERVICE TO ELDERLY	\$ 54,024.50	380	EMERGENCY TELEPHONE	\$ 408.23

Tax corrections 2026000010 to 2026000013, 2026000015, and 2026000019 to 2026000021 were signed with a tax decrease of \$35,912.84.

At 10:33 am, Jason Krug made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan Kuntzsch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting for the Russell County Commissioners will be on Tuesday, February 17, 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

