

Cloud County Commissioners meet

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County staff attending was: Rod Michaud, Highway / Weed Administrator; James Quillen, Emergency Preparedness Director; and Jeff Thoman, Maintenance Manager.

Others attending: Jeff Reece, Lindburg Vogel Piece Faris Chartered; Sheila Nelson-Stout, Kendra Krier, Susan Sprague and Kevin Hess, OCCK; Ryan McMillan; Olivia Bergmeier, Blade-Empire; Carol Torkelson, North Central Regional Planning Commission (by phone) and Mike Montoya, Montoya Law (by phone).

Jeff Thoman, Maintenance Manager, reported that the Highway Department would be doing some cement repairs on the Courthouse sidewalks, they assisted at the Health Department with a water pipe leak, discussed motor replacements and reported that the Fire Inspection would be this week. Thoman presented an incident form to be completed when a resident is injured on County property; the Board asked that the form be shared with other Departments.

James Quillen, Emergency Preparedness Director, reported that the emergency books will be complete and ready for Departments to pick up this week from the Clerk's office. Quillen discussed the Local Emergency Operations Plan, the Mesonet tower, and the generator grant.

Sheila Nelson-Stout, Kendra Krier, Susan Sprague and Kevin Hess, OCCK presented a budget request for 2026 for \$70,000 (no change from 2025).

The Board talked to Mike Montoya, Montoya Law (by phone), regarding Trail Road. The Board asked that Montoya arrange a meeting with landowners, their attorneys and the County.

Rod Michaud, Highway / Weed Administrator, reported that work is complete on Noble and 160th Roads and the roads will be striped next week.

On a motion by Commis-

sioner Copple, seconded by Commissioner Kearn, by unanimous vote the Board approved the presented tire bids from Budreau Muffler and Kansasland Tire by tire price.

Carol Torkelson, North Central Regional Planning Commission (by phone) discussed the Glasco Locker Plant price quotes and explained the recommendation of the higher bid being due to a higher quality product, availability of the product and replacement parts.

On a motion by Commissioner Copple, seconded by Commissioner Kearn, by unanimous vote the Board approved accepting the Glasco Locker Plan bids in the amount of \$53,987.19 with a limited payout of \$50,000 from the CDBG program.

Shella Thoman, County Clerk presented a thank you from the Ronald McDonald House Charities for the County employees donation of pull tabs.

Jeff Reece, Lindburg Vogel Piece Faris Chartered talked to the Board about the Fiscal Year ending audit they'd be onsite working on this week. The Board received 2026 budget requests from the County Treasurer \$38,714. (before transfer from motor vehicle), Solid Waste \$1,295,000, Recycling \$42,000, Road & Bridge \$4,330,424.48, and Noxious Weed \$124,610. Budgets do not include personnel.

On a motion by Commissioner Kearn, seconded by Commissioner Copple, by unanimous vote the Board approved Transfer 2025-0512-1 debiting Health Department receipts, crediting Crisis Pantry reimbursement expenses in the amount of \$75.00 to fix the receipt #30626 as the deposit was for the Crisis Pantry.

On a motion by Commissioner Copple, seconded by Commissioner Kearn, by unanimous vote the Board approved hiring Samuel Caito as a Sheriff Deputy (J7) effective May 6, 2025.

On a motion by Commis-

sioner Copple, seconded by Commissioner Kearn, by unanimous vote the Board approved the classification change for Tiffanie Wriston from Corrections Sergeant (J9) to Sheriff's Deputy (J1) effective April 20, 2024.

On a motion by Commissioner Copple, seconded by Commissioner Kearn, by unanimous vote the Board approved the May employee reviews as presented.

Recognized the resignation of Timothy Wogomon Jr., Sheriff Deputy effective December 18, 2024.

The Board approved the following payroll expenses totaling \$199,620.17: General Fund - \$101,827.74; Road & Bridge - \$53,706.98; Appraiser - \$6,644.41; County Health - \$22,462.01; Noxious Weed - \$1,448.31; Election - \$2,201.98; Solid Waste - \$11,328.74; Payroll Deductions & Benefits - \$84,387.89. The above expense detail is available at the County Clerk's office and the Clerk's Public Records webpage.

On a motion by Commissioner Copple, seconded by Commissioner Kearn, by unanimous vote the Board approved abatements 2025-83 & 2025-84 with a net change of (\$30.28) and refund of \$11.61.

Commission Kearn attended the Chemical Dependency Committee meeting and the Leadership meeting on Friday May 9th

On a motion by Commissioner Copple, seconded by Commissioner Kearn, by unanimous vote the Board approved the May 5, 2025, minutes as presented.

On a motion by Commissioner Kearn, seconded by Commissioner Copple, by unanimous vote the Board adjourned at 11:58 a.m., until Monday May 19, 2025.

Incorrect is the only word in the English language that, when spelled correctly, is still spelled incorrect.

LaBarge completes election training

Cloud County Deputy Election Officer Stacie LaBarge was one of sixty-four election officials who recently completed the Certified Election Training Program (CET) that Secretary Schwab launched in 2022.

Schwab said, "this groundbreaking initiative reflects our commitment to excellence, integrity, and consistency in election administration."

The CET Program is the first of its kind in Kansas. Training began in 2023 and concluded in April 2025, culminating in a graduation ceremony held May 1st at the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEOA)

meeting in Mulvane. Each graduate received a certificate of completion and a commemorative CET lapel pin.

The Certified Election Training Program is designed to enhance county election procedures, promote statewide uniformity, and prepare officials to implement new policies. The comprehensive curriculum builds upon the existing annual statewide and biannual regional training currently provided by the Secretary of State's office.

Schwab's administration is the first in Kansas history to offer a formal certification program for election officials.

Cloud County Sheriff's Department News

On 05/12/2025 at 0009 hours a Deputy took a report of a non-injury accident located at mile post 205 on 145th Road.

On 05/13/2025 at 0537 hours a Deputy took a report of a non-injury accident located in the 1700 block of K-9 Highway.

On 05/17/2025 at 0919 hours

a Deputy took a report of a theft on 40th Road. The case is still under investigation.

On 05/17/2025 at 1522 hours a Deputy took a report of a criminal trespass on Noble Road. The case is still under investigation.

*Names of victims not given due to request of victims.

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