

Board of Supervisors reconvened meeting notes

by Christy Hopkins
 Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 8 a.m.

Supervisors present: Chairman Steve Mangan, Monty Moritz, Stan Shafer, Scott Steele, and Alan Waggoner
 Others Present: Groundwater Management District #1 Manager Katie Durham, Unified Greeley County Clerk Jerri Young, Unified County Treasurer Diane Gentry, Unified Administrator Jeff Crockett, Utility Manager Stephanie Elliott, Travis Weaver, Ray Smith, Curtis and Koreen Woods, Laura Woods, Stacy Woods, and Christy Hopkins
 Steve Mangan called the reconvened meeting to order at 8 a.m.

Groundwater Management District #1 Manager Katie Durham talked about Groundwater Management District #1 and opportunities available to Unified Greeley County in regard to water programs.

Though the City of Tribune is not within the boundaries of GMD #1, municipal wells are. The city is not subject to the usage reduction rules of the Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) in place for the district but is required to comply with best practices. Durham expressed an interest in working more closely with the City of Tribune. Programs discussed included the W-Tap program, which works to retire water rights within two miles of the city's borders, working to insulate the municipal water supply.

Durham discussed grant funds available within the State Water Plan. Weskan has been awarded approximately \$432,000 to complete a full system replacement for the city. Durham would like to more fully engage with each municipality in the district, to learn about their goals and see what grant funds may be available. She encouraged the Board of Supervisors to have each of their wells evaluated by a water engineer to get a better sense of each well's lifespan and usability. She also offered to serve as an idea person and facilitator for water-related issues; she's received concerns from Greeley County residents and others throughout the district about ongoing water issues. She wants to advocate for all water users in general.

She mentioned that a priority for Greeley County should be resubmitting the maps documenting the authorized place of use for the city's wells. As locations have been added to the city's system, the maps have not

been kept up-to-date and need to be resubmitted.

In response to questions posed by members of the Board of Supervisors, Durham said water levels in Greeley County are projected to stabilize with the current LEMA in place. Before the 25% reduction in use required by the LEMA, Greeley County had been experiencing a 1.5 foot drop in water levels each year. The recent AquaGeo Frameworks surveys done will help develop a more detailed picture of both untapped and more depleted areas across the district. Durham indicated that since the institution of the LEMA, test wells in Greeley County have risen three to five feet; unfortunately, there are only two test wells per township and she feels more test wells would help provide a more detailed picture of the situation. The Kansas Geological Survey will be redoing the current water models in response to the new data; water models can also be developed for local municipalities.

Terra Mangan entered the meeting at 8:20 a.m.

Waggoner appreciated the volunteer 25% reduction in use and ask more dramatic cuts might be in order. Shafer expressed his gratitude to the people in Wichita County who first began working on a LEMA and asked, too, if deeper cuts to use might be needed. Durham said the LEMA is set up in 5-year increments and that rates will be reviewed each time a LEMA is up for renewal.

Shafer, who farms irrigated ground, said that the LEMA has proved to him that he can do a better job with less water.

Durham said that Wichita County has stabilized their water levels and is renewing their LEMA for another five years.

At Mangan's request, Durham talked about available funds for municipalities in regard to water projects. Durham shared information on House Bill 2303 funds, Kansas Rural Water Association resources, Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) dollars, a potential Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and the W-Tap program.

An additional water dock location was discussed; the city has a well that has nitrate issues that cannot be used currently.

Durham encouraged the board to make a list of needs and potential projects that could be incorporated into

a long-term water plan. Knowing what's needed would help her when she talks to state and federal officials and reports back to the Kansas Water Authority.

Durham mentioned that she has access to a range of policies and procedures instituted by other municipalities and encouraged the board to be proactive in developing a set of criteria to evaluate future requests for water access.

Moritz asked a question about rural water districts and Durham indicated that there are many options, extensive flexibility, and additional funding avenues with rural water districts. They're complicated, Durham said, but water issues are. She recommended having a water balance analysis done to see what the demand for use might be.

Koreen Woods visited with the Board of Supervisors about the well situation at their farm. They currently have 3.5 feet of water in their well, they had previously had seven feet and the well now produces less than a gallon per minute. They had Shell Drilling out two weeks ago to attempt to drill a new well; they were unable to find additional water after three attempts and are now hauling water from the town water dock for their livestock, trees, and greenhouse use. Woods shared that another area family is in a similar situation.

She asked the board to allow them to tie onto the municipal water system and expressed specific interest in the water rights given to the city by the Lobmeyer family last year. That well is not currently being used.

Woods voiced her appreciation for the assets the community has and says she wants to remain on their farm and hopes the board would work with them to help find a way to ensure that farm families could remain in the country.

After a question from Waggoner about whether the Woods family had explored any additional options, Woods explained that Travis Weaver had offered to sell them a well but that it needed to be surveyed prior to the sale. They are 75th on the surveyor's list. They've also considered underground water storage but noted that it comes with significant expense.

Additional conversation ensued about the possibility of a rural water district, about the need to develop sound policy, and how to balance the needs of residents with the available supply.

Questions were posed about past additions to the water system and how those additions came about; Travis Weaver asked about the specific deals that resulted in getting onto city

water.

Durham shared a map indicating the current places of authorized usage and noted that additions had been made since the map was finalized or submitted to the state. Durham offered her assistance in continuing the conversation and helping the community move forward.

Mangan highlighted the need to develop parameters, criteria, and to ensure that

a plan was developed with an eye to total capacity and a water contingency plan before moving forward.

The board expressed their gratitude to Durham for sharing her expertise with the board.

Mangan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 a.m. Waggoner seconded. Motion carried, 5-0.

Official meeting minutes are available at the County Clerk's office.

LEGAL NOTICE

Unified Greeley County - General Services District

2026

FUND PAGE - GENERAL

Adopted Budget General	Prior Year Actual for 2024	Current Year Estimate for 2025	Proposed Budget Year for 2026
Resources Available:	5,894,477	5,223,852	1,968,590
Expenditures:			
Airport	20,933	25,500	30,500
Ambulance	66,671	77,500	88,475
Appraiser	106,980	109,059	112,332
Attorney (Unified County)	87,783	94,200	98,000
Clerk (Unified County)	107,951	114,928	120,274
Clerk of the District Court	15,675	21,500	26,500
Courthouse	816,317	590,000	451,750
Economic Development	114,000	114,000	105,000
Election	27,339	22,729	31,215
Health	248,309	209,935	189,000
Historical Records	17,184	17,000	17,000
Noxious Weed	382,495	190,600	243,275
Park	145,088	110,000	95,000
Public Safety - Emergency Preparedness	9,459	14,000	14,000
Public Safety - Fire Department	47,538	43,750	39,463
Public Safety - Sheriff	500,716	530,000	556,250
Register of Deeds	107,188	117,878	120,772
Senior Center	48,150	58,150	58,150
Services for Elderly	52,055	32,500	32,500
Solid Waste	85,826	193,470	109,600
Supervisors (Unified County)	62,062	64,300	63,300
Treasurer (Unified County)	139,681	163,500	167,000
ARPA	11,911	0	0
District Coroner	1,686	3,000	3,000
Rural Opportunity Zone	17,489	20,000	20,000
Pool	22,039	25,000	25,000
Various Appropriations	1,171,371	1,109,410	1,067,367
Transfers	422,651	208,197	208,197
Subtotal	4,856,547	4,280,106	4,092,920
Cash Reserve (2026 column)	0	0	980,380
Miscellaneous			
Does miscellaneous exceed 10% of Total E			
Total Expenditures	4,856,547	4,280,106	5,073,300
Unencumbered Cash Balance Dec 31	1,037,930	943,746	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2024/2025/2026 Budget Authority Amount	5,595,002	5,011,753	5,073,300
Non-Appropriated Balance			
Total Expenditure/Non-Appr Balance			5,073,300
Tax Required			3,104,710
Delinquent Comp Rate: 1.0%			31,047
Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax			3,135,757

CPA Summary

Page No. 6a

LEGAL NOTICE

Unified Greeley County-Municipal Services District

State of Kansas
 County
 2026

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of **Unified Greeley County-Municipal Services District** will meet on August 11, 2025 at 1:05 PM at Greeley County Courthouse for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Greeley County Courthouse and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2024		Current Year Estimate for 2025		Proposed Budget Year for 2026		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	772,517	64.862	649,367	62.261	1,170,342	342,747	60.725
Special Street Construction	12,210		20,000		122,151		
Special Parks & Recreation			500		3,909		
Sanitation	136,855		139,100		321,158		
Sewer	64,999		60,200		152,957		
Waterworks	354,278		354,000		668,506		
Non-Budgeted Funds-A	486,613						
Non-Budgeted Funds-B	15,168						
Totals	1,842,640	64.862	1,223,167	62.261	2,439,023	342,747	60.725
Revenue Neutral Rate ** 60.725							
Less: Transfers	164,586		194,300		224,300		
Net Expenditure	1,678,054		1,028,867		2,214,723		
Total Tax Levied	342,754		342,747		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation	5,284,433		5,505,006		5,644,238		

Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2023	2024	2025
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Princ.	30,038	0	0
Total	30,038	0	0

*Tax rates are expressed in mills
 **Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Stephanie Reichert
 City Clerk

Page No. 12

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Wednesday (7/23): Grill Day	11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Thursday (7/24): Beef Enchiladas & Chips/Dip	11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Closed Friday & Saturday (7/25 & 7/26)	
Sunday (7/27): Grill Day	11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Monday (7/28): Grill Day	11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday (7/29): Lasagna & Salad	11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday (7/30): Grill Day	11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

HOURS (subject to change)
 Sun-Thurs: 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 Closed Friday and Saturday

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