

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 29, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, December 29, 2025. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Leon Hart and Member Kenny Meitler present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.

Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson, Brandon Cochran, Felicia Strahm, Truette McQueen, and Shawn Esterl.

Correspondence: a letter from KAC with an invoice for the 2026 annual dues; a Christmas card and newsletter from the North Central Regional Planning Commission; calendars from Murphy tractor; and two rulings from the Board of Tax Appeals for county-owned properties.

Debora Smith gave an update on the Hospital Board of Trustees' monthly meeting.

Administrators' Report: will be meeting with Economic Development and a data mining company about resources available in Lincoln County; provided an update on the Health Department and communications with the hospital; will attend a meeting with Terry Broberg and the Transportation Bus Director concerning a request to provide rides for commodity pickup; Human Resources is setting up a committee from the courthouse to conduct second interviews for the custodian position; will meet with Senator Bowers and Sheriff Florence on January 28 in Topeka for Local Government Day concerning the legislative requirements to place a sales tax question on the ballot.

Ambulance Service Director Brandon Cochran was present to review evaluations for full-time and part-time employees. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing EMS staff evaluations pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, Brandon Cochran, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 9:02 a.m. Time out: 9:17 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:17 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing EMS staff evaluations pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, Brandon Cochran, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 9:18 a.m. Time out: 9:33 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:33 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing EMS staff evaluations pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, Brandon Cochran, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 9:38 a.m. Time out: 9:53 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 9:53 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing EMS staff evaluations pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, Brandon Cochran, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 9:54 a.m. Time out: 10:04 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:04 a.m. with no action taken.

County Appraiser Truette McQueen was present to review department evaluations. Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing Appraiser's office evaluations, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, Truette McQueen, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 10:06 a.m. Time out: 10:21 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:21 a.m. with no action taken. McQueen inquired about contacting part-time employees to assist with data entry. The board approved contingent on their hours staying under the required 1,000 hours.

Human Resource Officer Felicia Strahm requested approval to employ Mason Florence. Debora Smith moved to employ Mason Florence as a part-

time EMT, effective December 25, at grade 13, step 5, \$14.04 per hour, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing County Administrator evaluation, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, with the board, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 10:30 a.m. Time out: 10:45 a.m. with no action taken.

The chairman adjourned the meeting to regular session at 10:45 a.m. with no action taken.

Human Resource Officer Felicia provided an update on open job positions.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for five minutes for the purpose of discussing Clerk's office evaluations, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with board, Adam Robertson, Dawn Harlow, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Time in: 10:53 a.m. Time out: 10:58 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 10:58 a.m. with no action taken.

The board discussed highway department activities and complaints received by constituents.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing transportation bus staffing concerns pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room, with the board, Adam Robertson, Dawn Harlow, and Felicia Strahm, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 11:15 a.m. Time out: 11:30 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:30 a.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing transportation bus staffing concerns pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, Felicia Strahm, and Dawn Harlow, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 11:30 a.m. Time out: 11:40 a.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 11:40 a.m. with no action taken.

Administrators' Report continued: provided a progress update on the bridge replacement project OS 107; has discussed the courthouse roof with two roofing companies; the Highway Department will pick up the landfill backhoe until the board can decide what to do moving forward; and discussed the Kansas Department of Labor facility inspection remedies.

Sanitarian Shawn Esterl inquired whether the KDHE hazardous waste letter had been resolved. Esterl will meet with Robertson to determine if he can provide further assistance.

Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes of the December 22nd meeting, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to approve tax abatement 2025-52, in the amount of \$70.36, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

December 31, 2025

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Leon Hart and Member Kenny Meitler present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.

Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson and Felicia Strahm.

Debora Smith moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$248,597.66, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$566,157.57, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried.

Commissioner Meitler inquired about how the departments were handling Noxious Weed wages paid to employees working for the Highway Department. The group discussed options. Human Resource Officer Strahm will meet with the employee to determine how they are recording time and to determine the best method for adequately allocating costs to each department.

Chairman Smith convened the scheduled budget hearing at 9:00 a.m. to hear and answer objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of budgeted funds. The chairman

adjourned the budget hearing at 9:30 a.m. and convened the meeting to regular session. Debora Smith moved to approve the 2025 Lincoln County amended budget, amending the General Fund, Health Fund, and Hunter Rural Fire District budgets, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-22, transferring \$265,000 from the Lincoln County General Fund to the Lincoln County Capital Improvement Fund, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-23, transferring \$100,000 from the Lincoln County General Fund to the Equipment Reserve Fund, allocating \$60,000 for use by the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-24, transferring \$50,000 from the Lincoln County Health Fund to the Lincoln County Health Capital Outlay Fund, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-25, transferring \$20,000 from the Noxious Weed Fund to the Noxious Weed Capital Outlay Fund, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-26, transferring \$3,300 from the General Fund to the Transportation Bus Fund, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-27, transferring \$16,500 from the Barnard Rural Fire Operating Fund to the Barnard Rural Fire Special Equipment Fund; \$18,000 from the Beverly Rural Fire Operating Fund to the Beverly Rural Fire Special Equipment Fund; \$3,000 from the First Rural Fire Operating Fund to the First Rural Fire Special Equipment Fund; \$50,000 from the Hunter Rural Fire Operating Fund to the Hunter Rural Fire Special Equipment Fund; and \$8,500 from the Sylvan Grove Rural Fire Operating Fund to the Sylvan Grove Rural Fire Special Equipment Fund, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-28,

transferring \$33,769.82 from the Road Fund to the Special Highway Improvement Fund, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-29, transferring \$100,000 from the Road Fund to the Special Road Improvement Fund, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-30, transferring \$140,246 from the Road Fund to the Special Machinery Fund, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-31, transferring \$100,000 from the Road Fund to the Special Highway Improvement Fund, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

Clerk Harlow inquired whether the board would like to distribute 100% of the allocation to the Lincoln and Sylvan Grove senior centers and the Council on Aging in January or place the three entities on the distribution schedule with all other tax appropriations. The board determined that the entities should be placed on the distribution schedule, with the allocation sent in January being subject to the matching percentage of tax collected for the 1st half distribution, and that the remaining amount will be made available in May after the 2nd half distribution is made.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 5, 2026.

January 5, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in the courthouse commission meeting room on Monday, January 5, 2026. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with Vice-Chairman Leon Hart and Member Kenny Meitler present. County Clerk Dawn Harlow was in attendance as recording secretary.

Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson, Mary Ann Stertz, and Dustin Florence.

Correspondence: a letter from the Kansas Pipeline Association; an email from Fire Chief Marc Lovin concerning volunteer firefighter pay; and an email from the Attorney Assist regarding the information provided by Marc Lovin.

County Treasurer Mary Ann Stertz presented the total ad valorem tax collected. Stertz presented three annual resolutions for the board's approval. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2026-03, designating the following Lincoln County banks as depositories of all money for Lincoln County, Kansas, for the year 2026: The Bank of Tescott - Lincoln, Citizens State Bank & Trust - Lincoln, Bennington State Bank - Sylvan Grove, Farmway Credit Union - Lincoln, Wilson State Bank - Beverly, and State Municipal Investment Pool-State of Kansas depositories, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2026-02, authorizing the County Treasurer to develop and implement a cash

management and investment program for the handling of money in the custody of Lincoln County, Kansas, for the year 2026, seconded by Kenny Meitler. Motion carried. Debora Smith moved to approve Resolution 2026-01, allowing the County Treasurer to invest idle funds as seen feasible in Lincoln County banks or investments, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

County Administrator Adam Robertson updated the board on Public Works and Health Department activities, and provided an update on the Kansas Department of Labor's findings response.

Sheriff Dustin Florence related that he had signed the contract to purchase the new fingerprint machine, with payment required at the time of ordering. Florence reported that the bid to encrypt the 800 radios exceeded \$52,000 and that the proposal might need to be updated. A portion of the cost could be drawn from the 911 fund, and he was checking the allowed uses of fee-generated funds. Florence provided a letter from the FBI and information received from the KBI regarding the need for encryption and explained the impact on the department if the radios aren't encrypted. The board approved the purchase of the fingerprint machine and the remaining cost of radio encryption from the capital equipment reserve fund after all available resources are used, and approved payment at month for the fingerprint machine.

The board discussed open positions and requested that Administrator Robertson, with Human Resources, facilitate job interviews for applicants for the Health/Nurse Administrator position. Robertson provided a letter from KDOT approving the submission of underreported expenses from July to November 2025 and the actions KDOT will take to ensure proper staff training and reporting moving forward. Robertson provided information on meetings attended and upcoming meetings scheduled. Commissioner Hart and Robertson will travel to view the equipment used at the McPherson County solid waste disposal facility.

The board discussed the amount of interest accrued in the Windpower Economic Benefit Fund interest account and whether the bylaws should be changed to make revenue available for county projects that would require a property tax increase to fund. The board discussed whether it would be more beneficial to the committee to limit funding annually, which would require bylaw changes, or to have the County apply for funds toward specific projects. Members agreed that the interest funds given to the committee should be limited. Commissioner Smith volunteered to research the steps needed to align with the board's goals.

The board discussed what they would like to request of the State Legislature regarding the sales tax percentage to present to voters and the proposed uses. The board reviewed cash flow scenarios provided by Piper Sandler & Co. The board identified that they would like to request a one percent sales tax, identified projects they would like to see funded by the sales tax, and agreed that they did not want the sales tax to sunset. The tax would provide property tax relief by financing infrastructure projects, with proceeds available for use toward all county-owned buildings and future road and bridge projects and improvements. The bonding attorney will be contacted to assist with drafting a legislative bill to be introduced by local legislators during the current session.

Debora Smith moved to approve the minutes of the December 29th and December 31st meetings, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m. The next meeting will be in the courthouse commission meeting room at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026.

January 9, 2026

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, January 9, 2026. Chairman Debora Smith called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. with Vice-Chairman Leon Hart and Member Kenny Meitler present. Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Machado acted as recording secretary.

Purpose: the purpose of the special meeting is to conduct interviews for the Health Nurse/Administrator position.

Others present for portions of the meeting: Adam Robertson and Felicia Strahm.

Debora Smith moved to recess into executive session for fifteen minutes for the purpose of reviewing applications for the County Health Department Administrator, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel, to reconvene in the courthouse commission meeting room with the board, Adam Robertson, and Felicia Strahm present, seconded by Leon Hart. Motion carried. Time in: 12:35 p.m. Time out: 12:50 p.m.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to regular session at 12:50 p.m. with no action taken.

Debora Smith moved to recess into ex-