

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

September 3, 2026 @ 9:00AM

ANNEX BUILDING

Alex Zimmerman, Shane Boswell, and Charlie St. John were present. Shane opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Martha with Mercy Rescue is at the meeting today to address the problem at the Recycling Center. Martha thanks Michelle Matern and the Animal Control team who trapped five kittens. The kittens were dropped off at the vet and evaluated. The kittens are currently back at Mercy Rescue recovering. Martha reads a letter from Director Anne Poore who was unable to attend the meeting. There are 25 to 30 cats/kittens currently living at the Recycling Center. This situation did not happen overnight and therefore cannot be corrected overnight. Previously, Mercy Rescue spayed and neutered 29 cats from the Recycling Center and invested over \$3000.00. Mercy Rescue did not have the room but made room for the five kittens. Mercy Rescue is asking for financial support, six weeks to remove the cats, and a long-term plan so this does not happen again. Shane asked about several of the cats being sick. Martha said the vet will evaluate the cats and do the humane thing for the cats. Animal Control is trying to trap two cats a day because that is what the vet can see at one time. Shane said that he couldn't allow six weeks. Shane said that it is a Recycling Center, not an animal shelter. Shane has received many complaints about the Recycling Center. The commissioners are willing to give Mercy Rescue one month. Charlie said that the county would be liable if the cats were to bite someone. Shane said that it isn't in the budget currently to assist financially. Charlie made a motion to allow four weeks for the clean up at the Recycling Center. If there is no progress in two weeks, it will be reevaluated. Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Nicci presents a travel request from Soli and Water. Becca has already attended the training and had issues getting the paperwork to HR. Becca presented it to the Soil and Water Board first and they did not meet until August 25. Charlie made a motion to approve the request, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Nicci has met with Bison Financial Group, and they are offering employees free financial planning. Charlie made a motion to allow Bison Financial Group to meet with the county employees, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sarah received an update from the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation grant. There are eight homes that have open contracts, seven homes awaiting inspection, and seven homes are out for bid. The program has 22 homes currently and the goal is 30. Charlie made a motion to sign the contract to allow the billing process to start. Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.