

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

September 17, 2026 @ 9:00AM

ANNEX BUILDING

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

HR submits a travel request from Dan Brookbank. Dan has already attended the meeting and there was no cost to the county. Shane made a motion to approve, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Nicci received a verbal resignation from the custodian and is asking permission to post the position as quickly as possible. Shane made a motion to approve the request, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Shannon and Lori from Shepherd Insurance discuss the counties renewal with the commissioners. Medical claims are down almost thirty percent from the previous year, which helped in the negotiation with Anthem. Shepherd was able to negotiate a three percent increase for 2027 with no change in the benefits, except for the federal required changes. Shepherd is requesting approval for the renewal with Anthem at a three percent increase. Delta Dental, EyeMed, and voluntary life do not require any action. The direct provider contract renewal with Schneck is pending. Matt says that he feels good about the three percent increase and that is the lowest increase he has seen by far. Matt also stated that the increase would not be passed on to the employees. Shane made a motion to approve the renewal. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Shane made a motion to proceed with the purchase of a new maintenance vehicle from Country Chevrolet. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The purchase will be paid out of the 2024 bond money.

Mark Biehle talks on behalf of the 4H and livestock committee. Mark starts by thanking the commissioners for helping with the new poultry and rabbit barn. Mark said that they want to make some improvements in the ventilation at the show arena and the goat barn. Mark said that he is not asking for money, just approval to proceed with the bid process. Shane made a motion to allow Mark to proceed with the bid process. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Mark asked if the county could demo the pig wash racks. Matt said that the highway could possibly demo them in the colder months. Mark asks the commissioners about diverting the pit area traffic on Friday night. The commissioners will look into this and see what can be done.

Marie Shepherd is requesting permission to hire a temporary part-time person. One of her full-time people will be out for eight to twelve weeks. Marie also tells commissioners that her part-time position has been cut for 2027. Shane made a motion to approve Marie's request to hire a temporary part-time person. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Marie discusses her frustration with the cameras in the meeting room. In her last meeting the cameras were pointing at the ceiling. Matt asked if the cameras could be reset and the auditor said that she and Maintenance did reset them. There is a remote that will control the cameras and reset them if need be.

Jerry Shepherd states that he had two items approved in the capital spending plan. Jerry wants to upgrade some equipment. The commissioners said that the bond shows \$8000.00 was approved for a heat and a/c unit. Shane made a motion to table the request, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Michelle with Animal Control is requesting approval to spend bond money that was approved for computers. One of the computers crashed and it is very outdated. Michelle got a quote for two new computers from the counties IT Department. The quote is for \$2222.50, and Michelle has \$5000.00 approved in the bond. Shane made a motion to approve the request. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Matt asked for an update on the cats at the Recycle Center. Michelle said that there are five cats that remain at the Recycle Center. When the five remaining cats are removed, Michelle suggests rat/mice poison instead of cats to remove rodents.

Alex reviewed the contract with TK Elevator. The contract renewed in March 2025 and is a five-year contract. TK Elevator is asking for \$100.00 to help cover fuel cost. Shane made a motion to deny the request, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Shane made a motion to approve prior minutes, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Shane made a motion to approve payroll and claims, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Shane made a motion to approve and sign the release of funds for the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation grant. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Shane made a motion to adjourn at 9:49am, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.



Sarah J. Abel, Auditor



Charlie St. John

Matt Sporleder, President



Shane Boswell

