

The Board of Brown County Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Commissioners Richard Tesoriero and William Pollock. Chairman Lucas Heinen was present via Zoom. Also present was Brown County Clerk, Nicole Lee. County Counselor Austin Parker was present for a portion of the meeting. Commissioner Pollock opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer led by Commissioner Pollock.

COUNTY PERSONNEL / PUBLIC COMMENT

Solid Waste

Don Pounds was present to discuss reimbursement from the Commissioners for the 2025 Brown County Developmental Services tonnage cost. Pounds also discussed concerns about the deadline to submit EOBs to be processed for the 2025 Gap insurance plan and the progress of the Noxious Weed/Solid Waste building project.

Emergency Management

Emergency Manager Don Pounds presented a letter of resignation effective February 13, 2026. Pounds will continue as the Solid Waste Director.

County Counselor

County Counselor Austin Parker presented working draft resolutions for the Planning Commission term expiration change and easements for FAS-51 bridge construction. Parker also gave updates on: vacate road notice of hearing, Kickapoo Tribe dispatch services MOU, and the right-of-way permit process.

LARRY ROEDER

Brown County Resident Larry Roeder appeared before the commission to request reconsideration of the denial of his Neighborhood Revitalization Plan application submitted December 16, 2025. The application was denied because the project commenced prior to filing for the program with the Appraiser's Office. No action taken at this time. The Commission will discuss this at a future meeting.

KEVIN KNEISLEY

Kevin Kneisley with the Hiawatha Community Theater was present to request a letter from the Commission to appoint him as a grant administrator for the Memorial Auditorium. This would allow Kneisley to apply for grants with the Kansas Historical Society for funding to make renovations. No action taken at this time. The Commission requested to meet with a Brown County Historical Society representative.

MINUTES 01-05-2026

Motion by Lucas Heinen to approve the January 5, 2026 minutes. Seconded by Richard Tesoriero. Motion carried.

2026 COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

Motion by Richard Tesoriero to appoint Lucas Heinen as 2026 Brown County Commission Chairman. Seconded by Lucas Heinen. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026-01

Motion by Lucas Heinen to approve Resolution #2026-01, appointing Lucas Heinen as Commission Chairman for 2026. Seconded by William Pollock. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026-02

Motion by Richard Tesoriero to approve Resolution #2026-02, appointing Citizens State Bank, UMB Bank Hiawatha Branch, GNBank, Farmers State Bank, First Option Bank, and State of Kansas Municipal Investment Pool as checking and investment banks for Brown County for 2026. Seconded by Lucas Heinen. Motion carried.

NEWSPAPER BID OPENING

Bids for the official Brown County newspaper of 2026 were as follows: The Hiawatha World at \$3.00 per column inch and The Horton Headlight at \$2.20 per column inch. Motion by Richard Tesoriero to accept the Horton Headlight bid of \$2.20 per column inch. Seconded by William Pollock. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026-03

Motion by Richard Tesoriero to approve Resolution #2026-03, appointing The Horton Headlight as the official Brown County newspaper for 2026. Information will also be published in the Hiawatha World to ensure the public is informed. Seconded by Lucas Heinen. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026-04

Motion by Lucas Heinen to accept Resolution #2026-04, which approves the 2026 Brown County Personnel Policy and Wage Structure. Seconded by Richard Tesoriero. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026-05

Motion by Richard Tesoriero to approve Resolution #2026-05, which adopts the GAAP Waiver policy for auditing purposes. Seconded by Lucas Heinen. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2026-06

Motion by Lucas Heinen to approve Resolution #2026-06, appointing Melanie Mears as the Brown County Health Officer. Seconded by Richard Tesoriero. Motion carried.

NEKES BOARD APPOINTMENT

Motion by William Pollock to appoint Melanie Mears to the NEKES Board of Directors. Seconded by Richard Tesoriero. Motion carried.

TAX CHANGE ORDERS

Tax Change Orders 2025-24 and 2025-26 through 2025-37 were signed and approved.

PAYROLL 01-12-2026

The January 7, 2026 payroll was approved as follows: Motion by Lucas Heinen. Seconded by Richard Tesoriero. Motion carried.

General	\$107,474.17
Road & Bridge	9,256.01
Technology	261.00
Appraiser	8,598.55
Noxious Weed	1,960.00
ACC	11,071.23
JJA Core	8,751.52
Services for Elderly	2,849.24
Solid Waste	5,457.17
Employee Ben FICA	10,002.54
Employee Ben KPERS	13,800.81
State Unemploy/Work Comp	-117.87
Insurance	-2,777.91
TOTAL	\$176,586.46

A/P 01-12-2026

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

The January 12, 2026, claims were approved as follows: Motion by Lucas Heinen to approve accounts payable. Seconded by Richard Tesoriero. Motion carried.

001 General	\$27,493.75
103 Road & Bridge	926.27
125 Employee Benefit	49,957.00
135 Capital Improvement	132.40
143 Appraiser	295.10
147 Noxious Weed	45.03
155 Diversion	799.37
160 911 SB50	108.08
165 ACC	1,530.12
167 JJCR	1,544.73
201 Services for Elderly	153.53
211 Solid Waste	9,085.79
TOTAL	\$92,071.17

Motion by Richard Tesoriero to adjourn. Seconded by William Pollock. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.