

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

COUNTY PERSONNEL / PUBLIC COMMENT

Register of Deeds

Register of Deeds Nellie Brockhoff submitted her retirement letter to the Board of Commissioners. Notification was also given to the Republican Chairman, Chris Kroll. Brockhoff's last day of work will be February 27, 2026. She has served as Brown County Register of Deeds since October of 2006.

Road and Bridge

Road and Bridge Secretary Tami Lehmkuhl was present to discuss posting an open job position on Facebook, OS-2 bridge repairs, the road vacation process, and awaiting the FAS-51 agreement to present to the landowners.

Executive Session

Motion by Lucas Heinen to recess into executive session for 10 minutes with the three commissioners and Brown County Clerk Nicole Lee present for the purpose of discussing employee compensation of non-elected personnel, to protect the privacy of the employee. The open meeting will reconvene in the Commissioner's Room at 2:41 p.m. Seconded by William Pollock. Motion carried. No binding action was taken.

Treasurer

Brown County Treasurer Betty Spiker presented a proposed department restructure and revised wage scale for consideration.

Executive Session

Brown County Treasurer Betty Spiker requested a 10-minute executive session to discuss non-elected employee compensation. Motion by Lucas Heinen to recess into executive session for 10 minutes with the three commissioners, Brown County Treasurer Betty Spiker, and County Clerk Nicole Lee present for the purpose of discussing compensation of non-elected personnel, to protect the privacy of the employees. The open meeting will reconvene in the Commissioner's Room at 3:14 p.m. Seconded by Richard Tesoriero. Motion carried. No binding action was taken.

Commission Updates

Commissioner Tesoriero gave updates on meetings with Township Boards and with Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas to review the proposed interlocal agreement for dispatch services.

HIAWATHA FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mikaela Moore, HFED Director, presented the ROZ Resolution for approval and discussed the program benefits. Moore also presented ways that HFED can help market the Neighborhood Revitalization Program once it is approved. Motion by Lucas Heinen to adopt Resolution #2026-07, authorizing the Rural Opportunity Zone student loan program for the calendar year 2026. Seconded by William Pollock. Motion carried.

BROWN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Bill Vonderschmidt presented the guidelines drafted for commercial solar projects in Brown County. Vonderschmidt also provided the Commission with examples of resolutions banning Battery Energy Storage System and Data Centers from Doniphan County. Motion by Richard Tesoriero to accept the Guidelines for Commercial Solar Projects in Brown County, KS as presented. Seconded by William Pollock. Motion carried.

MINUTES 01-12-2026

Motion by William Pollock to approve the January 12, 2026 minutes. Seconded by Richard Tesoriero. Motion carried.

NEK MULTI-COUNTY HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Motion by Lucas Heinen to appoint Richard Tesoriero to the Northeast Kansas Multi-County Health Board of Directors replacing Richard Lehmkuhl. Seconded by William Pollock. Motion carried.

ANNUAL CEMETERY REPORTS

Motion by Lucas Heinen to accept the annual cemetery reports as presented. Seconded by Richard Tesoriero. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE/NOXIOUS WEED BUILDING PROJECT

The Commission was presented with the final invoice in the amount of \$46,987.88 for work completed on the Solid Waste/Noxious Weed building. Motion by Lucas Heinen to approve payment of the final invoice to BB Brothers Contractor for the Solid Waste/Noxious Weed building project. Seconded by Richard Tesoriero. Motion carried.

Motion by William Pollock to adjourn. Seconded by Richard Tesoriero. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held Monday, January 26, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

WORK SESSION—JANUARY 22, 2026

The Brown County Commissioners convened at 1:00 p.m. on January 22, 2026, at the Brown County Courthouse for a work session with Chairman Heinen, Commissioner Tesoriero and Commissioner Pollock present, along with County Clerk Nicole Lee. Topics discussed included tax foreclosure timeline, proposed Treasurer wage scale, possible Coffee with the Commissioners date, fire chief contact list, and Emergency Manager job opening. No action was taken. The work session adjourned at 2:39 p.m.