

THE BOARD OF NESS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
February 17, 2026

The Ness County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Ness County Commissioner Chambers. Chairman Travis Petersilie called the meeting to order with Commissioners Mark Davis, Dave Albers, and County Clerk Lori Hertel in attendance.

Minutes and Correspondence

Minutes of Regular Meeting held February 9, 2026, were approved as corrected. Correspondence was reviewed and acknowledged.

Emergency Management

Ness County Emergency Management Director Travis Rothe met with Commission. Rothe has scheduled Defensive Driving class for Employees on March 2, 2026. Employees can sign up for 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m., location is Ness County Health Department. LEPC meeting is tonight at 5:30 p.m. Tier II reports on Hazardous material located within the County has been filed for 2026. Rothe presented a list of required training for the Emergency Management position that he has completed. One class remains to be completed when it is available.

Jason White

Jason White, Public Health/EMS Project Coordinator for the Mid-America Regional Council, attended the Ness County Commissioner meeting to present information concerning the Mobile Integrated Health Program also referred to as the "paramedicine program" currently being considered for pilot programs in areas of rural Kansas and Missouri. The MIH or "paramedicine program" has been used in numerous states in order to increase access to healthcare in rural areas of the United States. It has had very positive reviews and outcomes- especially in frontier and rural areas where healthcare may be more than a few minutes away. Ness County is exploring ways to encourage the promotion of a healthier lifestyle for everyone who resides in Ness County. By encouraging collaboration between all members of the health care team, physicians, mid-level practitioners, local hospitals and clinics, home health, county health, and EMS services, we will ensure strong, quality healthcare for the future of Ness County. Also attending were Kathy Clouston, Ness County EMS Director, John Clarke CFO of Ness County Hospital, Frank Safrit CEO and Makenzie Henman, DON of Grisell Memorial Hospital, Dennille Schweitzer Administrator of Ness County Health Department and Travis Rothe Emergency Management.

Road and Bridge

Ness County Road and Bridge/Landfill Supervisor Bryan Whipple, Assistant Supervisor Eric Seib and Colby Butler from Kirkham Michael met with Commissioners. \$405.00 was received in tipping fees February 2 – February 7, 2026. 520 yards of dirt, 60 yards of sand and 20 yards of crushed concrete was hauled February 9 – February 13. Butler presented a recap of Kirkham Michael's activities since January 26, 2026, Wind tower culvert replacements have been completed with Kirkham Michael overseeing the work. OS101 Culvert Replacement (Hinnergardt Bridge) has been completed, road has been opened.

Adds/Abate/Escapes to Tax Roll

The following changes were made to the 2025 tax roll:
Abate-Real Estate-\$34,330.76 and Oil-\$140,952.34.

County Clerk

Ness County Clerk Lori Hertel requested an Executive session to discuss an employee matter.

Motion: Upon the motion of Albers, seconded by Davis, Commission unanimously voted to recess into executive session to discuss an employee matter pursuant to the nonelected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1) for a period of 10 minutes beginning at 11:52 a.m. Motion carried unanimously (Petersilie, Albers, Davis, and Hertel in executive session). Regular session resumed at 12:02 p.m. No decisions were made.

Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable for February 13, 2026, were reviewed, approved, and signed by Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Attest:


Travis Petersilie, Chairman


Lori Hertel, County Clerk

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