

THE BOARD OF NESS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
April 13, 2026

The Ness County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, April 13, 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.

Noxious Weed

Ness County Noxious Weed Director Chilton Miller met with Commission to recap recent progress on prairie dogs and 4-wheeler repair. Currently trying to spray but limited to early mornings due to wind conditions.

Road and Bridge

Ness County Road and Bridge/Landfill Supervisor Bryan Whipple and Assistant Supervisor Eric Seib met with Commissioners.

\$220.00 was received in tipping fees March 31– April 4, 2026. 400 yards of crushed concrete and 440 yards of rock were hauled April 6 – April 10.

County share of crushed concrete is complete.

Whipple discussed work schedule for the week.

NextEra Energy

Nathan Keiser, Director of NextEra Energy Resources, Devon Pishalski, Project Manager, and the area manager of Cedar Bluff Wind Towers met with Commission to introduce themselves and offer assistance if Commission should have any questions.

Emergency Management

Ness County Emergency Management Director Travis Rothe discussed recent fires. He reported that 3 fires were active at one time this past week.

Storm Spotter meeting was attended by approximately 15 people.

Treasurer

Ness County Treasurer, Malee Schaben, provided Commission with updates regarding current and upcoming changes within the Treasurer's Office.

Schaben outlined proposed procedures aimed at addressing long-term delinquent taxes, noting that uncollected accounts can result in inaccurate tax estimates. She discussed potential strategies to improve the handling and reporting of these accounts.

Additional discussion focused on implementing multiple process improvements to enhance the speed and accuracy of office operations.

Schaben also shared goals for the near future, which include the introduction of credit card payment options, implementation of online payment capabilities, and cross-training of staff to improve efficiency and service delivery.

Adams Brown, CPA

Jami Benyshek from Adams Brown, CPA spoke with Commission per phone conference to address 2025 budget questions.

EMS

Kathy Clouston, Ness County EMS Director updated Commission on issues with Ambulance Unit #77. Major repairs are required, with a possible down time of 2-5 months.

Clouston provided update on help wanted ad.

County Attorney

Ness County Attorney Jacob Gayer provided legal consult on warranty questions.

Accounts Payable for April 10, 2026, were reviewed for payment.

Custodian

Ness County Custodian Tina Harrison met with Commission to present 3 bids for mold remediation/plaster removal/restoration for basement closet:

Magna Dry of Kansas - \$8,448.59, First Response Cleaning & Restoration Inc.-\$2,460.00, and Restore & Clean LLC-\$4,200.00. No decision was made pending KCAMP claim response.

Minutes and Correspondence

Minutes of Regular Meeting held on April 6, 2026, were approved as corrected. Correspondence was reviewed and acknowledged.

Commission

Commission discussed the duties and workload of the Health Department Administrator. It was noted that the position has experienced a significant increase in responsibilities over the past year and a half. In consideration of the additional workload, the Commission reviewed and discussed potential salary adjustment.

Motion: Upon the motion of Albers, seconded by Davis, Commission unanimously voted to increase Health Department Administrator pay by \$2,000 as of April 2026 payroll.

Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable for April 10, 2026, were reviewed, approved, and signed by Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Attest:


Travis Petersilie, Chairman


Lori Hertel County Clerk

April 13, 2026