

THE BOARD OF NESS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
May 18, 2026

The Ness County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 18, 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.

**Emergency Management**

Ness County Emergency Management Director Travis Rothe met with Commission. Rothe reminded Commission of LEPC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. Location is Ness County Health Department. Toby Prine was invited to provide information on State Resources that are available.

**Road and Bridge**

Ness County Road and Bridge/Landfill Supervisor Bryan Whipple and Colby Butler of Kirkham Michael met with Commissioners.

\$155.00 was received in tipping fees May 12–15<sup>th</sup>.

Colby Butler from Kirkham Michael presented a recap of Kirkham Michael's activities since April 20, 2026.

Whipple presented an application to excavate section corner monuments within road right of ways for Commission review. Road & Bridge will begin using immediately.

Road Right-of-way was obtained from Nick & Tonetta Stieben to begin OS 82 Bridge Replacement Project.

**Sheriff**

Ness County Sheriff Brandon Mitchell met with Commission. Mitchell discussed possible new incentives to hiring future deputies. Deputy Conklin submitted her termination date of May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Custodian**

Ness County Custodian Tina Harrison met with Commission to relay information on contract for elevator inspections and cost of such.

Basement closet demolition will begin tomorrow.

**Register of Deeds**

Ness County Register of Deeds Brandi Reinert provided Commission with a Zoom presentation from a representative of TextMyGov regarding its mass notification system. Also present for the presentation were Sheriff Mitchell, Health Department Administrator Dennille Schwietzer, and Emergency Management Director Travis Rothe. Rothe stated that the current contract for the CodeRED mass notification system is set to renew in February 2027.

**Minutes and Correspondence**

Minutes of Regular Meeting held on May 11, 2026, were reviewed, approved, and signed as presented.

**County Attorney**

Ness County Attorney Jacob Gayer presented a joint resolution for the distribution of Court Trustee Funds that have accumulated over the years for the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Accounts Payable for May 15, 2026, were reviewed and signed by Attorney Gayer.

**Motion:** Upon the motion of Davis, seconded by Albers, Commission unanimously voted to adopt Resolution #2026-05, A Joint Resolution Regarding Distribution of Fees Collected by The Court Trustee of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-05**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF FEES COLLECTED  
BY THE COURT TRUSTEE OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District is comprised of the Counties of Edwards, Hodgeman, Lane, Ness, Pawnee, and Rush; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Judge of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District by local rule established the Office of Court Trustee pursuant to K.S.A. 20-377 (formerly cited as K.S.A. 23-494) to assist in the administration of justice, specifically the enforcement and collection of support and maintenance orders; and

**WHEREAS**, the expenses of the Office of Court Trustee have been included within and paid by the Chief Judge from the budget of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District with each of the Counties contributing their respective share to said District Budget; and

**WHEREAS**, Pawnee County currently serves as the administrative county with respect to the administration of the District Budget; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to K.S.A. 20-380, the Office of Court Trustee charges and collects fees from the support collected from obligors. All fees collected are deposited and maintained in a Court Trustee Operations Fund. Said fund is currently deposited in the Fusion Bank in Larned, Kansas and subject to annual audit. As of December 31, 2025, said fund had a balance of \$221,000.00, of which \$50,000.00 is held in a Certificate of Deposit currently set to mature in August of 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, K.S.A. 20-381(a)(2)(B) authorizes the Chief Judge to reimburse the county general fund for expenditures made for salary, compensation and fringe benefits made on behalf of the court trustee's office.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT JOINTLY RESOLVED BY THE BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTIES OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT:**

- A. That on or before October 1, 2026, and at least once every five (5) years thereafter, the Chief Judge of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District shall cause to be deposited with the Pawnee County Clerk all funds being held in the Court Trustee Operations Fund in excess of \$20,000.00; and
- B. That upon receipt of said funds, the Pawnee County Clerk shall distribute the same to the Counties of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in the proportional share as their respective contribution to the overall budget of the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District; and
- C. That the Chief Judge shall provide the Board of County Commissioners each year with a copy of the Court Trustee's Annual Accounting.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026, by the Board of County Commissioners of Ness County, Kansas.

## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

### **Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center**

Don Rivera Development Director from Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center presented information on services provided and the importance of services to children impacted. Rivera requested that Ness County Commission continue their support of \$3,000 in yearly appropriations for the upcoming budget year 2027.

### **Accounts Payable**

Accounts Payable dated May 15, 2026, were reviewed, approved, and signed by Commission. After reviewing Check #69845-TK Elevator, \$587.32 on hold from last meeting, Commission approved and signed this voucher as well.

### **Appraiser**

Ness County Appraiser Kelly Deslauriers spoke with the Commission by conference phone. Discussion with Commission on sick/vacation benefit increments allowed per County Policy Manual. Commission agreed that updates to that section are needed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Attest:

  
Travis Petersilie, Chairman

  
Lori Hertel, County Clerk

May 18, 2026