

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS
OFFICIAL MINUTES**

January 27, 2025

The Board of County Commissioners, three members and the County Clerk present, met in regular session at 9:00 AM.

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cordray

INVOCATION: Reverend Daniel Knight, Bible Baptist Church, Coffeyville.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Bever

AGENDA APPROVAL:

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner Bever to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clubine.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner Cordray - Yes
Commissioner Clubine- Yes*

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INVOICES:

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner Bever to approve invoices in the amount of \$74,805.72 (End of Month Encumbered), and \$145,941.82 (End of Month) as presented by the Accounts Payable Office. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Clubine.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner Cordray - Yes
Commissioner Clubine- Yes*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner Clubine to approve the minutes of January 21, 2025, as presented by the County Clerk. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bever.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner Cordray - Yes
Commissioner Clubine- Yes*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner Cordray for the Board to go into Executive Session with County Counselor, Paul Kritz; County Attorney, Melissa Johnson; County Administrator, Jonathan Booe; County Sheriff, Ron Wade; and Captain of Department of Corrections, Chad Dunham over Attorney-Client Privilege K.S.A. 75-4319 (b2). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bever.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner Cordray - Yes
Commissioner Clubine- Yes*

Executive Session started at 9:04 AM

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner Cordray for the Board to extend the Executive Session with County Counselor, Paul Kritz; County Attorney, Melissa Johnson; County Administrator, Jonathan Booe; County Sheriff, Ron Wade; and Captain of Department of Corrections, Chad Dunham over Attorney-Client Privilege K.S.A. 75-4319 (b2) by 10 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bever.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner Cordray - Yes
Commissioner Clubine- Yes*

ended at 9:29 AM.

COUNCIL ON AGING – HENRY SCHMIDT

The discussion focused on the ongoing repairs at the historic Liberty Senior Center, which is the responsibility of the township. The Council on Aging (COA), which has used the building for many years, made an unusual request for \$4,560 to cover electrical and roof repairs. This amount was below the \$7,000 previously approved for the work. It marked the first time in two decades that the COA had asked for more than its usual \$600 annual contribution.

Commissioners acknowledged the request and noted that, although the township is ultimately responsible for the building, the COA had historically contributed due to its long-term use of the facility. The board had agreed to the payment, understanding that this would be a one-time request. There was also some concern about the future of the building, with questions about whether the township would continue to maintain it.

ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner Bever to send a check to the Council on Aging in the amount of \$4560.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cordray.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner Cordray – Yes
Commissioner Chubine- Yes*

Res. 25-021

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – BRANDON BEURSKENS

In August, the board had approved awarding the 2025 chip seal project to Circle C at the same price as the 2024 project. Contracts had been received, but there was a concern that the price was not explicitly stated in the contract. The board decided to table the signing of the agreement until the correct details were included, specifically the price of 49 cents per square yard, and the necessary specifications were finalized.

A follow-up was made on a streetlight request raised at the previous meeting. The email response from the bus barn indicated that there were only two students in the area concerned, and they did not believe additional lighting was needed. The area was considered to have no greater lighting need than other locations. It was suggested that the sheriff's department could monitor the area to ensure no safety concerns, particularly speeding, were present.

Regarding the CR 5300 project, the board inquired about the status of required reports and letters of support for a grant application. The final details were being worked through, as the new administration had introduced changes to the grant qualifications. Despite the changes, the team was confident the project was still on schedule and would submit the necessary paperwork by the end of the week. The meeting later in the day would clarify the necessary adjustments.

A question was raised about whether additional support letters, particularly from the State Soybean Commission and other relevant local groups, had been obtained. The team had been working on securing these letters, but some contacts had been overlooked. It was agreed that outreach would be made to these organizations to ensure the application had the required endorsements before the deadline.

ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – KORI WHITE

The discussion focused on the options for renewing the healthcare plan, specifically regarding stop loss insurance and the administration of claims. The first option presented was to renew the current plan with Aetna for stop loss coverage and continue with the existing administrative setup, keeping the same self-insured structure as last year. This would result in an estimated cost of \$3.5 million. The second option was to change the stop loss carrier to Gerber while maintaining the current administrative setup with EBMS and Aetna. The expected cost for this option was slightly lower, at around \$3.2 million, though claims history could affect the final cost.

The key difference between the two options was that Gerber expected fewer claims than Aetna, potentially lowering costs, but this was not guaranteed. Gerber also provided more advanced reporting through a software called Crumdale, which could improve claims management and potentially lower costs in real-time. However, no one had seen the software firsthand, and there were concerns about whether it would be accessible directly or if it would need to be run by the broker.

After discussing the pros and cons of both options, including the potential savings from better claims management and the possibility of securing a two-year rate cap, the decision was made to stay with the current setup. The board agreed to keep the self-insured model, continue with Aetna for stop loss coverage, and use EBMS for administration. It was also agreed that a request would be made to secure a rate cap with Aetna for the stop loss coverage, though this would not be guaranteed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Cordray for the Board to go into Executive Session with County Administrator over non-elected personnel under K.S.A. 75-4319 (b1). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clubine.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner Cordray – Yes
Commissioner Clubine- Yes

Executive Session started at 10:01 AM

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Cordray for the Board to extend the Executive Session with County Administrator over non-elected personnel under K.S.A. 75-4319 (b1) by 10 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clubine.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner Cordray – Yes
Commissioner Clubine- Yes

ended at 10:21 AM.

OTHER BUSSINES

Inventory
Kansas Department of Commerce on the CDBG revolving loan funds

ADJOURNMENT: 10:38 AM

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Bever, seconded by Commissioner Clubine.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner Cordray – Yes
Commissioner Clubine- Yes

WORK SESSION

Opened Work Session at 10:48 AM

Items discussed:
Parking Spots
Grants
Per Diem
Hiring Processes
Budget for DOC

Work Session Closed at 12:54 PM

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS**



Mike Cordray

MIKE CORDRAY, Chairman

Phil Clubine

PHIL CLUBINE, Member

Robert Bever

ROBERT BEVER, Member

ATTEST:

Ami Standridge

AMI STANDRIDGE, County Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 25 - 021

DATED at Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas this 27th day of January, 2025

WHEREAS: ACTION: *A motion was made by Commissioner Bever to send a check to the Council on Aging in the amount of \$4560.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cordray.*

ROLL CALL VOTE -

*Commissioner Bever - Yes
Commissioner Cordray - Yes
Commissioner Clubine - Yes*



Robert Bever

Robert Bever, Member

Mike Cordray

Mike Cordray, Chairman

Phil Clubine

Phil Clubine, Member

ATTEST:

Ami Standridge

Ami Standridge, County Clerk