

MINUTES
MORTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1025 Morton, Elkhart, KS
February 9, 2026

Jim called the meeting to order at 9:00 p.m. with open doors.

Present: Jim Tucker, Chairman; Ed Anderson, Vice-Chairman; JW Finn, Commissioner; David Thompson, County Attorney, Gina Shores, County Clerk.

Pastor Ed Richards with First Baptist Church opened with prayer.

A motion to go into executive session for Attorney Client Privilege at 9:14 for 20 minutes approved on a motion by JW, seconded by Jim, UYV and include Gina HR. Back in regular session at 9:34. No action taken.

Commissioners approved January 12th amended minutes on a motion by JW, seconded by Ed, UYV. A motion by JW, seconded by Ed, UYV to approve Special meeting amended minutes of January 16th and 19th. Commissioners signed; 1 P/R forms and Warrant Register, 1 A/P Warrant Register listed below.

| | 2026 |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| General | \$50,397.50 |
| Road/Bridge | \$12,387.03 |
| Capital Improvement | \$668.85 |
| Airport | \$1,686.13 |
| Sheriff | \$2,442.51 |
| Civic Center Deposit Fund | \$850.00 |
| Ambulance | \$2,384.27 |
| 911 | \$496.11 |
| Health | \$3,019.99 |
| Fire | \$799.66 |
| Noxious Weed | \$1,216.01 |
| Payroll W/H | \$1,432.76 |
| Treasurer | \$1,375.02 |
| Employee Ben | \$482.66 |
| Health Systems-Sales Tax | \$32,713.94 |
| Emerg Prepar Fund | \$319.72 |
| Totals | \$112,672.16 |

Sheldon—Road. Discussed the bridge upgrades on Road 23. Kirkham Michael will be getting him some more information on the estimate and the Ks local bridge improvement program. Landfill employee has given his 2-week notice and he will need to advertise for the position. Weed department will start baiting prairie dogs.

Megda Arenivis with Cimarron Basin Community Corrections presented the Fiscal Year 2026 Grant Application. Commissioners agreed to sign.

Larry Dunn—Former Fire Chief. Commissioners wanted his opinion on the applicants. Larry said it's a hard thing to recommend, all candidates are good, with each certain qualities. Discussion took place on the volunteers, how many, amount of pay, meetings and runs they do. Commissioners agreed that this needs looked at going forward.

Iris Queen—Elkhart Sr. Center director. Local board and SWKKA Silver hair legislation needs a board persons. SWKKA have several vehicles for sale. The Sr. Center has received the Elder Care report on 2025 annual meals served. Average cost of meal is \$8. Dodge City is hosting the expo this year on April 21st. They will close and take a van of people wanting to attend. Currently, Elkhart facility has lighting issues and Boaldin Electric is going to give them a quote for both facilities. Iris will write the grant and if the County will pick up the remainder of the cost. She explained HUD housing info, and would like to visit with all the landlords in Morton County. She asked if they could sell one of the pool tables. The Commissioners stated to advertise, and put funds in gifts and grants. Big freezer needs hauled off from the Road department with the skid steer.

Commissioners discussed the Civic Centers 2 proposals for fire suppression service. CF Service & Supply--\$2956.10

Cintas—\$2561.42

Commissioners said if Barbie and Greg discuss services and decide which one is the best, they are fine with either one of these.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:00. Back at 1:15.

Jason Booth with Liberty National presented their supplemental insurance programs. Commissioners approved to offer this product as it's optional.

Commissioners also discussed some ideas for Summer Employee Picnic and Christmas party. The County Attorney presented documents for the VA facility(Haven of Hope). The Commissioners signed one and will review others for the next meeting. A motion by JW, seconded by Ed, UYV to sign Resolution 2026-4, Authorizing the negotiation of a short-term interim operating lease for the North Wing of Morton County Hospital.

A motion to adjourn at 3:10 by JW, seconded by Ed, UYV.

Jim Tucker, Chairman

Ed Anderson, Vice-Chairman

JW Finn, Commissioner

Attest:

Gina Shores, County Clerk