

Labette County eliminates six polling locations

Labette County is consolidating voting locations, dropping to nine polling sites from 15.

The change resulted from the county purchasing 10 new vote tabulators, which should be available for use in the Nov. 4 general election. Nine of the machines will be located in polling locations and the 10th will be in the county clerk's office in Oswego.

A primary election is scheduled Aug. 5 for two open seats on the Labette County USD 506 school board. However, the tabulators will not be used at polling locations for the school district. The county will count the ballots in the basement of the county courthouse as usual for this election, County Clerk Gena Landis told

county commissioners recently. The commission, acting as the board of canvassers, will canvass the votes from the Aug. 5 primary on Monday, Aug. 11.

The number of polling sites will drop because of the expense of the new tabulation equipment and the limited turnout at some polling locations.

Beginning Monday, June 16, the county clerk will mail notices to voters telling them their voting location.

The tabulators scan voters' marked ballots. Voters feed these ballots into the machine and provide feedback to the voter, such as the success of the scan. This feedback includes that their vote was counted or that there was an

issue with the ballot, allowing voters to cure the problem at the polling location. If a voter marks the ballot incorrectly, such as marking two candidates in a race where only one was to be selected, the machine will share this. Without fixing the problem, this race would not be counted on the voter's ballot.

These are the new voting locations in the county.

Canada, Elm Grove, & Howard Townships: Edna Community Senior Center, 109 S. Labette, Edna

Fairview, & Mount Pleasant Townships: First Baptist Church, 400 S. Wabash, Altamont

Labette & Liberty Townships: Center Bethel Church, 1699 18000 Road, Parsons

Mound Valley & Osage Townships: Mound Valley Community Center, 505 Hickory, Mound Valley

Chetopa City, Hackberry & Richland Townships: Mae Lessley Community Center, 22 Maple, Chetopa

Oswego City, Montana & Oswego Townships: Oswego Community Center, 203 North, Oswego

Parsons 1st & 2nd Wards (All Precincts), Neosho & North Townships: First Baptist Church (gym) 1621 Main, Parsons

Parsons 3rd Ward (All Precincts): First Christian Church, 1500 S. 29th, Parsons

Parsons 4th Ward (All Precincts) & Walton Township: Wall Family Center, 2605 Main, Parsons

The six polling locations that were eliminated were: Bartlett Community Church for Hackberry & Fairview Townships; Meadow View Grade School for Labette Township; Foursquare Church for Neosho & North Township; Parsons Municipal Building for Parsons 2nd Ward; Westside Christian Church for Walton Township; and Osage Community Building for Osage Township.

COUNTY

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deputy appraiser for Anderson County who lives in Cherryvale. But he wasn't able to bring him in for a formal interview last year because two other commissioners didn't want to.

He said he thinks the commission could hire a full time appraiser for less money.

Scott mentioned that Kikkert drives a county vehicle home, something that, generally, only those who respond to emergencies do. Commissioners said they would look into that arrangement.

Scott also brought up contract employment and wondered if commissioners would allow other department heads to do contract work for other counties, even though current workloads would not allow that. She said Kikkert is essentially a contract employee through the resolution.

Weidert said he didn't think he would support that arrangement, but he was only one of three votes. He noted that unelected department heads were employed at will and the appraiser is appointed by resolution. Appraisers work on four-year contract periods. He also noted that the resolution for the previous appraiser didn't require a set number of hours to be worked in a week.

Schibi said in his view the commission could do nothing or

could rescind the resolution and renegotiate for the appraiser.

County Counselor Brian Johnson reminded commissioners that the deadline to have an appraiser appointed is July 1 or he would have to contact the state to take over for up to six months.

Barrett asked Scott what she thought the commissioners should do. Scott said she would like to see the Cherryvale man interviewed. Or the current appraiser could be paid a salary that reflects part time work. Paying the higher wage for part-time work impacts the morale of other county employees, Scott said.

Weidert said three years ago former Commissioner Lonie Addis offered a proposal to raise county employees' salaries 9% across the board to address retention issues and hiring concerns. Department heads, when asked if that would be enough to address the retention issues, said it would not. The commission ended up increasing county worker pay 17%. He asked Scott if that was bad.

Scott said that was good and righted a wrong from years of no pay increases.

He said he and former Commissioner Cole Proehl agreed to the increase because it would help the morale of the county employees.

"And now I'm sitting here being threatened that the (morale) of the employees is going to go away. And it just really discourages me to want to step forward," Weidert said.

Sometimes, efforts to make improvements in pay or equip-

ment backfire.

"I get so discouraged and disgruntled of you try to do what you can to help this county grow and make things better. I do believe this lady that we're talking about has lots of possibilities to bring new business, new industry into our county," Weidert said.

She will work to grow the county, which would eventually reduce property taxes.

He said he's not mad at Scott, and he's not arguing the points she was making.

"I feel like I really tried to be an advocate for you folks. And it just seems like it's never enough," he said.

He said employees have a right to voice concerns, but commissioners have to make the best decisions they can for the county.

Weidert said he was open to ideas.

Schibi made a motion to rescind the resolution that hired Kikkert so the commission could renegotiate it or bring in other candidates. His motion died for lack of a second.

Barrett said he would support doing something, perhaps having more discussions. He supported Schibi bringing in the deputy appraiser for a visit.

Schibi thanked the department heads for coming in.

"We all are on the same team. But we need to show you that," he said.

Commissioners were to meet this morning.

JUNETEENTH

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for the Parsons community.

She says she "can't stop, won't stop" advocating for unity in the Parsons community, including raising the heat in a room when she thinks it's necessary, referring to a recent meeting with county commissioners.

She said she hopes people attending Juneteenth events will walk away feeling loved and knowing that they are part of something bigger.

"Juneteenth is big. It's all colors, all races, and that's what my focus is. I'm just trying to bring unity together. I'm trying to bring peace, love. It seems like our community has lost that."

"I do appreciate everyone that has donated, everyone who participates, and I just want to continue to build unity in the community," Johnson said.

The schedule's highlights:

Thursday, June 19:

10 a.m.: The parade starts at King Cash on Main Street and travels east to the Parsons Municipal Building. After the parade, Donald V. Watkins, the son of the former principal of Douglass School in Parsons, Levi Watkins, will speak in the auditorium. Other speakers and performances are scheduled.

7:30 p.m.: Music in the Park in Forest Park's Seaton Family Pavilion will feature Tulsa-based artist, activist, dancer, singer and actress Branjae. She will deliver classic soul, funk and R&B to the Seaton Family Pavilion. Branjae's energetic showcase encourages elevated consciousness by connecting with her audiences to create unity and harmony.

Friday, June 20:

10 a.m.: Donald Watkins will walk the Rotary Trail from near Appleton on Central passed the former location of Doug-

lass School to the Parsons Arboretum. A Black history speaker, Deborah Davis, and Black artwork will be in the Earl Seifert Visitors Center, which was the former bathhouse of the pool designated for Black residents during the time of segregation.

Start at 5 p.m.: A community picnic will take place in Glenwood Park, and a DJ will play musical selections.

Saturday, June 21:

Starting at 10 a.m.: A number of activities will take place in Glenwood Park. These include food trucks, inflatables, a 3 on 3 basketball competition, cornhole and the Viking Color Guard. Avi's Lemonade will be available as well.

Sunday, June 22:

10 a.m.: Church in the Park in Glenwood Park. The flier released on the event says the service will be in Forest Park, but Johnson said it will be in Glenwood.

DEADLINES ARE NOON ON WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION

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LEGAL

First published in the Parsons Sun Friday, June 6, 2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF Labette County, KANSAS
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Flat Branch Mortgage, Inc
Plaintiff,
vs.
Crystal Rose Williams, Jane Doe, and John Doe, et al,
Defendants

Case No. LBO-2025-CV-000010
Court No.
Title to Real Estate Involved
Pursuant to K.S.A. §60

NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF KANSAS to the above named Defendants and The Unknown Heirs, executors, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; and the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability and all other person who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Labette County, Kansas by Flat Branch Mortgage, Inc, praying to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate:

TEH [THE] EAST 110 FEET OF LOT 14, BLOCK 2, WESTWOOD SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF PARSONS, LABETTE COUNTY, KANSAS.

[THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN BRACKETS HAS BEEN ADDED TO MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION.] Parcel ID No. 050-036-24-0-30-04-012.00-0. Commonly known as 3103 Partridge Ave., Parsons, KS 67357 ("the Property") MS 227536

and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before July 17, 2025 in the District Court of Labette County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the request of plaintiff.

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC
By:
Dwayne A. Duncan, #27533
dduncan@msfirm.com
612 Spirit Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63005
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

June 6, 13, 20

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LEGAL

(First published in The Chanute Tribune Friday, June 13, 2025)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-74

A RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS AS TO THE NEED FOR HOUSING WITHIN THE CITY OF CHANUTE, KANSAS, AND SETTING FORTH THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF REAL PROPERTY PROPOSED TO BE DESIGNATED AS A REINVESTMENT HOUSING INCENTIVE DISTRICT WITHIN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 12-5241, *et seq.*, as amended (the "Act") authorizes any city incorporated in accordance with the laws of the state of Kansas, (the "State") to designate a reinvestment housing incentive district ("RHID") within such city; and

WHEREAS, prior to such designation the governing body of such city shall conduct a housing needs analysis to determine what, if any, housing needs exist within its community; and

WHEREAS, after conducting such analysis, the governing body of such city may adopt a resolution making certain findings regarding the establishment of a RHID and providing the legal description of property to be contained therein; and

WHEREAS, after publishing such resolution, the governing body of such city shall send a copy thereof to the Secretary of Commerce of the State (the "Secretary") requesting that the Secretary agree with the finding contained in such resolution; and

WHEREAS, if the Secretary agrees with such findings, such city may proceed with the establishment of a RHID within such city and adopt a plan for the development or redevelopment of housing and public facilities in the proposed district; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chanute, Kansas (the "City") is a city as said term is defined in the Act; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City performed a Housing Needs Analysis ("Needs Analysis") in July, 2020 (the "Needs Analysis"), a copy of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, based on the Needs Analysis, the Governing Body of the City proposes to commence proceedings necessary to create a RHID, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CHANUTE, KANSAS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Governing Body hereby adopts and incorporates by reference as part of this Resolution the Needs Analysis, a copy of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk, and based on a review of said Needs Analysis makes the following findings and determinations.

Section 2. The Governing Body hereby finds and determines that there is a shortage of quality housing of various price ranges in the City despite the best efforts of public and private housing developers.

Section 3. The Governing Body hereby finds and determines that the shortage of quality housing can be expected to persist and that additional financial incentives are necessary in order to encourage the private sector to construct or renovate housing in the City.

Section 4. The Governing Body hereby finds and determines that the shortage of quality housing is a substantial deterrent to the future economic growth and development of the City.

Section 5. The Governing Body hereby finds and determines that the future economic well-being of the City depends on the Governing Body providing additional incentives for the construction or renovation of quality housing in the City.

Section 6. Based on the findings and determinations contained in *Section 2* through *5* of this Resolution, the Governing Body proposes to establish a RHID pursuant to the Act, within boundaries of the real estate legally described in *Exhibit A* attached hereto, and shown on the map depicting the existing parcels of land set out in *Exhibit B* (the "District").

Section 7. The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this Resolution one time in the official City newspaper, and to send a certified copy of this Resolution along with the Needs Analysis to the Secretary for the Secretary's review and approval.

Section 8. The Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk, and other City employees and officials are hereby further authorized and directed to take such other actions as may be appropriate or desirable to accomplish the purposes of this Resolution.

Section 9. This Resolution shall take effect after its adoption and publication once in the official City newspaper.

ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the City of Chanute, Kansas, on June 9, 2025.

CITY OF CHANUTE, KANSAS
By: Jacob L. Bailey, Mayor

ATTEST:
Tina L. Bailey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
David S. Brake, David S. Brake, City Attorney

EXHIBIT A
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED REINVESTMENT HOUSING INCENTIVE DISTRICT

All of the following REAL ESTATE in the County of NEOSHO, and the State of Kansas, to-wit: The North Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (N/4 NW/4 SW/4) of Section 33, Township 27 South, Range 18 East of the 6th P.M., Neosho County, Kansas described as: commencing at the Northwest corner of said Southwest Quarter, thence North 90 degrees, 00 minutes, 00 seconds East, an assumed bearing, 300.00 feet along the Quarter section line to the True Point of Beginning; thence continuing North 90 degrees, 00 minutes, 00 seconds East, 510.21 feet along the Quarter section line; thence South 01 degrees, 39 minutes, 52 seconds West, 318.66 feet to the South line, 508.69 feet to a point 300.00 feet Easterly from the West section line; thence North 01 degrees, 22 minutes, 50 seconds East, 320.55 feet to the Point of Beginning; containing 3.736 Acres, more or less

EXHIBIT B
MAP OF PROPOSED RHID DISTRICT