

Lewis (cont from Page 1)

The day of the regional qualifying meet in Springfield, they experienced a three-hour rain delay after warming up, but that did not phase Bronwyn.

During competition, all ages jump together. Not knowing the age of the other athletes, Taylor told her she was going against the whole field!

Competing in the fifteen- and sixteen-year-old age group, she not only won her age group, but tied for second overall, vaulting her career best, 10’6 3/4”.

“It was pretty awesome for her and me both,” said Taylor, “Winning the regional meet meant she qualified for the AAU National Junior Olympics in Houston, Texas.”

So, the work continued for the competition on July 30. She was ranked fifth in the fifteen- to sixteen-year-olds, “Definitely a higher level of competition than what she is used to,” said Taylor.

“Timing is important and putting all the aspects together at the right time is what it comes down to,” said Taylor, “She cleared ten foot the first time, ten foot six inches the second time, but unfortunately missed all three attempts at ten foot eleven and three quarters inch.”

“But overall, she placed eighth out of twenty-two!” said Taylor, “She worked hard, and it has paid off, I am proud of her!”

When asked how she handled the pressure of such intense competition? She replied, “I felt less pressure this summer competing than during the spring track season in high school,” adding, “I think this was mainly because I didn’t know anyone I was competing against!”

Her favorite moment was when she competed in Springfield and there were only a few girls left. The bar was raised to 10’11 ¾ and she cleared it! “That moment made me feel like all my hard work was paying off!” said Bronwyn.

She likes having her dad as a coach during the summer. “He can be completely honest with me, or joke with me and I can still feel like I am having a professional conversation with him,” adding, “He is also one of my biggest supporters and it’s amazing to have him on the sidelines cheering me on.”

HM COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES July 22, 2025

Meeting Place – Commissioner Room
Hamilton County Courthouse
July 22, 2025 8:30 a.m.

Michael W. Lewis, Chairman
Andy Coleman, Vice-Chairman
Brian Grilliot, Commissioner
Aaron Plunkett, Commissioner
Nikki Schwerdfeger, Commissioner
Robert Gale, Jr., Attorney
Angie Moser, County Clerk

Chairman Lewis called the Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with all Commissioners and Attorney Gale present.

AGENDA: Commissioner Grilliot moved to adopt the Agenda with the addition of Right of Way Permit under Business. Commissioner Coleman seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

PRIOR MINUTES: Commissioner Coleman moved to approve the July 8, 2025 Commissioners’ Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

SYRACUSE DAIRY: They were not able to attend the meeting and will reschedule for the next Commissioner Meeting.

STEVE PHILLIPS: Steve presented Resolution 2025-5 to adopt Region C’s Mitigation Plan for approval. This will make the County eligible for federal funding grants for emergency purposes such as tornado sirens. Commissioner Coleman moved to adopt Resolution 2025-5 Resolution of the Board of the Hamilton County Commissioners Adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region C (Southwest Kansas) Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented. Commissioner Plunkett seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved. Next, Steve advised the Agreement for the crack sealing done at the Airport has additional State of Kansas policies/agreements to approve as follows: (1) Agreement to comply with policy regarding sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation;

(2) Certification of Company not currently engaged in a boycott of goods or services from Israel and (3) Certificate of Compliance with KSA 46-239(c) regarding contracts with a Legislator. Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the three additional policies/agreements as presented. Commissioner Coleman seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

JIM KENNEDY: Mr. Kennedy reviewed the County’s 2026 Budget with the Commissioners.

5-YEAR PLAN: The 5-year plan was reviewed.

NRP APPLICATION: Reviewed a Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Application received from Ryan Schwieterman to construct a house on his property located on County Road Q (04-24-40W) in Hamilton County. An approved Zoning Application is attached to the NRP Application. Commissioner Coleman moved to approve the NRP Application received from Ryan Schwieterman as presented. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

FIRE STATION GARAGE DOORS: No action taken at this time.

COOLIDGE BRIDGE RAILINGS: Frank Burns advised that he has someone wanting to buy the old Coolidge bridge guard rails. There are some damaged ones that the County can not use. Commissioner Lewis moved to declare the old/damaged Coolidge bridge guard rails as surplus property and to be placed for sale with citizens to contact Kerstin Mitchell by August 31st to purchase the rails by the foot. Commissioner Coleman seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

ROW PERMIT: A Right of Way Permit was received from Fullmer Calf Ranch, LLC to trench a water line across County Road 24. Commissioner Coleman moved to approve the Right Of Way Permit submitted by Fullmer Calf Ranch, LLC as presented. Commissioner Schwerdfeger seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Schwerdfeger discussed the County spraying the ditches where there is Johnson grass and jointed goat grass before they are mowed.

WARRANTS: Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the Warrants in the amount of \$474,566.24. Commissioner Schwerdfeger seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Plunkett advised he spoke with a Fair Board member about some needed building repairs. He will follow up with the Fair Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no more business to come before the meeting, Commissioner Plunkett moved for adjournment. Commissioner Lewis seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Public Notices

Hamilton County Road Department is taking sealed bids for the following:

88 Pieces of Guard Rails 13.5’ in length and 133 pieces of 6” x 33” angle Iron.

Your sealed bid can be delivered to the Road Dept. office or County Clerk office in the Court House. Bids are due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 18th 2025. If you have any questions, please call the Road Office @ 620-384-5135

Bids will be opened at the next commissioner meeting on August 19, 2025, and you will be notified if you are the highest bidder. Your items need to be picked up ASAP after receiving notification of winning bid.

Public Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING

2026

The governing body of
Fire District #1
Hamilton County

will meet on September 16, 2025 at 8:30 AM at Hamilton County Courthouse, Syracuse, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds, the amount of tax to levied and the revenue neutral rate. Detailed budget information is available at Hamilton County Courthouse, Syracuse, KS and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual 2024		Current Year Estimate for 2025		Proposed Budget Year for 2026		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	44,229	1.433	49,000	1.557	76,659	69,610	2.402
Totals	44,229	1.433	49,000	1.557	76,659	69,610	2.402
Revenue Neutral Rate**							1.521
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	44,229		49,000		76,659		
Total Tax Levied	44,172		44,060		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	30,838,054		28,305,506		28,977,575		

Outstanding Indebtedness,			
Jan 1,	2023	2024	2025
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Princ.	0	0	74,250
Total	0	0	74,250

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.
**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988