

NEWS

County's Bond delivers tax sale report

by Rick Nichols

Fulfilling an earlier request that had come from the Board of County Commissioners, Jefferson County Treasurer Douglas Bond shared the results of the May 29 tax sale with County Commissioners David Christy, Richard Malm and Doug Walbridge when they met June 16.

Bond told the trio that the sale of tax-delinquent properties generated \$76,025.86 in pre-sale income and \$136,050 in income during the event, for a grand total of \$212,075.86. He went on to report that the county spent \$4,650 in purchasing property it wanted and that its sale-related expenses totaled \$103,606.50.

A one-page handout Bond provided put the profit from the sale at \$108,469.36 (\$212,075.86 minus \$103,606.50) and the profit in cash at \$103,819.36 (\$108,469.36 minus \$4,650).

According to the document, the owners of the tax-delinquent properties owed \$152,400.48 in taxes, \$383,293.65 in special assessments, and \$229,650.21 in interest and fees, for a grand total of \$765,344.34.

It also revealed that the sale recovered 68.1% of the taxes that were owed but only 19.4% of the taxes and special assessments combined and just 13.6 % of the taxes, special assessments, interest and fees combined.

Keyta Kelly with Kelly Law Office LLP, Tonganoxie, handled the legal work associated with the sale and was present when Bond gave his report.

When asked by Christy how the sale had gone, she replied, "Everything went really smoothly." And when Walbridge asked her when the next sale would occur, she responded by saying she was in the process of preparing the necessary petition to be filed with the court but thought the sale could be held within the next 10 months.

According to Kelly, the county is "pretty much caught up" in terms of having brought what reportedly was a backlog of tax-delinquent properties into petitions in a timely manner.

Homecare staff pay

In other business, at the request of Health Department Administrator Crystal VanHoutan, R.N., the governing body voted to make what she called "a market rate adjustment" to the pay her homecare registered nurses and management staff are getting. The decision was a unanimous one.

The action was taken after VanHoutan told the commissioners that the county's pay rates were "no longer competitive" and then mentioned the R.N. position her department has been attempting to fill for the past four months but without success. She said no one has even applied for the job.

VanHoutan informed the commissioners that she would be pulling a full-time R.N. position from her budget request for 2026 and said the move would save the county approximately \$58,000.

In a related matter, later in

the meeting the board passed Resolution 2025-020 on a 3-0 vote. This resolution increases VanHoutan's biweekly salary from \$3,577.68 to \$3,720.79, a difference of \$143.11.

The raise took effect June 15.

Comprehensive plan

Community Development Director Stephan Metzger informed the board that the first draft of the new Comprehensive Plan for the county would be completed soon. He then proceeded to discuss one of the proposed changes to the existing plan, a change that would affect the owners of parcels of land covering 20 acres or more.

According to Metzger, if someone owned an 80-acre parcel, for example, he or she would be able to divide that parcel three times through a single so-called "ag lot split," turning it into four 20-acre parcels.

Now, however, he related, the owner has to chop an 80-acre parcel into two 40-acre parcels and then wait before separately cutting up each of these parcels into two 20-acre parcels.

Metzger said the change, if ultimately approved, wouldn't allow the owner of a parcel of fewer than 20 acres to break that parcel up into smaller parcels.

As previously reported in the paper, Marvin Planning Consultants Inc., David City, Neb., is putting together the new Comprehensive Plan and revising the current zoning regulations as needed.

Sewer line break

It was the consensus of the board that Jefferson County Rural Water District No. 11, which oversees the operation of Jefferson County Rural Sewer District No. 7, be permitted to dump four loads of dirt, rock, and ceramic tile at the 11-acre site where the lagoon for the Wind-N-Wave subdivision used to be located. This site is owned by the county.

The decision was made after Tod Edmonds, the chairman of the JCRWD No. 11 board, appeared before the commissioners to let them know about a "sewer line break" that had occurred in Lake Ridge Estates. He said the ground would need to be dug up for a distance of 250 feet to deal with the problem and also said some asphalt from a road would probably have to be removed, too.

Edmonds wasn't sure if the line had actually broken or had simply collapsed.

Edmonds told the commissioners he hoped the excavation work could begin sometime that

week.

According to Edmonds, letting JCRWD No. 11 dump dirt, rock and tile at the Wind-N-Wave subdivision site will enable it to save roughly \$3,000 in possible hauling fees.

VanHoutan read aloud a detailed report that had been prepared for the meeting by Edmonds, a report that covered the operation of JCRSD No. 7 last year and through the first five and a half months of this year. Information from this report will be published in a future issue of the paper.

JCRSD No. 7 serves Lake Ridge Estates and the Wind-N-Wave subdivision.

Drug Take Back Day

The Health Department administrator also reported that four individuals had taken advantage of the opportunity to get rid of unwanted medications on Drug Take Back Day, which was held two days earlier at the Law Enforcement Center in Oskaloosa. She said a "significant amount of medications" were turned in by these individuals.

The Health Department will be leaving it up to the Sheriff's Office to properly dispose of the medications.

As previously reported in the paper, citizens can get rid of both unwanted medications and illegal drugs by placing them in the Safe Drug Drop (aka the "amnesty box") on the north side of the LEC.

Register of Deeds Delia Heston reported that she and Deputy Register of Deeds Karen Weishaar had assisted the Treasurer's Office with the tax sale and then gave the commissioners an update on the use of some new Laredo Connect software by her office in April and May.

COOP building

Micah Stegall, the owner of the building at 501 Delaware Street in Oskaloosa, appeared before the commissioners to inform them that the remodeling of the structure would be finished in two days and subsequently invited them to drop by at their convenience to have a look-see at the project.

The one-story building on the southeast corner of Delaware and Washington streets will house The COOP (COOP being an acronym for Community of Oskaloosa Outreach Program).

Stegall, who attends Living Water Evangelical Free Church, rural Oskaloosa, told Christy, Malm and Walbridge that The COOP would be "just a place where they (youth) can go" to experience wholesome fellowship with others.

When County Counselor Josh Ney asked Stegall why The COOP was chosen as the name for what amounts to a ministry, he said the name was inspired by a word that had been painted

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PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent June 26, 2025)1t

RESOLUTION 2025-021

A RESOLUTION SETTING BOND AMOUNTS FOR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 19-101 et seg. and K.S.A. 19-4201 provides that the board of county commissioners of each county shall set the amount of statutory bonds for various elected officials;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County, Kansas, that the bond amount for specific county elected officials in Jefferson County, Kansas for the terms running through January 8, 2029 shall be as follows:

County Attorney (K.S.A. 19-701)	\$2,000.00
County Clerk (K.S.A. 19-301)	\$10,000.00
County Sheriff (K.S.A. 19-801a)	\$10,000.00
County Register of Deeds (K.S.A. 19-1201)	\$10,000.00
County Treasurer (K.S.A. 19-501)	\$25,000.00
County Commissioners (K.S.A. 19-233)	\$5,000.00

This resolution shall become effective immediately and published in the county newspaper.

RESOLVED this 16th day of June, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, KANSAS

David Christy, Chairman

O. Richard Malm, Vice Chairman

Doug Walbridge, Member

ATTEST:

Julie Dunkle

Jefferson County Clerk

New to You Thrift Store

Corner of Jefferson St. and US Hwy 59, Oskaloosa

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. • Thursday through Saturday

\$1 bag clearance sale the first two weeks of July.

Store closing July 31.

Volunteers earn store credit.

For more information, call 785-863-2637

04-2tc

Complete Tree Care



Stump Grinding

Brush Clearing

Brush Mowing

Tree Removal

Tree Trimming

Dead Tree Removal

Firewood Sales & Processing

Ask for Nelson

Office: 785-220-0402 Cell: 540-830-0118

03-45-4tp



Farm to Fork Festival

1-Year Celebration!

Join us as we celebrate one amazing year in business with an afternoon of fun for the whole family! Come eat, learn, shop and mingle.

Saturday, June 28

3:00-10:00 PM

605 Cedar St, Perry, KS

3:00-8:00 PM - Local food trucks, vendors, face painting & yard games in the parking lot.

3:30-6:00 PM – Speakers - Variety of topics

6:30-10:00 PM – Live music by Buck Creek Band

Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the show!

Music sponsored by The Joint, Blue & White Fitness, Friedrich Liquor Barn

Come on in and check out our store Enjoy free food samples and popsicles Follow us on Facebook for event updates

46-04-1b



HOMETOWN CARE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Melissa Norris, APRN

Upcoming Community Events for Parent & Kids

Stuffy Story Time and Clinic with Alex Winkler, MD.

Friday, June 27 at 10:30 a.m.

Tonganoxie Public Library

217 E 4th St., Tonganoxie



313 S. Union Street, McLouth

Call 913-796-6116 for appointments.

lmh.org/mclouth

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PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent June 26, 2025)1t

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05

A RESOLUTION IN THE CITY OF OSKALOOSA, KANSAS, ORDERING THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE CONDITIONS AT THE PROPERTY AT 814 DELAWARE STREET IN THE CITY OF OSKALOOSA, JEFFERSON COUNTY, KANSAS PURSUANT TO CITY OF OSKALOOSA, ORDINANCE NO. 2018-02 CHAPTER VIII, ARTICLE 2 AND ARTICLE 3.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Oskaloosa, Jefferson County, Kansas has received a complaint from the city enforcement officer that there exists, on the premises of 814 Delaware Street, Oskaloosa, Kansas (the "Property"), a nuisance comprised of trash, junk, refuse, household goods, unsightly materials, motor vehicle parts and other debris all in violation of Section 8-308 of the City Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has also received a complaint from the city enforcement officer that there exists, on the premises of 814 Delaware Street, Oskaloosa, Kansas (the "Property"), a nuisance comprised of weeds, yard waste and other natural debris in violation of Section 8-201 of the City Code; and

WHEREAS, the city enforcement officer, on or about January 2, 2025 gave notice to the property owner that the violation existed and must be abated, and further that the City Attorney, via certified letter, gave a further Order of Violation to the property owner on May 6, 2025, with the same being received and signed for on May 14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, these notices, being sent to Robert and Matthiyah Bergersen, informing them of the ongoing violations and giving the owners ten days to abate the nuisances and/or to request a hearing in front of the city council; and

WHEREAS, the owners have not abated the conditions on the property, have not requested a hearing or otherwise addressed the matter and the nuisances remain; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it advisable to proceed to abate the nuisances on the property in accordance with the City Code.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF OSKALOOSA, JEFFERSON COUNTY, KANSAS:

That pursuant to Ordinance No. 2018-02, Chapter VIII, Article 2, Section 8-208 the City Council hereby finds that the above conditions are in violation of the City Code and the owner shall have Twenty (20) days from the passage of this Resolution to abate the nuisance conditions. Should the nuisances not be abated the City of Oskaloosa by its agents or officers is hereby authorized to abate the condition causing the violation and remove the nuisance from the property pursuant to 8-208.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That should it be necessary to abate these conditions, any and all costs incurred by the City of Oskaloosa, Kansas, including attorneys' fees, shall be charged against the above-described property as provided in Ordinance No. 2018-02, Chapter VIII, Article 2, Section 8-210 and 8-314, and the City Clerk shall, at the time of certifying other taxes to the County Clerk, certify the costs of cleanup. The County Clerk shall extend the same on the tax roll and it shall be collected by the County Treasurer and paid to the City of Oskaloosa as other City taxes are collected and paid.

PASSED by the City Council on this 18th day of June, 2025.

APPROVED BY the Mayor on this 18th day of June, 2025.

MAYOR JOHN NORMAN

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

PATTY A. HAMM