

# Osborne County Commissioners

The Osborne County Commissioners met June 9, 2025. Those present: Rex Johnston, Craig Pottberg, Troy Schaefer and Heather Betzold, County Clerk.

Pottberg called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. in chambers.

David Williams & Robert Cozard, Master Tech Truck & Equipment, met with commissioners to discuss Municipality programs they offer and discuss finance options for 2026 Kenworth T880 Day Cab 6X4 Semi Tractor. R&B will demo the truck before further discussion is held.

Nate Brown, citizen, met with commission to discuss concerns on the future of the long-term care services and the status of jail services. Discussion was held.

Terry Nichols, R&B supervisor, met with commission to discuss upcoming detour KDOT routes and bridge meeting with KDOT next week. Cost of maintenance of detour routes was also discussed.

Schaefer made a motion to authorize Nichols \$3,000 to purchase Schulte 10' Flex Mower on gravel road online auction after a call to verify the shape, Johnson second. Motion carried.

Department head began at 10:30 a.m. Nate Brown, citizen was in attendance. Chris Rhodes, IT/EM; Erin Kibbe, Health; Megan Kuhlmann, Register of Deeds; BobbiJo Boxum, Treasurer; Scottie Becker, Sheriff; Robert Conway, Noxious Weed; Tommy Bowler, Maintenance; Terry Nichols, R&B; Heather Betzold, Clerk/Elections; and Commissioners were present.

Anna Porter, Appraiser and Paul Gregory, County Attorney were absent.

Rhodes informed departments he had installed backup and network in the courthouse and was switching emails from ruraltel.net. He also was working on maintaining Emergency Management Equipment and working on keeping certification.

Kibbe informed departments Patagonia Electronic Health Records is going well and they are working still on changing authorization with Medicare Billing.

Kuhlmann informed departments her office has been busy and they are working on digitalizing documents.

Boxum informed departments about the current investment and delinquent notices are being sent, she would be attending KCTA meeting this week and the upcoming tax foreclosure would be held September or October.

Becker informed departments the breezeway removal project is in progress. The Sheriff office placed lawn has been re-planted and working on the electricity to the well. Becker stated business has increased and there is a possible upcoming jury trial. Discussion was held with commission on the current fuel meter situation.

Conway informed all departments they are working on spraying county roads. Discussed the usage of the UTV and the trailer recently purchased for the Sheriff Office.

Bowler discussed the jail turn over; humidity of the old jail; A/C in the server room; courthouse new rug service, rock needed in the alley, and the sprinkler. Discussion was held on the adjustable flag pole for the courthouse and usage of drone on the courthouse roof inspection.

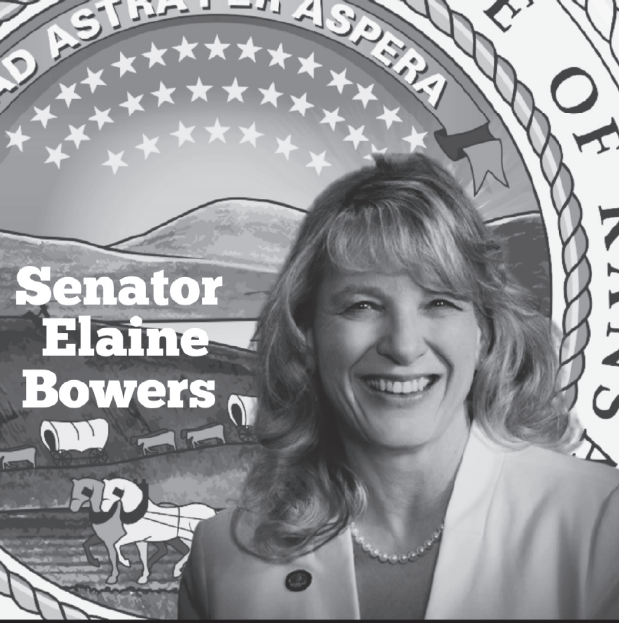
## News Office still closed

The newspaper office located in Downs remains closed to the public until the position of editor is filled. Applicants can call 785-454-3514 for more information or email downsnews@ruraltel.net.

While the physical office is closed, the phones will be answered from 9 a.m until 5 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, and emails will be checked. Mail will be checked weekly, so you can still submit news items and subscription payments through the mail or by dropping

## Grain Markets

Tuesday, June 17	
Midway Co-op	
Wheat .....	\$4.70
Milo .....	\$3.09
Corn .....	\$3.74
Soybeans .....	\$9.78
Scoular Grain Co.	
Wheat .....	\$4.96
Milo .....	\$3.29
Corn .....	\$3.99
Soybeans .....	\$9.97



**Senator Elaine Bowers**

**Subscribe to the "Senate Scene" Newsletter at ElaineBowers.com**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Elaine Bowers Senate, Sharon Knox, Treasurer

off at the office, 717 Railroad, Downs.

News items, including photos, and advertising submissions can be sent via email for the weekly edition to: downsnews@ruraltel.net. The deadline will be Mondays by 3 p.m. for that week's publication.

## • Council

mentioned there is an issue with the baby pool so Pound would like to have Dalton Remus take a camera down it as it's not draining correctly. He will check into that.

Council mentioned street closings for Celebration; Railroad west of Morgan Ave., Third Street from Commercial to Delay Street.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported financials for the end of May and June starting. She reminded the council that a CPA from Loyd Group will be here next meeting to review beginning budget documents.

In the pool report, Hancock is waiting on a quote for a slide to be installed at the pool. The pool had a delayed opening, due to weather, on Friday, May 30. Hake asked about getting new lounge chairs for the pool, the City Clerk stated she would look into pricing and quotes.

Joyce moved, Collin seconded, to approve building demolition permits 25-12 and 25-14. Motion carried with 4 ayes. Heather abstained.

Heather moved, Collin seconded, to approve special use permits 25-52 and 25-53. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive July 7th at the Memorial Hall. They are asking that the rental fees be waived, they will pay the key and security deposit. John B. moved, Heather seconded, to waive the Memorial Hall rentals fees for the American Red Cross blood drive on July 7. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Heather moved, John B. seconded, to approve Resolution 25-03 adopting the Region F Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

Joyce moved, Collin seconded, to approve demolition cost share application #01 for Tonya Kuhn for reimbursement in the amount of \$1,000. Motion carried with 5 ayes.

The council discussed the old clinic building and decided to accept sealed bids starting July 1st and due by October 3rd at noon. The City Attorney will start working on an ad, and the City Clerk will prepare informational packets for those interested in submitting a sealed bid.

Council members brought up the issue with concrete piling up out at the tree dump ground. Berkley stated he spoke with Ryan from CenCon, and there is crushed concrete in a pile for the city to use.

Heather moved, Joyce



READY: The Gazebo in Railroad Park is decked out with a sign advertising the Downs Celebration.

## OPEN HOUSE

Please join the Cushing Insurance Agency at our new office at **804 Morgan Ave.** in Downs.

**Friday, June 20, 2025**

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

The public is invited to see our new office while enjoying the Downs Celebration!

*Looking forward to seeing you*

## OPEN HOUSE

# Downs Carnegie Library

**Saturday June 21, 2025.**

**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

504 Morgan Ave.

**Refreshment served.**

*Come by to tour the library, meet the staff, sit and enjoy the afternoon visiting.*

## DOWNS COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

**Emergency • Fire • Ambulance: Dial 911**

**Sheriff's Department:** Daytime & Night call 785-346-2001

**Osborne County Memorial Hospital:** 785-346-2121

**Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems:** 785-738-2266

**Downs City Office:** City Office - 454-6622. City Shop - 454-3721

**Downs City Superintendent:** Harry Colburn - 454-3721 (shop)

**Animal Control:** 454-6622 **Code Enforcement Officer:** Harry Colburn - 454-6622

**Downs Fire Department:** Fire Chief, Kail Schoen.

**Tornado Warning:** Constant whistle for 3 minutes. All clear is one solid blast.

**City of Downs:** Vienna Janis, Mayor. Council: John Bisnette, John Cordill, Collin Jones, Joyce Hake, Heather Hancock. City Council meets at City Hall on the first and third Monday of each month at 5:30pm. Kenneth Lee, Municipal Judge. Municipal court meets at City Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

**Downs Carnegie Library:** 504 Morgan, 454-3821. Hours: Mon & Wed 1-7pm; Tues & Thurs 1-5pm; Friday & Saturday 11am-5pm. Sherry Knouf, Librarian. Library board meets 2nd Monday at 7 pm. Email: downslibrary@ruraltel.net

**Chamber of Commerce:** President, Mandy Burda. Meets first Wednesday of each month

**USD #272:** Jesse Janssen, Supt. Phone 785-781-4328 Lakeside Jr/Sr High School: 454-3332 Jeremy Long, Principal; Lakeside Elementary: 781-4911 Kayla Hamilton, Principal

**Downs Senior Citizens, Inc.:** 514 Morgan, 454-6228.

**UPDATES?**

**Email the Downs News**

**downsnews@ruraltel.net**

**Dispatch Christian Reformed Church:** 2 miles east and 6 miles north of Downs 785-454-6608 or 785-454-3715. Will Brouwers, Pastor. Sunday Worship 9:30am. Online Service on Facebook - "Dispatch Christian Reformed Church, Dispatch KS"

**Downs United Methodist Church:** 1000 N. Morgan. 785-454-3327. William "Stacy" Ellsworth, Pastor. Worship 9am; Sunday School 10am. For more information or for live stream link, please go to downsunc.churchtrac.com

**First Christian Church:** 1015 Morgan. 785-454-3438. Hunter Spencer, Pastor. Bible Study Wednesday 6:30pm; Sunday School 9:30am; Sunday Service 10:30am.

**Rose Valley Church:** 2 miles west and 3 miles north of Downs, 785-454-3418. Wyatt Davis, Pastor, 620-804-2912. Sunday Worship 9:30am; Sunday School 10:30am; Wednesday Bible Study 7:30pm. Online Service on Facebook - "Rose Valley Church"

**St. Mary's Catholic Church:** 1312 Prentiss Street. Father Daryl Olmstead, Pastor. Mass Schedule: Sunday 10:30am. St. Mary's Altar Society meets second Monday, Mary Lynn Renken, President. K of C meets the fourth Monday, Doug Baetz - Grand Knight.

**Zion Lutheran Church:** 1019 Blunt Street. 785-454-3733. Rev. Sherman Stenson, Pastor. Worship Service 9am; Sunday School & Bible Study 10am (starting in September); Wednesday Study at 7pm. Online Service on Facebook - "Zion Lutheran Church"

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