



HIAWATHA

WORLD

HIAWATHA, KANSAS

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Brown County commissioners meet with NEK-CAP for budget consideration

KRIS MILLER
Hiawatha World

The Brown County commission met with representatives from Northeast Kansas Community Action Partnership (NEK-CAP) regarding assistance for its housing budget. Brown County Attorney Kevin Hill was present via Zoom call.

The two representatives--Kristy Morey and Jason Gibson--spoke with the commissioners about if the county could provide resources for the Housing Choice Voucher program. Morey brought up

the subject of potential federal budget cuts and asked if housing could still be included in the county’s budget. She explained that the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) in use has provided funds for citizens needing aid but expressed uncertainty due to possible financial cuts on the federal level.

“We’re hoping it’ll still be there,” Morey said. “But with potential funding cuts, it’s something we just want to make sure that we’re not losing the funding and potentially losing housing assistance for the elderly and disabled households

in the Brown County area.”

Gibson added that the CSVG grant would potentially go away if these cuts were implemented. He said the grant served Brown County and was also tied to other counties. Gibson implored the county to help keep the program running.

Morey explained that the voucher program had been in existence since 1989, with Brown County starting the proposals to do cooperative agreements with seven other counties, and that NEK-CAP had been administering the program. She also explained that NEK-CAP had not requested any funding since then. Gibson requested administrative funding for the current housing grant.

Morey explained further that

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Scan this code to view the 6-2-2025 Brown County commission meeting.

Candidate list for USD 415 Board, USD 430 Board and City of Horton finalized

KRIS MILLER
Hiawatha World

There are several candidates running for city and school board positions in Brown County.

USD 415 School Board Candidates

For the USD 415 Board of Education, candidates Phil Roberts and Orveda Anderson are both running for Position Five on the board. This position is currently held by Jackie Spihlmann, who did not file for re-election.

Incumbent Roni Tietjens will be running unopposed for Position Four on the board on the USD 415 board and incumbent Brooklyn Schuetz will also be running unopposed for Position Six.

USD 430 School Board Candidates

For the USD 430 School Board Position 6 spot,



PHOTO FROM METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

incumbent Sarah Stirton will be challenged by newcomer Katelyn Ross. Ross currently holds a spot in Position 4. Meanwhile, incumbent Shelby Rice faces no opposition while running for the Position 5 spot.

No candidate filed for Position 4 as write-in votes will determine who steps into the position.

City of Horton Elections

City of Horton Incumbents Commissioner of Streets/Utilities David Spain and Commissioner

of Finance Bobby Bacon are running unopposed for their respective positions.

Election Date

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 4. There will be no primary election held this year.



Scan this code to view 2025 candidate information on the Brown County web site.

Brown County commission hold Friday meeting at Sheriff’s Office

KRIS MILLER
Hiawatha World

The Brown County commission held an end-of-the-month meeting in the basement at the Brown County Sheriff’s Office on Friday, May 30. Brown County Attorney Kevin Hill was not present during the meeting as he was on vacation.

At the beginning of the meeting, Commissioner Lucas Heinen stated that he wanted more of the public to talk to all three commissioners at once and added, “This is new territory for us.”

During the County Personnel/Public Comment hearing, Robinson resident Annette Hoskins spoke up and thanked the commissioners for serving Brown County. Hoskins stated that she wanted the budget hearing to be held at the same time of the evening meeting and set the budget early enough to where changes could be made. She also urged the commissioners not to raise the mill levy and to evaluate the county’s wants versus the county’s needs.

“You are the DOGE of our county,” she said, “I want smaller government.” Hoskins was referencing the Department of Government Efficiency, an organization created by President Donald Trump through an executive order; the organization was created to cut federal funding.

Hoskins also stated that more young people had to “forgo the American dream” as housing had become too expensive, with the tax burden hurting people until only the “ultra-rich” can own homes.



PHOTO BY KRIS MILLER

Brown County District 1 Foreman John Selland said that roadwork would start in the Horton district, then Fairview then onto Hiawatha.

Iowa Tribal Police Chief Mike Shea was next to speak. He said that Brown County attorney Kevin Hill was allegedly not looking into certain cases. The chief also stated that his life and other officers’ lives were threatened and no action was taken. He added that one of the officer’s children was threatened.

“Why Kevin Hill’s life is [Sic] worth more than three officers?” Shea asked. “That blood’s on everyone’s hands.”

Referring to Hill, Shea said, “He treats

people bad,” and urged the commissioners to remove the county attorney. Shea also accused Hill of allegedly intimidating him and added with, “Everybody works together to get the bad guy except Kevin Hill.”

Hill reached out to Hiawatha World during the Friday, May 30 meeting and stated in an email that Shea’s comments toward his office and himself were baseless.

“Chief Shea has little to no respect from the law enforcement officers that I work with,” Hill stated. “I’ve had exactly one conversation with him during his tenure

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Former Kickapoo Tribal chairperson pleads guilty to a child sex crime-related charge



PHOTO FROM BROWN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Lester Randall

KRIS MILLER
Hiawatha World

Former Kickapoo Tribal Chairperson Lester Randall pleaded guilty to a child sex crime on Thursday, May 30, according to KSNT.

KSNT reported that Randall entered a guilty plea to a count of “sexual exploitation of a minor - receipt

of child pornography” and that Randall agreed to pay \$3,000 in restitution to each victim in the case.

Following Randall’s guilty plea, the U.S. District Court of Kansas agreed to dismiss the other counts included in his federal indictment, which included a tentative sentence of 120 months, or 10 years.

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