August 6, 2025 | The Sabetha Herald | sabethaherald.com

### **COURT UPDATE**

# Gary Hermesch hearing continued

### **HERALD REPORT**

Gary Lee Hermesch has been continued according to Nemaha County Attorney Brad Lippert.

A press release sent out on Monday, Aug. 4, by Lippert's office said, "By agreement of the parties, the status hearing scheduled near the Parrish House at Fifth

for August 5, 2025, in State v. Gary Lee Hermesch has been continued which resulted in the death of The preliminary hearing for to October 14, 2025, at 1:30 p.m." Hermesch is incarcerated in the

Jackson County Jail, being held as a courtesy to Nemaha County. Bond remains set at \$1,000,000.

Hermesch was arrested shortly after an incident that occurred

Father Arul Carasala. Hermesch has been charged with first degree

The charges filed against Hermesch are merely accusations. He is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

### **Brown County Commission**

Submitted by Nicole Lee County Clerk

The Board of Brown County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 21, with the following members present Chairman Lucas Heinen, Richard Lehmkuhl and William Pollock. Also present was Brown County Clerk Nicole Lee. County Attorney Kevin Hill was present for a portion of the meeting. Heinen opened the meeting at 8:10 p.m. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Pollock led the meeting with a prayer.

Department Reports

Brown County Sheriff John Merchant and Undersheriff Robbie Parker were present to review vehicle purchases along with related equipment packages. Sheriff Merchant also presented departmental statistics covering the years 2003 through 2025, as well as the KBIs 2024 Crime Index.

The commission also discussed Sheriff Merchant's opinion on lowering the speed limit on county roads to 45 mph as a measure to help preserve the roads.

Road and Bridge Secretary Tami Lehmkuhl discussed bids for the 48-inch culvert replacement on Dewberry Road in District 3. The bids were as follows Siebenmorgen Excavating with a bid of \$64,425 and Norfolk Construction with a bid of \$96,770. The commissioners approved accepting the bid from Siebenmorgen Excavating for \$64,425.

Also at the meeting:

Brown County Treasurer Betty Spiker requested a five-minute executive session to discuss employee conduct. The commissioners decided to recess into executive session for five minutes, with the three commissioners, Spiker and Lee present for the purpose of dis-ent for the purpose of discussing

binding action was taken following the executive session.

Austin Parker, with Parker and Parker Law Firm, was present via Zoom to discuss County Counselor services he offers.

Theel Insurance Representative Darren Booth presented information about Freedom Claims Management insurance plans.

The commissioners voted 2-1 - with Commissioner Lehmkuhl voting nay — to allow Freedom Claims Management, Inc., to perform an insurance benefit analysis for the 2026 renewal.

Brett Waggoner, with Governmental Assistant Services, discussed delays encountered with the NEKAAA project and explained the need for an extension to complete the CDBG portion of the project.

the chairman to execute the required letter and form, formally requesting a completion extension of 12 months for the NEKAAA CDBG project 23-PF-012.

The board approved the July 14 meeting minutes.

The commissioners reviewed and signed the second quarter Tonnage Report.

The commission was presented with inspection reports and an agreement from Stanfield Roofing. Commissioner Heinen will contact Stanfield Roofing for more information.

The commission was presented with additional information regarding the Ad Valorem Financial

Assurance requirements. The board recessed into executive session for 15 minutes, with the three commissioners pres-

cussing employee conduct of non-elected personnel and to protect elected personnel and to protect the privacy of the employee. No the privacy of the employee. No binding action was taken followng the executive session.

Spiker requested a 10-minute executive session to discuss employee conduct. The commissioners went into executive session for 10 minutes, with the three commissioners, Spiker and Lee present for the purpose of discussing employee conduct of non-elected personnel and to protect the privacy of the employee. No binding action was taken following the executive session.

The commissioners discussed an invitation to a Community Town Hall Meeting hosted by Amberwell Hospital to discuss the overall health of our community and county. Commissioners Heinen and Pollock expressed interest in attending the July 22 meeting.

The next regular meeting was The board voted to authorize held Monday, July 28. These minutes were not available at The Herald's press time.

### Work Session

The Brown County Commissioners convened at 11:14 a.m. at the Brown County Courthouse for a work session with Chairman Heinen, Commissioner Lehmkuhl and Commissioner Pollock resent, along with Clerk Lee. T. ehmkuhl was also present. Topics discussed were: 270th Street Reclamation, trees at railroad crossings, 45 mph speed limit, Fair Premium funding, review ambulance services contract, annual employee evaluations and disciplinary action form. No action was taken. The work session adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next scheduled work session was held following the regular meeting on Monday, July 28.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

## **Nemaha County Sheriff**

JAIL BOOKING/RELEASE

Cortez J. White Sr., 45, of Kansas City, Mo., was booked into 24 on a Nemaha County warrant County Sheriff's Office for the offor probation violation. White refenses of possession of marijuana

mains in custody with bond set and possession of paraphernalia.

at \$5,000. James R. Benoit, 31, of Hoyt was \$1,500 bond with a court date of the Nemaha County Jail on July arrested on July 28 by the Nemaha Aug. 26 at 9:30 a.m.

He was released on July 29 on a



## **Nemaha County Commission**

Submitted by Mary Kay Schultejans County Clerk

The Board of Nemaha County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 28, in the Commissioner's Room of the Nemaha County Courthouse. The meeting was called to order with Chairman Jason Koch leading the flag salute. Present also were Commissioners Ben Glace and Joe Dalinghaus, County Administrator Robert Reece, and County Clerk Mary Kay Schultejans recording the minutes.

Chairman Koch led those present in an opening prayer to begin

the meeting.
The board set the agenda for the

Chairman Koch called for Open Public Forum to begin at 9:15 a.m. Adam Fleagle came before the board to speak during the forum. Chairman Koch ended the public forum at 9:27 a.m.

**Department Reports** 

Road and Bridge/Solid Waste Supervisor Adam Kuckelman advised the board that:

• Kuckelman received bids for the purchase of steel for Bridge J-34. Bids were received from Welborn Sales, Oden Enterprises, The Railroad Yard and J&A Materials. The board agreed to the purchase of five 33-inch x 60-foot steel beams at a cost of \$32,823.67 from Welborn Sales. Oden Enterprises actually came in at \$32,001.60, but due to delivery date, commissioners chose to go with Welborn Sales.

• The guys are blading roads at

• The guys will finish rocking the Bloom Road today and will then be starting on the Steele

• They have been helping out at the Nemaha County Fair when

The board agreed to amend the agenda to add Emergency Preparedness Director Eddie Aldrine to the agenda.

Aldrine requested a signature on the Weather Radio Grant Close-Out Report. The commissioners approved the close-out report. Chairman Koch signed the report as presented.

Aldrine stated that he received sealed bids for the electrical work necessary for the installation of five ADA accessible entrance doors and four ADA accessible interior doors at the Pioneer Building and the Community Building. Chairman Koch opened the sealed bids. Fleagle Electric bid \$1,156.18, Hemi Electric bid \$7,954.36, and Brokamp Electric bid \$3,460.07.

Several options were proposed by these vendors. A phone call was made to Fleagle Electric for clarification. Following review, the board accepted the bid from Fleagle Electric in the amount of \$1,156.18.

County Administrator Reece let the board know that he received a quote from Terracon to perform soil sampling near the Pioneer Building. The board approved the bid from Terracon for preliminary geo-technical engineering services for the EMS building project in the amount of \$7,600 to be paid out of ARPA Funds set aside for this project. The board also authorized Reece to sign the bid.

Also at the meeting: The board reviewed and ap-

proved the minutes from the July 21 meeting as amended. Nancy Gafford with Rural De-

velopment Association of Northeast Kansas came before the board to request an executive session with the commissioners. The board held a five-minute executive session to discuss data relating to financial affairs of corporations, partnerships, etc. Present for the executive session were the Board of Commissioners, Gafford and Reece. The meeting returned to open session with no action taken by the board following the executive session. Gafford stated that the Microloan Program has been ended by the State at this time, but the county is still collecting on two separate loans. The commissioners agreed to accept the Microloan Program Income Report. Chairman Koch signed the report as presented.

Reece requested an executive session with the commissioners. The board held a 15-minute executive session to discuss the hiring of non-elected personnel. Present for the executive session were the commissioners and Reece. The commissioners agreed to extend the executive session for an additional five minutes. The meeting returned to open session with no action taken by the board following the executive session.

Glace stated that he will be attending the City of Sabetha's meeting to address the maintenance and responsibilities of S Road, which runs around the Old Sabetha Lake.

The next regularly scheduled meeting was held on Monday, Aug. 4. These minutes were not available at The Herald's press

## **Deaver/Dandliker Family**

Submitted by

Shirley Deaver Wenger The family of Ray and Margaret Dandliker Deaver held a family reunion from July 19-26, 2025, at Vickery Resort in Hollister, Mo., on Table Rock Lake. We are continuing the tradition of family reunions since 1910. Like our ancestors who came to the United States from Ireland, Switzerland, England and France, our gathering of 90 people traveled from around the United States: Kansas - Deavers, Wengers, Krefts, Flanagans, Missouri – Remmers, Dicksons and Ackarts; Colorado – Wengers; Capauls; Florida – Remmers; and Tennessee – Maduskas, Garrett,

Fitchen and Haley. Since we were last together, our brother, Jim Deaver, and our sister, Valerie Deaver, passed away, but our Deaver name will carry on with Ben and his son Theodore James Deaver, age 2 years, greatgrandson of Jim and Patti Deaver.

On Sunday evening, we gathered for an ice cream social, and Mary Deaver Maduska gave each family a booklet with family history information and a genealogy

chart, which she had prepared as went fishing. The lily swim pad a gift to all. Meg Haley and Al Maduska presented a lesson in genealogy. An interesting fact was that our many, many times great-grandmother Affadilla Moody Deaver was a member of the Underground Railroad.

Monday evening was our potluck dinner with everyone dressing in red, white and blue, but Patti Deaver stole the show with her patriotic hat that would light up with flashing lights!
We had a full crowd for bingo

Stewarts, Schucks and Smiths; one evening with Mike and Christine Wenger calling the numbers. The Colorado Wenger girls Minnesota- Germans, Filas and walked away with the most prizes. union, I can say it was awesome, Some evenings were spent playing board games and cribbage.

The golf tournament had 16 players. Despite the heat, there were four teams, and two teams tied for the winnings.

At an early 8 a.m. Emily Ackart conducted a pilates exercise class. Most everyone had only one eye open but felt they would be in good physical condition later!

All week long, the lake was full of swimmers enjoying the water sports. Some of the group took a ride on the pontoon while others was very popular especially with the younger family members. The teens were water skiing and tubing, and others enjoyed paddle boards, kayaking and hanging out in their inner tubes visiting. Joan Deaver Remmers brought a water gun for the kids, but she tried it out first and managed to soak those of us sitting on the dock!

There were trips to Silver Dollar City, the Tanger Outlet Shopping Mall looking for bargains, the Branson Landing for good food and the rides at the Shepherd of the Hills Activity Park.

To describe the week of our recrazy, wonderful and a whole lot of fun!

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DO-NATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-485-0154.

### Published in The Sabetha Herald on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of City of Sabetha will meet on August 25, 2025 at 6:00 PM at Sabetha City Hall for the purpose of hearing and

swering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds, the amount of ad valorem tax and the Revenue Neutral Rate. Detailed budget information is available at Sabetha City Hall and will be available at this hearing

SUPPORTING COUNTIES

BUDGET SUMMARY osed 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

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

32,431,379

	Prior Year Actual for 2024		Current Year Estimate for 2025		Proposed Budget for 2026		
CINIC		Actual		Actual	Budget Authority	Amount of 2025	Proposed Estimated Ta
FUND	Expenditures	Tax Rate *	Expenditures	Tax Rate *	for Expenditures	Ad Valorem Tax	Rate*
General	3,929,159	23.384	3,519,406	21.965	3,733,430	618,729	19.078
Debt Service	385,928	10.254	387,258	7.242	476,649	288,000	8.880
Library	143,535	4.497	136,404	4.224	168,678	156,577	4.828
Library Employee Benefits	5,388	0.803	25,690	0.755	36,625	34,403	180.1
Special Highway	67,737		70,140		70,140		
Airport	180,268		100,000		100,000		
Sewer	1,536,636		1,398,786		1,200,000		
Special Parks & Rec	11,081		20,000		15,000		
Aquatic Center	224,750		220,100		220,450		
Electric	4,794,207		6,250,000		6,250,000		
Water	838,002		1,147,840		1,172,428		
Non-Budgeted Funds-A							
Non-Duageten Funts-A							
Totals	12,116,691	38.938	13,275,624	34.186	13,443,400	1,097,709	33.847
		1		T		we Neutral Rate**	30.356
Less: Transfers	563,318	l  -	603,640	. j	598,640	1	
Net Expenditure	11,553,373	j	12,671,984	] {	12,844,760	]	

Net Expenditur 11,553,373 12,671,984 Total Tax Levied 1,067,562 1,051,709 Assessed 27,008,190 28,795,988 Valuation Outstanding Indebtednes

January 1 G.O. Bonds Revenue Bond Other 3,430,895 4,259,857 4,318,792 Lease Purchase Principal 172,925 88,592 488,592 Total 10,303,820 10,413,449 10,212,384

\*Tax rates are expressed in mill \*\* Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-298

> Steve Compo City Official Title: City Clerk

> > 32-1t