

# NEWS

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? Contact Stephanie Jump at (620) 532-3151 or email sjump@kcnonline.com

## Kostner Asks County if Solar Regulations Could Go to Public Vote

BY BOB MORRIS  
Managing Editor

Kingman County resident Tom Kostner asked the Kingman County commissioners Monday if the county commissioners might consider putting solar regulations before voters.

Kostner was one of many residents who spoke during a public hearing last Thursday, held by the county planning and zoning commission, regarding proposed solar regulations. One regulation in question that has drawn concerns from county residents was to ensure that solar farms are located more than 750 feet away from any non-participating property.

Kostner said, during public discussion, one of the planning and zoning board members mentioned that there were 70 people at the meeting and 7,000 county residents,

thus those in attendance were not a “complete representation” of the county.

“Well, would you guys consider letting a public vote on this?” Kostner asked the county commissioners. “There’s going to be a primary in August, and maybe something later.”

But if the commissioners decided not to do that, Kostner said, he asked that the county consider a setback of more than 750 feet.

“That’s less than a quarter mile,” Kostner said, adding he understood that another county did a “12-acre maximum” separation from a non-participating property.

Later in the meeting, the commissioners discussed whether a public vote would make sense. County Clerk Carol Noblit noted that it wouldn’t be something that simple to add in a yes-or-no question.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A large crowd attended the public hearing at last Thursday’s Kingman County Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to address their concerns about solar regulations. One county resident, Tom Kostner, then attended the Kingman County Commission meeting Monday to inquire about whether or not regulations could go to a public vote.

For example, if people had different ideas about a setback, a ballot question couldn’t offer the choice of how much a setback should be.

County Counselor Brandon Ritcha noted that, if it went

before voters, there would be many different regulations to consider, which would make it challenging when it comes to ballot questions.

In other discussion, County Commission Chairwoman Julie Lyon said that she would

not be at the March 30 commission meeting, which was the time that Planning and Zoning Administrator Amanda Stucky was planning to present the proposed regulations.

Lyon asked if the county

may need to extend the moratorium again in case Stucky wasn’t able to present regulations at the next meeting on March 23. Lyon said that, after listening to the public hearing and what residents had to say, she had some questions to ask.

## COUNTY

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“Do we need to rethink how the public works and interacts here?” Lyon asked. “Can we do things that would make that flow better and function better for our community members?”

County Financial Officer LaDawn Stegman said one thing to consider would be a break room with a sink and a refrigerator. She noted that, because she lives in Cunningham, she cannot go home for lunch.

“I usually eat at my desk, but still, it would be nice to sometimes get a little table break and go somewhere quiet just for a few minutes,” Stegman said.

As far as where to locate it, Lyon said that right now, the commissioners were taking a list of suggestions and that the engineers and architect would work on the details such as location.

County Commissioner Jack Thimesch said one thing the commissioners discussed was addressing out-

lets, WiFi and Internet connections so that there’s no need to run wires and cords across rooms. He added it will help so that people are able to listen to the county commission meetings when they are live-streamed.

Another thing Thimesch said is on the list is reviewing whether or not certain shelves or desks need to be kept, unless they are of a historic nature.

Plans also call for a new elevator, which County Clerk Carol Noblit said would be electric. That means that the mechanical parts that raise and lower the elevator would be in the shaft, not in a room currently used for office space.

District Court Clerk Staci Jackson asked if it would be possible for the elevator to go to the fourth floor. Lyon said the engineers and architect could say if it was, but Noblit noted that the fourth floor doesn’t go all the way across the building.

Jackson said the reason she asked is because the current jury room is too small

to accommodate large juries when trials take place.

“If anybody’s ever done jury service, when I got 12 to 14, 15 jurors back there trying to sit around a table with chairs in there, it’s hard to move around in that room,” Jackson said.

She added that, if a jury member needs to use the restroom during deliberations, court staff have to make sure nobody is in the hallway, because the restrooms are located further away from the jury room.

Jackson noted there is a room upstairs with adjacent bathrooms that is currently used by community corrections. She said that used to be the jury room and might work as that again.

Questions were raised about what would happen with electrical panels and Lyon said the plan is to get electrical work centralized. Stegman noted that, in Barton County, they got that centralized.

The county commissioners previously toured the Barton County Courthouse

for ideas about work done there.

County Treasurer Jamie Smith said she would need a room with a door that shuts for any hearings held during the day. She said, if offices were to be moved, she would like the driver’s license office to be moved closer to the treasurer’s office because the treasurer’s office oversees the cash.

If that were to happen, Smith said, there might be some office space freed that could be utilized for the break room. But she noted she was “talking out loud” about possibilities.

Another suggestion made was a restroom on the second floor, so employees and customers alike don’t have to walk up or down a flight of stairs to access one.

As far as maintaining the historic nature of the courthouse, Thimesch noted that the engineers have experience in working with that, which was a reason why the county wanted to contract with Orazem and Scalora Engineering.

## Overlay Project to Start on U.S. Highway 54 March 30

### PRESS RELEASE

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will begin an overlay project on U.S. 54 in Kingman County on March 30.

The project will improve the road surface, extending the pavement’s service life.

Work will occur on approximately five miles of U.S. 54 beginning one mile west of the K-11 junction and ending at the west city limits of Kingman. Traffic will be guided through the area with flaggers and a pilot car. Motorists should be prepared to slow down and stop and expect delays of up to 15 minutes.

APAC-Kansas Inc., Shears Division, of Hutchinson, is the prime contractor on the \$1.18 million project. The project is expected to be completed by the beginning of May, conditions permitting.

## TANK

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were not charging them, or passing this cost through, so the city taxpayers were footing that bill for everyone not even in the city,” she said. “And I don’t feel like that’s my responsibility to pay somebody from Wichita if they got a court cost. Our taxpayer dollars

have to go for that.”

She said there are options for residents such as making a direct transaction from a bank account to pay a utility bill.

As for whether or not the city could not assess the fee on debit card transactions for utilities, it wasn’t certain if the city could do that with the billing software it currently uses.

## Kelly Signs Bill to Provide Homeless Veterans Greater Access to Non-Driver ID Cards

### PRESS RELEASE

TOPEKA—Governor Laura Kelly has signed House Bill 2274, which provides homeless veterans greater access to non-driver’s identification cards and also designates Kansas as a Purple Heart State.

“Our military members and veterans make tremendous sacrifices out of a deep, selfless commitment to our state and to our country,” Kelly said. “This commonsense legislation is one way we can show our respect and appreciation for those who have served, while also making life a bit easier for veterans who are finding their

footing upon return to civilian life.”

HB 2274 allows any person who is a veteran and homeless to apply for and be issued a non-driver’s ID card without having to provide an address of residence, so long as the individual provides a copy of a military discharge document to the Kansas Office of Veterans Service (KOVVS) to verify military service.

By expanding veterans’ access to identification cards, this bill will help remove barriers to services, employment opportunities, and treatments that require a form of ID, supporting Kan-

sas veterans as they adjust to life post-military service.

“By expanding veterans’ access to ID cards, we’re reinforcing our steadfast support of Kansas veterans across the state,” said Senator for District 29 Oletha Faust Goudeau. “I’m proud to have introduced legislation that makes Kansas a better and more welcoming state for those who have served our country.”

HB 2274 also designates Kansas as a Purple Heart State in recognition of Kansans who have earned the Purple Heart Medal, a United States military decoration awarded to those wounded or

killed by enemy action while serving with the U.S. military. Each year on August 7, the governor will issue a proclamation recognizing Purple Heart Day, with supporting observance activities facilitated by KOVVS.

“Kansas has always taken pride in the men and women who were either drafted or volunteered to defend our nation,” said Representative for House District 68 Nate Butler. “Designating Kansas as a Purple Heart State reinforces Kansas’ reputation as a military-friendly state.”

In addition to House Bill 2274, Governor Kelly also signed the following biparti-

san bills:

House Bill 2223: Modifies certain provisions of optometry law relating to scope of practice.

Senate Bill 348: Exempts any electric public utility that is a not-for-profit sub-

sidary owned by an electric cooperative from the jurisdiction of the state corporation commission.

Senate Bill 335: Requires public construction contracts to include a mutual waiver of consequential damages.

## LEGAL NOTICE

(First published in The Kingman Leader-Courier on Thursday, March 19, 2026) 3t

### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HARPER COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE TRUST OF JOSEPH SCHROCK, DECEASED

Case No. HP-1988-PR-000014

### NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE AT PUBLIC AUCTION

STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED: You are hereby notified that Advantage Trust Company, a Kansas trust company, of Salina, Kansas, as Trustee of the Trust established under the Last Will and Testament of Jennie Schrock, will offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate:

The surface rights and the mineral rights in and to the South Half (S/2) of Section Thirty-one (31), Township Twenty-nine (29) South, Range Seven (7) West of the 6th P.M., Kingman County, Kansas.

The auction will take place on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at The Hangar located at 126 N Main Street, Kingman, Kansas 67068, to the highest and best bidder for cash. All interested parties should take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Advantage Trust Company, a Kansas trust company, Petitioner

Joseph R. Aker (#27912), of HAMPTON & ROYCE, L.C. United Building - Ninth Floor P.O. Box 1247 Salina, Kansas 67402-1247 (785) 827-7251 Attorneys for Petitioner

## LEGAL NOTICE

(First Published in the Kingman Leader Courier on Thursday, March 19, 2026) 3t

### IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT, KINGMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HELEN LOUISE KOON KARR, Deceased  
Title to Real Estate Involved  
Case No. 2024 PR 46

### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by the City of Kingman, Kansas, as an interested party in the Estate of Helen Louise Koon Karr, deceased praying for the determination of descent of the following described real estate:

Part of Block Three (3) in Jones Addition to the City of Kingman, Kansas, more particularly describes as follows:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Block Three (3); thence South along the East line of said Block, Ninety feet (90’); thence West, One Hundred Forty feet (140’);

thence North Ninety feet (90’); thence East along the North line of said Block, One Hundred Forty (140’) to the place of beginning. Commonly known as 737 N. Elm Street, Kingman, Kansas.

and all other property, real and personal, or interests therein, owned by the decedent at the time of death. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before April 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., on said day in said Court in the City of Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas, at which time and place said case will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

CITY OF KINGMAN, KANSAS  
Petitioner  
GRAFFMAN & SMITH, LLC  
Gregory C. Graffman, #21158  
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Kingman, Kansas 67068  
(620) 955-6025  
Attorney for Petitioner