

Observer Report from Shawnee County Commission Meeting

November 10, 2025

11-10 2025 Board of County Commissioners

Two Commissioners present (Riphahn absent)

Elvera Johnson, observer

Following approval of the consent agenda, voucher payments and correction orders, Commissioners approved a resolution authorizing a 2026 cereal malt beverage license to John's Food Center on SW Topeka Boulevard.

For the County Counselor, they authorized negotiating a bid with Kensinger & Associates for Lobbying Services. They were the only applicant.

For Parks and Recreation, they approved awarding contracts to 2 Kansas City applicants for leasing of weekend baseball complexes and softball complexes. Commissioners also approved application for an 80/20 grant from Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to build a trail just inside Tinman Circle.

For the Sheriff's Office Commissioners approved 4 new Call Take positions. The present workers are very busy with calming the 911 callers and communicating with the responders as well.

There was no public comment. In Administrative Communications, Brian Cole reported that the Behavioral Health Unit collaborating with Valeo is on schedule.

No Executive Session was called.

League of Women Voters of Topeka-Shawnee County Observer Report

SHAWNEE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING: NOVEMBER 3, 2025

Observer: Paul Post (pacmanpost@icloud.com)

Chair Aaron Mayes	Present?	Yes
Commissioner Bill Riphan	Present?	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Cook	Present?	Yes

Please click on the link below for the agenda archive.

Commission Agenda Website: <https://www.snco.us/commission/agendas.asp>

Feature evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Did the meeting start on time?	X		
Reason for absent members?			N/A
Was the agenda available at the meeting?	X		
Were any non-agenda items discussed?		X	
Did it appear that any agenda items were discussed prior to the meeting?		X	
Were there any amendments to the agenda?		X	
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
Were media representatives present?	X		
Did any member recuse?		X	
Was there an executive session? If so, for what reason and what length?	X		For a matter regarding non-elected personnel, for 20 minutes. No other details provided in the motion.
Was there a public comment period? If so who appeared and for what purpose?		X	No one signed up

Discussion of Issues:

Issue:	Action taken:	Relevance to LWV Positions	Recommended Follow-up if any
See below	N/A	N/A	N/A

Remarks:

1. Other matters were considered by the Commission, which did not have particular relevance to any LWV of Topeka-Shawnee County concerns or issues. Commission meeting agendas are available online both before and after the meeting at the link shown above. Currently there does not appear to be any written minutes of the meeting available.

NOTE: There will be no meeting on November 17, as the commission will be acting as the Board of County Canvassers to certify the November 4 election.

SEAMAN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING October

Patti Bishop pattibishop908@gmail.com

School Website <https://www.seamanschools.org/>

Under Board Docs

Superintendent Mr. Brad Wilson

School Board Members

President Michelle Caudill

Dianna Brodine

Donna McGinity

Kyle McNorton

Chris Travis

Christi Weiler

Braden Werner

Featured Evaluated	YES	NO	Comments
Did the meeting start on time?	x		
Was the agenda available	x		
Were any items not on agenda discussed?		x	
Did it appear that agenda items were discussed ahead of time?		x	
Were there any items amended?		x	
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	x		
Were media members present?		x	
Did any members recuse?		x	
Was there an executive session and for what reason? How long?		x	
Was there a public comment period? If so who appeared?	x		
Was this group relevance to LWV?		X	

10-27-25 BOCC

All 3 Commissioners present

Elvera Johnson, observer

In unfinished business, Commissioners discussed the Gage Park Carousel Renovation project. Commissioners had interviewed 2 firms that had had submitted bids on the project. The director of Parks & Rec and the County Counselor were involved in the discussion. The 3 Commissioners seemed to agree that they had worked with both firms in the past and both are good local firms. Commissioners finally voted 2-1 to enter into contract negotiations with KBS.

The consent agenda and voucher payments were quickly approved.

For Facilities Management, Commissioners approved a contract to replace the J.P. Lewis Health Department's front entry doors that were not locking consistently and appropriately. For the same building, commissioners rejected the bids to replace the HVAC system. They did some emergency repairs of compressors, and the system is working now. Facilities Management had suggested rejecting the bids.

For the Register of Deeds, Commissioners approved filling the vacant Electronic Archiving Specialist position.

For Public Works, Commissioners approved beginning the bidding process for maintenance materials for the winter of 2026-2027 and general maintenance for 2026.

For Parks and Recreation, Commissioners approved a contract with Greencare Lawn & Landscape for maintenance of all the sports fields. They also approved bids with various service vendors for carpentry, mechanical and HVAC, plumbing, and electrical services.

For Audit Finance, they approved resolutions for social services and for specialized elderly social service programs for 2026. The Community Resource Council, expressed appreciation.

For the Health Department, they approved a renewal of the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program. These funds will be used for Shawnee, Osage and Wabaunsee Counties to cover the period from October, 2025 through September 2026.

Commissioners canceled the October 30 work session. Some will attend the township meeting.

Mr. McClure made a public comment, suggesting that citizens are not getting a fair deal. He wants the money used to repair streets.

In administrative Communications, the Elections office reminded everyone that early voting is going on at the election office now. Election Day is November 4.

The Community Resources Council shared that there are still some funds available in the utility credit program.

Public Works announced that the 46th Street and the 29th and Auburn projects are progressing.

No Executive Session was called.

League of Women Voters of Topeka-Shawnee County Observer Report

SHAWNEE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING: OCTOBER 20, 2025

Observer: Paul Post (pacmanpost@icloud.com)

Chair Aaron Mayes	Present?	Yes
Commissioner Bill Riphan	Present?	Yes
Commissioner Kevin Cook	Present?	Yes

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Was the agenda available at the meeting?	X		
Were any non-agenda items discussed?		X	
Did it appear that any agenda items were discussed prior to the meeting?		X	
Were there any amendments to the agenda?		X	
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
Were media representatives present?	X		
Did any member recuse?		X	
Was there an executive session? If so, for what reason and what length?	X		See details below.
Was there a public comment period? If so who appeared and for what purpose?	X		See below.

Discussion of Issues:

Issue:	Action taken:	Relevance to LWV Positions	Recommended Follow-up if any
See below	N/A	N/A	N/A

Remarks:

1. Public comment: The mayor of Auburn, Mark Brown, and city council member Dorothy Bryan appeared to argue in favor of a request for quotes (RFQ) for professional services to conduct a regional transportation study, to assess the impact of transportation in western, southwestern and southeastern Shawnee County, and which would include the issue of creating a new turnpike entrance and exit. The cost is estimated to be \$500,000, of which 35% would be paid by the state. The Kansas Turnpike Authority has offered \$9 million as its share of the construction cost.
2. Executive session: the conducting of interviews and making a final selection for Gage Park Carousel Renovation Project, as required by the county's Construction Manager-at-risk (CMAR) procedure, and Kansas Statutes Annotated 19-216e. Session length was 45 minutes.
3. Other matters were considered by the Commission, which did not have particular relevance to any LWV of Topeka-Shawnee County concerns or issues. Commission meeting agendas are available online both before and after the meeting at the link shown above. Currently there does not appear to be any written minutes of the meeting available.