

Minutes of the Daviess County Commission  
January 14, 2026

The Honorable Daviess County Commission met on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. Jim Ruse, Presiding Commissioner, called the meeting to order. David Cox, 1st District, and Wayne Uthe, 2nd District, are present.

The Commission approved last week's minutes and invoices. The Commission approved brush letters and abates if presented.

James Lewis, Road and Bridge Supervisor, updated the Commission that they have finished bridge inspections for this month. They have around 40 bridges left to inspect.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Grand River HVAC will continue to work on the other offices' mini-splits that need to be separated. The Commission is still updating various County policies. The carpet will be installed in the Jury Room this Friday, January 16th.

**BRIDGES:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Jim Ruse and David Cox registered for the annual Great Northwest Days on February 3rd and 4th. The meeting takes place at the capital in Jefferson City. The Commission meeting that week will be rescheduled to Thursday, February 5th.

The Commission registered for the annual Commission Conference for Wednesday, February 25th, through Friday, February 26th. The Commission meeting for this week will need to be rescheduled for Tuesday, February 24th.

The Commission discussed the maintenance of Zane Avenue along the Caldwell County line. Research will continue on this issue.

Recorder Tiffany Tadlock presented the Commission with the contract for a new scanner. David Cox made a motion to approve and sign the contract. Wayne Uthe seconded the motion. All in favor, Ruse-aye, Cox-aye, Uthe-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

The Commission reviewed the contract for legal services agreement with Attorney Travis Elliot with Ellis, Ellis, Hammons & Johnson, P.C. David made a motion to approve and sign the contract. Wayne Uthe seconded the motion. All in favor, Ruse-aye, Cox-aye, Uthe-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

David Rains with Rains Natural Meats met with the Commission to discuss the possibility of adding to the business driveway, making it a circular drive, which will require an easement and tube on 260<sup>th</sup> Street. It was determined that MoDOT actually owns this right-of-way since 6 Hwy was expanded. MoDOT said they would give the easement to the County, and then the County can decide what to do with it. The Commission contacted Union Township to ensure they are okay with additional road for CART maintenance and snow removal. The Commission will wait for official confirmation from the township after they have their monthly meeting. Issue tabled at this time.

Coroner Jason Smith met with the Commission to review the Coroner's 2026 budget. Prosecuting Attorney Annie Gibson met with the Commission to review the Prosecuting Attorney's 2026 Budget.

The Commission continued to review the 2026 Budget. The Commission will also meet on Tuesday, January 20th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon for a final budget review. They will hold a public hearing and vote on the 2026 budget next Wednesday, January 21st, at 10:00 a.m.

Assessor Aaron Piburn and Collector/Treasurer Lacey Corwin met with the Commission to discuss plans for renewal and new applications for the 2026 Senior Tax Freeze. Discussion was also held on archiving the Assessor's assessed valuation system and the costs to do this. This is a new cost needed as a result of the Senior Tax Freeze.

