

Hennessey

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to provide services," said Trustee Bert Gritz, "because I don't want to see our citizens be without emergency medical service for 15 minutes, let alone days."

Town Has Options

"We do have some options," said Rowen.

The town's accountant said the town wouldn't have to go out for bids and the board could hire another company.

She said "a couple of services" said if the new company backs out, they'd supply a temporary ambulance service at the same rate the town is paying now until the town came up with another solution.

From the audience, District 2 County Commissioner Mike Sparks told the board members if they want to go for a 522 District, they'll want to get it on a ballot soon.

Rowen agreed and said sooner is better because they wouldn't be able to get any of those tax funds until 2027.

Rowen said she'd asked LIFE "how much we're billing and collecting" for several months and nothing was provided, so they'd know if a raise in cost is justified.

Fire Hydrant Issues

These items were listed by Trustee Harold Shaw for discussion: replacement, intervals for functionality and serviceability checks, how these checks are doc-

umented and which town employees are responsible for accomplishment of these checks.

Shaw thanked the firefighters for recently checking the fire hydrants, then asked Chief Brandon Scott the status of the fire hydrants.

"For the most part, some of them had their deficiencies where the caps were hard to get off. Typical maintenance, just neglect, basically, you might say," Scott said. "But as we went through and checked them and got them dusted back off, we lubricated the caps and put them back on. Some of the skins were hard to turn, but that could just be a sign of age, could be a sign of sediment or something in the lines."

"There were a few that were on the list that possibly had been removed."

"Had been what?" asked Shaw.

"Removed since we'd checked them, or since they were checked last, any way."

The status of a couple of hydrants was asked about, including one closest to the Eagle Event Center at the school.

"It's dead," said one of the firefighters. "When they did that water line project they cut it on the wrong side of the valve," said Public Works Director Alyssa Kubat. "In order to keep it from going out into the ditch, we had to close another valve."

Gritz asked who would be fixing the hydrant.

"This really irks me that a contractor that we paid to come in and do that water line project along Mitchell Road in front of the schools caused the most expensive piece of public property in the community to not have a working fire hydrant, and he didn't fix it."

Rowen said it was likely something the town employees could remedy.

"It's not a hard fix," Kubat said.

"Okay, I'm just thinking if we're talking cutting street and getting into a big thing," said Gritz. "I'm just not pleased that a contractor came up to this and went off and left it."

Discussion came up as to who should be checking the hydrants for their annual inspections, whether it be the fire department or another town department.

"I think that's a good checks and balances that they check it and we check it," said Rowen. "Because we could be saying something, but they're actually the ones utilizing them so that they know where they're at...and which ones are their good ones, not so good, and also giving us feedback of which ones, what we need to do with them."

Shaw also wanted to clarify a term Scott used about the hydrants being neglected and wanted to assure the

citizens that the hydrants were being inspected regularly as required.

"Lack of use was a better way to say that," Scott said. "But yes, sitting there, annually, they're going to rust up. They're going to seize up on the caps, things like that. But (they are) checked annually and tested."

Other Approved Items

The board also approved:

- A new travel policy for staff;

- An agreement with Hennessey Senior Citizen Center Inc. to lease the building for \$1 a year and the town to pay for upgrades to the building from the Sam Snyder Trust Fund because he had included the center in his will;

- Accepted JA-LLE grant for \$9,370 from the District Attorneys Council for SAS Safety Raven Black Nitrite gloves for law enforcement.

Tabled Items

- Budget amendments were not approved, but will be considered next month because some board members did not receive copies of those amendments.

- Changing employee vacation leave accruals and usage and possible action to increase pay for Public Works employees in place of providing clothing and boot vouchers. On that last item, Trustee David Jones said: "You're asking the wrong guy if you ask me, because I'm a firm believer in uniforms."

At The Meeting

Trustees at the meeting were Gritz, Shaw and Jones, and as the senior board member, Gritz chaired the meeting in the absence of Mayor Randy Bohnstedt and Vice Mayor John Peach. Town Clerk (and office manager) Shelley Burch was also present.

Staff at the meeting were Rowen, Kubat, Town Attorney Jared Harrison, Scott, Assistant Fire Chief James Matousek and firefighter Levi Copeland.

Also in the audience was retired firefighter Tim Riddle and Sparks.

Absent was Treasurer Kelley Vaverka.

Botchlet

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When police arrived, they located a shell casing from a .22 caliber gun in the front yard and then collected three bullet fragments from McLane's rollback wrecker.

Botchlet was originally charged on May 10 and pleaded not guilty during a court appearance that day.

Prior to Monday, his most recent court appearance was Dec. 3, 2025, at which time the jury trial was set.

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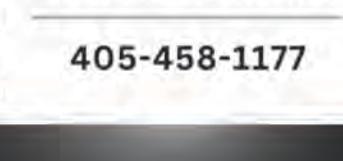
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WEATHER NEWS

(As recorded by Local Weather Observer Steven Loftis in Kingfisher.)

Date	Hi	Lo	Rain
Jan. 9	71	43	0.06
Jan. 10	59	36	
Jan. 11	50	32	
Jan. 12	52	30	
Jan. 13	66	35	
Jan. 14	70	36	
Jan. 15	55	31	
Jan. 16	57	23	

Rainfall

January 2025 rainfall.....	0.53
January 2026 rain to date..	0.91
February 2025 rainfall.....	0.00
February 2024 rainfall.....	0.53

Wheat Market

**Wheat 1.15 \$4.37
Down 10¢ from 1.12**

or authorized agent, so that the signature shall serve as an acknowledgment that all information contained in the exemption form is true and correct.

Upon submission of these forms to the city, the city manager shall make a final determination as to the validity of all claimed exemptions. Should the city manager determine that a claimed exemption is not valid, the hotel shall be assessed the nine percent (9%) hotel tax within three (3) months of the date that the exemption is claimed. The hotel claiming such exemption shall become liable for payment of the tax and shall submit the same with their next monthly tax remittance.

SECTION 3: Ordinance Subject to Vote of the People

As is required for any ordinance intended to increase or modify tax rates charged by the City of Kingfisher, this Ordinance 2026-001 will only go into effect upon an affirmative vote of the qualified voters residing within the City of Kingfisher as required by law and as provided for by Resolution 2026-02.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADDED TO THIS 12th day of January, 2026.

_____, Coeff Covalt, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____, Brittnay Hladik, City Clerk
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____, Jared Harrison, City Attorney

_____, P.O.P.

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