

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS**

The Board of Miami County Commissioners met in regular session, in the Commission Chambers, Miami County Administration Building, Paola, Kansas, on February 19, 2025. Those present were:

George Pretz, Chairman	Shane Krull, County Administrator
Tyler Vaughan, Pro-Tem	Laura Epp, County Clerk
Keith Diediker, Commissioner	Cari Foster, Operation Support Specialist
Paul Scruggs, Commissioner	
W. Jene Vickrey, Commissioner	

Visitors: Dan Creason, Dina and Robin Motta, Courtney Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pretz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dino Motta, 17905 W. 319th Street, stated he appreciated the question Commissioner Scruggs had on commercial driver's license (CDL) and feels it is a disservice for himself others in the county that have CDL's that we cannot process them in Miami County. Shane Krull, County Administrator, said there was a discussion in the Study Session, and he thought that was about the registration of commercial vehicles not CDL. Mr. Motta stated it was both CDL and commercial vehicles. Mr. Krull said CDL, and commercial vehicle registration is treated differently.

Mr. Motta thanked the commission for streaming the study sessions and the meetings, he appreciates being able to stay informed without being in attendance. He asked a favor, as we are expected to speak into a microphone, he feels we should do the same as last week's meeting was hard to hear. He recommended lapel mics but also said he knows the budget is tight. Mr. Motta suggested we stream the meetings over other platforms (like google meetings, zoom, team meetings) so people online can comment during the public comment of the meeting who are not able to make it to the meetings.

Mr. Motta talked about the culvert and bridge inspection and suggested Road and Bridge provide feedback to eliminate outside counsel.

Mr. Motta mentioned the 2024/2025 financial position lacked specific driver-based information, for example in 2024 we were \$480,000.00 over budget for 800 MHz radios. There was no information as to what the overage was. It would be good to know that information for open transparency. Mr. Motta noticed in 2025 there will be a "shortfall in revenues generated from sales taxes and from the County Treasurer's Office, again no magnitude driver, or corrective action plan seemed to be discussed." As a taxpayer he demanded better information.

Mr. Motta said he was pleased to learn in the afternoon meeting that the driver for the shortfall occurred in the Treasurer's office. He is appalled of explanation of the outcome of the discussion, said "blackmail is a felony, and felt that was what was occurring." He said, "theft over \$1000.00 is a felony in the State of Kansas." He feels this behavior from an elected official is appalling. Mr. Motta stated, "what was somewhat more incredulous was someone actually said here that they thought that was right." Commissioner Vaughan stated, "thank you, but you misunderstood that Dino but go ahead." Mr. Motta said, "as a tax paying citizen what he said was, he pointed himself out, so I was not going to try to do that, that "as an elected official she has the right to say that." Commissioner Vaughan stated "she does." Mr. Motta said, "she may, you are asking her to commit a felony, and you are condoning that." Commissioner Pretz stated, "she is an elected official, and she runs her show." Commissioner Vaughan stated, "that was my point, she is an elected official, has autonomy." Chairman Pretz stated, "I don't know that she's not following state statue, before you start accusing people get all the facts." Mr. Motta said "when questioned about her actions Tricia Lee, County Treasurer, justified herself by stating her staff's working environment is unsafe due to comments or other conditions. That the previous treasurer did not invest taxpayer funds,

and the commission has not acted within her timeframe.” Mr. Motta suggested to the commission to research the reported incidents and nature of them, research if other surrounding counties have barriers surrounding their offices, potential review of the culture that has existed in this office over the last several years prior to solicitation of an RFQ. Chairman Pretz said, “thank you, I appreciate you coming in and sharing your thoughts.”

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- Approval of minutes of the County Commission Meeting on February 12, 2025
- Approval of AP payment vouchers
- 24007-SUB: Somerset Ranch East

Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

APPLICATIONS

Laura Epp, County Clerk—A annual report for Richland Township was placed in the Commissioner’s folder. By dating the reports, acknowledgment of the Commissioner's review of these reports is requested.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vickrey said we all learned a few lessons to take to heart from last week’s meeting. There are Security issues that need to be addressed in a reasonable way that protects our citizens and staff. “We need to make sure we are communicating well between our staff, department heads and the commission, and work well together would be a good lesson to learn going forward.”

Commissioner Scruggs stated he is trying to digest what Mr. Motta said and it comes down to accountability. He feels the frustration that the elected officials have is what leverage do we have to invoke change. Commissioner Scruggs asked “what is the accountability structure holding us other than she is an elected official she can do what she wants? I think that is the most frustrating part of politics of government, it shouldn’t have to wait till we get elected or reelected.”

Commissioner Diediker responded to Mr. Motta about Road and Bridge. Road and Bridge and the dump truck guys do make reports on the bridges they see but can only look at washouts. They are not trained, qualified, or have the time to get out and inspect. He believes that it is state mandated that the county must have certain bridges looked at by the state.

Commissioner Vaughan motioned to appoint Topher Philgreen to the Greater Miami County Economic Advisory Board; Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Vaughan motioned to appoint Dino Motta to Board of Zoning Appeals; Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Commission Vaughan stated words do matter, sometimes they get misunderstood. The commission was notified at 11:35 am last Wednesday morning and by 2:00 pm that afternoon the remaining funds were put back in play. My opinion is the commission did what they needed to do.

Commissioner Vickrey said, “it is good to know the funds were invested, they were invested in money market, that received a little less interest had they been invested the way they were later.”

Chairman Pretz motioned to appoint Pete Peuser to the Planning Commission due to the resignation of Bret Manchester; Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

February 19, 2025
Page 3

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.



George Pretz
George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:

Laura Epp
Laura Epp, County Clerk