

**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 May 14, 2025. Those present were:

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

Absent: Keith Diediker, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of minutes of the County Commission Meeting on May 7, 2025
- Approval of AP payment vouchers
- Order of Correction of Irregularities

Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS AND PROCLAMATION

Proclamation - EMS Week, May 18-24. Frank Burrow, EMS Chief, read the proclamation. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Matthew Kelly, Undersheriff, requested the Commissioners to allow for the hiring of two Deputies to the Patrol Division to satisfy the grant requirements. Mr. Kelly stated in October of 2024, the Sheriff's Office was awarded a grant from the Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) hiring program, which would provide \$375,000 over the course of three years to hire three Deputies for the Patrol Division. In January of 2025, we hired a Deputy Sheriff School Resource Officer (SRO) for The Queen of Holy Rosary. We would like to hire the other two additional Deputies with a start date in August. The award requires Miami County to hire all three Deputies by October 2025. The Sheriff's Office also receives funding from the Queen of the Holy Rosary School and the COPS grant to fund the SRO position, which was already budgeted for 2025, and we are working with finance for the 2026 budget. Commissioner Vaughan asked if the difference would be rolled into the 2026 budget? Mr. Kelly answered correct. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve the grant and hire the two officers in the months of August and October; Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator/Finance Director, requested that the Commissioners authorize Shane Krull, County Administrator, to sign the ISG contract. Mr. Mellinger stated that the contract is for a refresh in the server room with new Switches and a new UPS to bring it up to the 21st century. There is a three-year warranty on the physical hardware. This agreement is just to install the equipment. Miami County's contact with ISG said the equipment usually lasts four to six years in an environment like ours. Chairman Pretz asked Mr. Mellinger to speak about the money. Mr. Mellinger stated the total cost is \$43,387.12. Miami County has been stashing money away for these big Tech items in the Tech Fund. The whole funding will come out of the Tech Fund which has a balance of \$750,000.00. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous. (C25-05-002)

Sandra Lucas, County Appraiser, requested the Commissioners to adopt a resolution appointing Sandra

Lucas as County Appraiser for four years. Ms. Lucas spoke about her qualifications. Commissioner Pretz asked Ms. Lucas if there was anyone else qualified for the appraiser position in her office? Ms. Lucas answered no, but her assistant is currently working on getting the certifications. Commissioner Scruggs asked Ms. Lucas if she would be willing to be open to reevaluate our system, and how we do it, how it inputs numbers whether we go by a state model or not? Ms. Lucas answered the state does not evaluate our parcels in Miami County, Miami County does, she also talked about the process and what her office looks at. Mr. Scruggs asked Ms. Lucas can we go through a process to see if things can improve; you are saying we do not need to improve? Ms. Lucas answered with these numbers, no we do not. Commissioner Scruggs asked Ms. Lucas we have a 60% success rate on the appeals? Ms. Lucas she was not sure on the number. Commissioner Scruggs asked with 60% success rate on appeals does that not say we need to have the system looked at? Ms. Lucas talked about what her office sees during the appeal process is mostly conditions of the home they cannot see from the outside that have an impact on the value. After some discussion Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the appointment of Sandra Lucas for the next four years as the Miami County Appraiser, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was 3-1 nay – Scruggs. (R25-05-015)

Shane Krull, County Administrator, requested the Commissioners to sign the CDBG Miami County Sewer 23-PF-003 Bid Time Extension Letter Request. Mr. Krull stated this is in reference to project number 23-PF-003 Bid time extension letter request with the Kansas Department of Commerce. Some of the delay was in securing the easements along 223rd Street, and the USDA reviewing the bid package. We believe the USDA will be finished reviewing the bid package before the end of the three-month extension, and Miami County engineers believe that an additional three months will give time for that approval, a 30-day advertisement period, and ample time to review bids before making a recommendation for award. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

STAFF COMMENTS

Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator/Finance Director, stated we are starting the budget meetings next week on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Mr. Mellinger asked the Departments and Commissioners to come with their best moods because it is going to be long days. Commissioner Vickrey asked it will start at 8:30 a.m.? Mr. Mellinger answered 8:30 a.m. to around 3:30 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, hoping to end early.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vaughan stated during budget time, we get a few people come and witness. Commissioner Vaughan encouraged the taxpayers and residents of Miami County to engage. I believe this is the most important functions the commissioners do. It is nice to have the engagement, and I hope we continue to get more.

Commissioner Vaughan stated we will have a General Differences in the Workplace lunch at Timber Creek on June 20, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. led by Miami County and Kansas Public Works. There could be two or more commissioners present.

Commissioner Vickrey encouraged everyone to watch as we have these budget meetings next week and continue to watch in the future. This morning, we took a hit on revenue neutral. When we spend down our money in savings we are being penalized. When we improved roads last year with this year's reserves, we are penalized about \$600,000.00 which is going to make this a tuff budget year.

Chairman Pretz stated thank you to the taxpayers of Miami County.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.



George Pretz
George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:

Laura Epp

Laura Epp, County Clerk