

**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 June 11, 2025. Those present were:

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

Visitors: Andy Christenson, Dave Griffin

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 June 6, 2025
- Approval of AP payment vouchers
- Fireworks Application: 25009-TP Kracht: Property located at 32193 Mission Bellevue Rd.

Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Andy Christenson, 4855 W. 231st St., Bucyrus, KS, handed out a statement for the Commissioners to read and said the Clerk has a copy. Commissioner Scruggs mentioned he went out to the property, and it is a no-win situation. Commissioner Scruggs said he went to other roads to compare it and did not see much difference from the other people's roads that Miami County has paved. He feels the disconnect is in the expectations of when the road was paved in the first place. When looking at the other roads to compare, the roads are no better and no worse. Mr. Christenson said the road is going to fail and fail quicker. When he looks at the roads in the neighborhood, for example 239th, a different section has been done five times. The road from my ranch to Metcalf is a mess and he does not want that to happen. He wants assurances. Commissioner Vickrey said the road was chip and sealed in 2023. Commissioner Vaughan said the road is inside the normal maintenance program that we currently have.

NEW BUSINESS

Laura Epp, County Clerk, requested the Commissioners authorization and acceptance of the proposed quote #10309, to purchase 30 new polling pads and decline the option to sell back the currently owned and outdated 25 polling pads for elections to KnowInk as quoted. Ms. Epp stated This is a budgeted and approved expense for 2025 for elections. Polling pads help us ensure the transparency and accuracy of our elections for the public with efficiency at the polling locations. The polling pads allow for short lines, quick check-in of the voters, and accuracy to reassure voter confidence during the election process in the prevention of voter fraud when checking voters in. In regard to our election workers, the polling pads help streamline and guide them through the appropriate steps when checking in voters to verify the authenticity of the voter and not skip steps and make mistakes. For our office, the polling pads reduce staff time and improve accuracy to balance the election and provide voter credit. The KnowInk Poll Pads are Election Assistance Commission (EAC) certified electronic poll books (e-poll books) widely used in the United States to streamline the voter check-in process at polling places. Poll workers use KnowInk's Poll Pads to electronically verify voter eligibility and check in voters quickly and accurately. The current bid includes 30 new tablets and a buyback credit for the currently owned 25 outdated tablets. We are wanting to waive the

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buyback credit. Delivery on the equipment is an estimated 6 - 8 weeks, so we would have them in time for the General Election. Transitioning to the polling pads would be good for the workers. We have around 200 election workers that could be coming into train for the next election. The seasoned workers are trained and familiar with the tablets. The Commission asked what the life expectancy on the iPad was, to answer that the hardware lifespan on an iPad is 5-7 years. For the question of why it is time to replace the current iPad, the current pads are outdated, and the software no longer supports updates. The \$700.00 reduction seen for the 25 verses 30 is because we already own that license to the application for that user license. A lease option was provided by KnowInk as requested by the commission. It is a 3-year lease agreement, • Year 1: \$13,851.00 • Year 2: \$12,876.00 • Year 3: \$12,876.00 for a total of \$39,603.00. Given that the money has been budgeted and approved for this year, I am confident in the choice to proceed with the original quote to purchase equipment (polling pads, printers, and stands) outright. The iPad should last us 4-7 years. The new stands for the polling pads are a one-piece setup that will help prevent damage to the unit. The lease option would have us replacing every three years at a greater cost. If we purchase outright, we should get the 5- 7 years. I would like to proceed with this purchase as it was budgeted and approved for 2025. Chairman Pretz ask why are we opting out of the buyback program? Ms. Epp answered KnowInk is giving us \$5.00 per tablet. If we hold on to those, we have gotten a couple quotes from recycle companies for \$5.00- \$20.00 per tablet. We could open it up to the other departments internally and address it with our surplus program. Chairman Pretz asked how many iPads we have and how many are you buying. Ms. Epp answered 25 and buying 30. Commissioner Vickrey asked Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator/ Finance Director, how much we set aside, was it \$90,000.00? Mr. Mellinger answered he believed it was \$91,000.00. Ms. Epp said the \$91,000.00 was for the equipment budget. Not just for polling pads, but for equipment as deemed necessary by the office for the year. Mr. Mellinger stated he disagreed but can listen to the budget meeting with Janet White last year, he did not remember any extra equipment being listed. Commissioner Vaughan asked there would be \$55,000.00 - \$60,000.00 left in that fund and not having anything allocated to it. Commissioner Vaughan asked Ms. Epp if she would have any other equipment purchases? Ms. Epp answered she is four months into the job and does not know what will be coming at her, that she cannot answer that question at this time. I will have an answer for you on December 31, 2025. Commissioner Vaughan asked Mr. Mellinger if the money is not spent will the money be put back into the General Fund? Mr. Mellinger said either that or move it into the future need of election equipment that we know is coming in a year or two. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Sara Denney, Human Resources Director, requested the Board of County Commissioners approve the resolution closing non-emergency county offices on Monday, October 13, 2025, for annual Employee Development Training. Ms. Denney stated Miami County is dedicated to the continued development, education, and training of county employees to better serve the county and our citizens. In an effort to foster this development and education of employees, it is requested that the commission approve the closure of non-emergency county offices on Monday, October 13, 2025. The employee training committee continues to meet and works towards a finalized agenda, but the tentative agenda for the day is as follows: 8:00 am – 10:00 am: Department Training Departments will be responsible for identifying and implementing department-specific training for employees.

- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm: County Connect Training (Courthouse) Miami County is not run by one department. The County Connect training will focus on all the unique departments that make up the Miami County government and how they connect with one another to provide direct services to our citizens.
- 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm: Lunch (Paola Community Center)
- 12:45 pm - 3:30 pm: Customer Focused & Interdepartmental Communication Training (Paola Community Center) Miami County employees communicate on a daily basis with citizens and co-workers. The manner in which we communicate sets the groundwork for how these interactions are

received and perceived. Led by the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Government Training Institute (GTI), the afternoon session will focus on improving communication skills, providing de-escalation techniques, and recognizing generational differences and the roles they play in our communications.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous. (R25-06-017)

Frank Burrow, EMS Chief, requested the Commissioners to authorize the staff to sign a letter of commitment for Emergency Medical Service (EMS's) new 2026-unit purchase. Mr. Burrow stated they had a fleet of seven units, but with having two accidents it took us down to five units. We purchased a new unit last year. That unit has a different layout. Talking with finance, putting money together with American Rescue Plan Act's (ARPA), carryover, and adding to the 2026 budget we are looking at getting a unit from Life Line. The new unit would be delivered in the last quarter of 2027. Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator/Finance Director asked Mr. Burrow that Life Line Emergency Vehicles knows that we need to write at least the ARPA part of the check by the end of 2026 even if we have not seen the ambulance? Mr. Burrow answered yes. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, requested the Commissioners to approve the gate petition on Renner Road south of 375th Street to 1500 ft north of 381st Street. Mr. Sandberg said the landowners have issues with drivers coming down the road and tearing it up and throwing trash. The landowner will supply the gate and Miami County will have access as well as the other landowners will have access too. Commissioner Vickrey asked if the landowner will buy the gate and lock/ Mr. Sandberg answered yes. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Scruggs seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, requested the Commissioners to approve a resolution restricting public access to a portion of Renner Road south of 375th Street to 1500 ft north of 381st Street. Mr. Sandberg said with your approval of the resolution we will then publish the resolution in the paper. Road and Bridge will get with the landowner to put their gates up, we will put the signs up referencing the resolution and it will be all taken care of. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous.

APPLICATIONS

Laura Epp, County Clerk said if I can have each of you sign off on the certification of the Canvass of Votes from today on the USD 367 School Bond certifying today as of June 11, 2025.

STAFF COMMENTS

Frank Burrow, EMS Chief, stated the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is still tracking about 120 - 130 calls above last year. We will be researching some ventilators. Rebel was part of the company that got bought out by ZOLL Medical and ZOLL Medical did not buy the Rebel line. In trying to take our ventilators in for preventative maintenance no one is servicing them. The Rebel line is gone to the waste side. We will be researching ventilators, getting quotes, and talking with Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator/Finance Director, and then coming to you with what we find. Commissioner Vickrey asked about grants? Mr. Burrow answered other than submitting for the local grants and trying to find other grants, the grant we got previous was for communication type devices, we will see what we can find out.

Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director stated we had flooding last week. The water started to recede, we have started pulling the barricades, assessing the roads, and cleaning them off. There is a section of Osawatomie Road south of 7 Highway, between 7 Highway and 399th (about a third of the road) completely washed away. Once it dries up, we can reevaluate the road and start working on getting the road open. I

would like to come to the Commission with a plan to either restrict access and make that a minimum maintenance road again or continue to build it back up and re-rocking a section of road that is flood prone. We did have a water rescue. Commissioner Diediker asked if there was any way to put in crossroad culverts in the washed-out part of Osawatomie Road? Mr. Sandberg answered there are crossroad culverts there, they have been ripped out, twisted and mangled with all the water that is coming from the north of 7 Highway.

Shane Krull, County Administrator, mentioned an email Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, shared with him yesterday afternoon, June 10, 2025, since he could not be here today. Our recent surplus sale that included our Louisburg Fire Engine sold for \$79,200.00 which exceeded his expectations, diving equipment sold for \$2,970.00, and a fire hose sold for \$2,200.00, and a boat motor sold for \$1,100.00. The surplus items are sold.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Scruggs motioned to appoint John Kennedy as the Treasurer for Paola Township. Commissioner Pretz seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Vickrey said he has known John Kennedy for years. He is thankful for people like Mr. Kennedy that are willing to take on jobs like these that are just work and not a lot of appreciation.

Chairman Pretz thanked the taxpayers of Miami County so the Commission and the staff can continue this work every day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Vickrey moved to have a Personnel Exception Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel issues for 15 minutes beginning at 1:30 p.m. to include the Commissioners and County Administrator. Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous. No action was taken at this time. Chairman Pretz reconvened the regular meeting at 1:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



ATTEST:

Laura Epp
Laura Epp, County Clerk

George Pretz
George Pretz, Chairman