

**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 July 30, 2025. Those present were:

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

Visitors: Sara Cornett, David Waters. Hal Smith. Jeff Oliver, Bert Darling, Matt Kralk, Wyatt Hale, Gabe Dandar, Jennifer Cornett, Brian Cornett, Tim Anderson

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 July 30, 2025.
- Approval of AP payment vouchers and payroll

Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hal Smith, 22297 W. 375th Street, said he would like to talk about the 1880 Enterprises Quarry expansion. You have a letter of explanation of my protest petition. The concerns I have is environment impact, traffic, safety, impacts to existing infrastructure, and land rights. Mr. Smith said the Planning Commission ignored and disregarded the concerns and did not answer questions being asked and hoping the Commission does better.

Sara Cornett, 36990 Hedge Lane, said her property corners the quarry, and said her concern is on the hazardous road use by the overlarge, overweight trucks. She is also concerned about the signage on the road. She feels the signs on the north and south of the driveway need to be moved further south and north so people have more time to assess the situation. Another signage issue is the County is allowing the trucks to park on Hedge Lane north of the curve. There is a hill on the south side and people cannot see the trucks crossing the road to get to the right lane and feels there should be signage or blinking lights.

NEW BUSINESS

Sitting as the MIFD1 Board

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, requested that the Commissioners wave the bid process and proceed with the purchase of an air compressor for the Osawatomie Station. Mr. Whelan said the air compressor is due for replacement in 2027. This compressor will be replaced on a 50/50 basis with the City of Osawatomie. The city desires to make the purchase now due to the sale prices recently received by Miami County Fire District 1 (MIFD1) for the purchase of two air compressors. Specifications and pricing are the same as the compressor purchased for the Louisburg Fire Department. Full price for this compressor would be between \$85,000.00 and \$100,000.00. The cost to MIFD1 is \$28,073.27 and would come from the capital expense budget. The City of Osawatomie will pay the same amount for a total purchase price of \$56,146.54. The delivery time is six to eight weeks. Commissioner Vickrey asked Mr. Whelan if he will put the old compressors on Purple Wave? Mr. Whelan answered yes, as soon as the old compressors are out of service. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Scruggs seconded; the vote was unanimous.

End sitting as the MIFD1 Board

Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, requested the Commissioners approval to receive quotes for repairs to the 327th Street salt bunkers. Mr. Sandberg said the salt bunker at the Road and Bridge shop, located at 23765 W

327th Street, is around 25 years old and is in need of repairs, which includes a baric cover, new anchors, and other frame repairs. The department estimates the repairs to cost \$50,000.00. Commissioner Diediker moved to receive quotes for repair, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Matthew Oehlert, Road and Bridge Engineering Project Manager, requested the Commission to authorize the Commission Chair to execute the agreement for RFP 2025-11 with Farris Engineering in the amount of \$26,800.00. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the agreement with Farris Engineering, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous. **(A25-07-039)**

Matthew Oehlert, Road and Bridge Engineer Project Manager, requested the Commission authorize the Commission Chair to execute the agreement with Professional Environmental Engineers, Inc for the amount of \$7,715.00 for the ESA I & II (Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessment) at the Miami County, KS Courthouse. Mr. Oehlert said this is in reference to RFP 2025-12. This is the Environmental Site Assessment conducted on the Court House. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve the agreement, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous. **(A25-07-040)**

Sydney Ming, Assistant Finance Director, requested the Commissioners to authorize the County Administrator to sign and adopt the July 2025 revised Business Travel and Expense Policy. Ms. Ming said the purpose of the revision is to add clarification on the existing policy and to allow the meal allowances to meet current date pricing. Staff will look at the per diem and look at ways to add efficiencies to make sure all of our purchases are staying within our policies. Commissioner Vaughan asked to have a timeline put on evaluating the processes and system efficiency to the policy. Commissioner Vaughan asked if three months was enough time? Mr. Mellinger said yes, we will be out of budget season and will have time to put a plan together. Commissioner Pretz moved to have the County Administrator sign off on the Business Travel and Expense Policy, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous. **(A25-07-041)**

Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator/ Finance Director, requested the Commissioners approve the resolution appointing Dr. Atlaf Hossain, M.D. with Forensic Medical as the district coroner, and appointing Dr. Alan Martinez and Dr. Maneesha Pandey with Forensic Medical as deputy district coroners. Mr. Mellinger said Miami County, on behalf of the Sixth Judicial District, entered into a contract (A22-12-006) with Forensic Medical on December 21, 2022, to provide coroner and forensic pathology services for the district. K.S.A. 22a-226 requires that the county commission of the county with the largest population in a multiple-county jurisdiction district appoint a district coroner. The district coroner, with the approval of the county commission of the county with the largest population in a multiple-county jurisdiction district, may recommend the appointment of deputy coroners. The compensation and terms of the district coroner and deputy district coroner are defined in the Miami County Agreement (A22-12-006) with Forensic Medical. The terms of the district coroner and deputy district coroner will be effective through January 10, 2027. Commissioner Vaughan asked if the primary death investigation would be internal and go external for escalated needs? Mr. Mellinger answered that is the next action item, but yes, if they need more expertise then they would look outside. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous. **(R25-07-023)**

Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator/ Finance Director, requested the Commissioners to approve the resolution appointing those lieutenants and battalion chiefs of the Miami County Emergency Medical Services holding valid death investigator certifications to be appointed as special deputy coroners to perform the duties of death investigator. Mr. Mellinger said Miami County, on behalf of the Sixth Judicial District, entered into a contract (A22-12-006) with Forensic Medical on December 21, 2022, to provide coroner and forensic pathology services for the district. K.S.A. 22a-226 requires that the county commission of the county with the largest population in a multiple-county jurisdiction district appoint a district coroner. The district coroner, with the approval of the county commission of the county with the largest population in a multiple-county jurisdiction district, may recommend the appointment of deputy coroners and special deputy coroners. Pursuant to K.S.A. 22a-231, certain deaths require an investigation to be performed by the district coroner, or those appointees of the district coroner. The terms of special deputy coroner appointments will be effective through January 11, 2026. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous. **(R25-07-024)**

Kenneth Cook, Planning Director, requested the Commissioners to approve the Conditional Use Permit for 25001-CUP: 1880 Enterprises Block Quarry Expansion and sign the Resolution. Mr. Cook said after considering the staff's recommendation and the Golden Criteria, the Planning Commission voted (6-1) with Kitchen opposed, to recommend approval of the Conditional Use Permit based on the findings and subject to the Conditions listed in the staff report, as amended. David Waters, Spencer Fane Law Firm (Legal Council for 1880 Enterprises), spoke on the 1880 Enterprise CUP and asked that condition number three be revised or deleted. Commissioner Scruggs asked Hall Smith, a landowner near the quarry questions. Gabe Dandar, 1880 Enterprises and Clarkson Construction Employee, talked about the certificates and licenses the quarry has. Mr. Dandar talked and answered questions about the state requirements. Commissioner Vaughan asked Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, questions about the road. To hear more detail on the discussion please go to the following link and listen to the meeting. <https://miamicoks.portal.civicclerk.com/event/849/media>. Commissioner Vaughan moved to strike condition number 3 entirely and to modify condition number 18 as stated by Mr. Cook and approval of the resolution, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous. (R25-07-025)

Kenneth Cook, Planning Director, requested the Commissioners to approve the Conditional Use Permit for 25003-CUP: Zarco #66 Landfarm and sign the resolution. Mr. Cook said this CUP permit is for the operation of the Landfarm and is helping with the cleanup of contaminated soil from the gas station in Paola. Mr. Cook said after considering the staff's recommendation and the Golden Criteria, the Planning Commission voted (7-0), to recommend approval of the Conditional Use Permit based on the findings and subject to the Conditions listed in the staff report, as amended. Mr. Cook said the state anticipates it to take four to eight months to get the land cleaned up, flattened out to natural grade and ready to be used as Agriculture without any restrictions. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve as presented and sign the resolution, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous. (R25-07-026)

STAFF COMMENTS

Laura Epp, County Clerk, said "RNR notices have been sent over to Komtek the printer and they should be going out, residences should be expecting them next week."

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Pretz said the City/County Meeting is coming up August 12, 2025, in Louisburg at 9:00 am. There could be more than two commissioners present.

Chairman Pretz said the open house for the EMS station in Hillsdale has been set for September 27, 2025, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. There could be more than two commissioners present.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Laura Epp", is written over a horizontal line.

Laura Epp, County Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "George Pretz", is written over a horizontal line.

George Pretz, Chairman