

**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 September 10, 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	Darcy Wilson, Operation Support Specialist
W. Jene Vickrey, Commissioner	

Absent: Keith Diediker

Visitors: Bill Osborn, Rita Knop

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 September 3, 2025.
- Approval of AP payment vouchers and payroll
- Amended Special Event Permit for Rita Knop I Got Your Back, LLC
- Add-On: Action Agenda item number 4 – Submit application to Governor of Kansas for participation in Labor Workforce 3 with Leavenworth, Johnson, and Wyandotte Counties.

Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Matthew Oehlert, Road and Bridge Engineering Project Manager, requested that the Commission award and authorize the Commission Chair to execute a Survey and Design Services Agreement with Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc. for Project 21-13-SB (688) in the amount of \$41,442.00.

Mr. Oehlert reported that proposals were received from BG Consultants, Kaw Valley Engineering, Pfefferkorn Engineering, and Schwab-Eaton for the design of Bridge 21-D.1, located on 239th Street east of Indianapolis Road. The selection committee followed the County's Purchasing QBS Policy, which ranks proposals on quality and then considers price proposals. After proposals are scored, additional points were awarded based on pricing, with the lowest price receiving 10 points, the second-lowest 5 points, and the highest prices no additional points. Based on the combined quality and price scores, Kaw Valley Engineering received the highest ranking and was recommended for the award. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Vickrey seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. **(A25-09-052)**

Matthew Oehlert, Road and Bridge Engineering Project Manager, requested approval to award and authorize the Commission Chair to execute a Survey and Design Services Agreement with Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$59,996. Mr. Oehlert reported that proposals were received from BG Consultants and Kaw Valley Engineering for the design of Bridge 9-G.1, located on 335th Street east of Plum Creek Road. The selection committee followed the County's Purchasing QBS Policy, ranking proposals on quality before requesting price proposals. After prices were submitted, additional points were awarded: 10 points for the lowest price and 5 points for the second lowest. Based on the combined quality and price scores, Kaw Valley Engineering received the highest ranking and was recommended for the award. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Pretz seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous **(A25-09-053)**

Mark Whalen, Emergency Management Coordinator, requested approval of an agreement with Net Standard for the installation and maintenance of mobile data terminals (MDTs) in Fire District vehicles. Net Standard proposed a one-time setup fee of \$5,500 and a three-year maintenance agreement at \$1,500 per month. Mr. Whalen noted that he had discussed the possibility of combining the Fire and Sheriff's Departments under a single agreement. However, Undersheriff Kelly explained that if the total number of devices exceeds eighty-nine, the price would increase significantly. Maintaining separate agreements for the departments is therefore more cost-effective. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the agreement as presented. Commissioner Pretz seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. (A25-09-054)

County Administrator Shane Krull reported on recent conversations with Kansas Local Area Five, Workforce Partnership, and Workforce One regarding the potential consolidation of workforce services into Workforce One. Mr. Krull stated that if the county should choose to merge, a letter would need to be sent to Governor Kelly requesting approval to join Workforce partnership with Johnson, Wyandotte, and Leavenworth Counties. Commissioner Vickrey expressed concern and stated that he did not feel it was the right time to merge. Commissioner Scruggs agreed, noting a preference to stay with Southeast Kansas Works to maintain a focus on rural growth and manage the county's development independently from more urban counties. Commissioner Pretz concurred with both Commissioner Vickrey and Commissioner Scruggs. Commissioner Vaughan moved to forgo sending a request to Governor Kelly and to remain with new Kansas Workforce One. Commissioner Scruggs seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

STAFF COMMENTS

Matthew Oehlert, Road and Bridge Engineering Project Manager, updated the Commission on the KDOT cost share grant application. The original application was for an upgrade of Indianapolis Road to just north of 391st Street, essentially from county line to county line. Mr. Oehlert reported that Linn County has decided to do a road study versus the original intent to resurface the connecting road.

Mr. Oehlert asked the Commission whether they wish to proceed with the original application or consider other projects. Commissioner Pretz recommended staying with the original plan. Commissioner Vaughan inquired about the county's estimated portion of the project cost. Mr. Oehlert stated that while the grant requires a 15% local match, applications are scored more favorably with a higher local contribution, and he suggested a 20% county share with the remaining 80% funded through the grant.

Commissioner Vaughan asked about the application deadline and award timeline. Mr. Oehlert responded that applications are due September 18, 2025, with award announcements expected in January or February of 2026. Commissioner Vaughan concurred with Commissioner Pretz's recommendation to proceed with the original plan.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Scruggs noted that, as this was his first budget process, he has reflected on whether he made the right decisions. He referenced a recent article regarding the road maintenance program and stated that, after considering opposing viewpoints, he understands that an eighty-year-old resident may not be concerned with the long-term outlook of fifteen to twenty years but rather with immediate tax increases. He acknowledged that this is a valid concern and something he will take into consideration in future decisions.

Commissioner Vaughan informed the public that he will be listing his farm for sale on September 11, 2025. He stated that he is moving within the district and plans to run for another term as District 4 Commissioner.

Commissioner Pretz wanted to remind the Commission about the invitation to the Miami County Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner held at Isinglass Vineyard and Winery on September 19, 2025. He is still needing response from the commissioners. He stated that he will be attending and hoping to have additional Commissioners attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Vaughan moved to have Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel for 15 minutes beginning at 1:35 p.m. to include the Commissioners, County Administrator and Assistant County Administrator. Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous. No action was taken at this time. Chairman Pretz reconvened the regular meeting at 1:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.



ATTEST:

Laura Epp

Laura Epp, County Clerk

George Pretz
George Pretz, Chairman