

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 17, 2025. Those present were:

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

Absent: Keith Diediker, Commissioner

Visitors: Carol Williams

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 10, 2025
- Approval of AP payment vouchers

Commissioner Scruggs seconded; the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carol Williams, 28924 Chinkapin Lane, Paola, recognized Constitution Day and highlighted points about Article V of the U.S. Constitution. Ms. Williams mentioned she is a Constitution coach and teaches classes on the subject. Chairman Pretz asked if the classes are in Miami County and when and where the next class is? Ms. Williams answered yes, they are held in Miami County, but she does not have anyone interested at this time. She added that she can hold the class anywhere she has access to a projector. Commissioner Vickrey said he appreciates what she is doing.

ACTION AGENDA

Consideration of appointing Commissioner Tyler Vaughan to serve as Miami County's representative on the Chief Elected Officials Board for Local Area 1 - Kansas WorkforceONE, Inc. Shane Krull, County Administrator, reported that Kansas City Works will merge into Kansas WorkforceONE on October 1, 2025. Each county will be allowed a commissioner representative on the board. Mr. Krull recommended that the Commission also appoint an alternate. The first meeting is September 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Emporia, with the option to attend online or in person. Commissioner Pretz moved to appoint Commissioner Vaughan as the representative on the Chief Elected Officials Board for Local Area 1 - Kansas WorkforceONE, Inc and Commissioner Scruggs as the alternate, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was carried unanimously.

STAFF COMMENTS

Shane Krull, County Administrator, said he wanted to thank the Commissioners for their support for Employees Appreciation Week. He mentioned at the luncheon today we recognized the years of service for the employees in five-year increments. We have three employees that have been with the county for 30 plus years of service: Jamie Homrighausen, Register of Deeds, Brenda McCain, Sheriff Department, and Jimmy Dennis, Road and Bridge Department.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vaughan said there could be two or more commissioners present at the following events:

- Pancake feed at 7:00 a.m. on September 19, 2025, at the Sheriff's office.
- Emergency Medical Service (EMS) open house on September 27, 2025, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm in

Hillsdale.

- Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner at Isinglass Vineyard and Winery on September 19, 2025.
- Retirement luncheon for Debbie Oehlert on September 24, 2025, at 12:00 pm in the Administration Department.

Commissioner Vickrey said with the events that happened last week he felt it was worth mentioning that political discourse that gets heated to violence it is wrong in every way. "We need to come together, and build the country together, disagree, and come back remembering that we still have to live together and do what's right for ourselves."

Commissioner Scruggs said in reference to Carol Williams presentation, it is the basis of every decision we make.

Commissioner Pretz said thank you to the taxpayers of Miami County, our elected officials, and our excellent employees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Vaughan moved for an Executive Session to start at 1:20 p.m. for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel according to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1)(a) to include the Commissioners, County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, and County Counselor Alex Gilmore. Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was carried unanimously. Chairman Pretz reconvened the regular meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Commissioner Vaughan asked for an extension of the previous Executive Session for 10 more minutes. Commission Vaughan moved to have a Personnel Exception Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes beginning at 1:41 p.m. K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1)(a) to include the Commissioners, County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, and County Counselor Alex Gilmore. Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was carried unanimously. Chairman Pretz reconvened the regular meeting at 1:51 p.m.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to eliminate the Economic Development Director position effective immediately.

Commissioner Vaughan stated that there has been time through a lot of discussion inside Economic Development over the 7 years he has been here as to what this commission wants to do with Economic Development. He said I think taking this opportunity as a reset is a good idea and it gives us an opportunity to redefine how the commission wants to participate in Economic Development. A few examples were given by Commissioner Vaughan; 1. Hilldale EMS Station where land was purchased and have an opportunity out there, 2. Bucyrus Sewer going into Spring Hill and coordination with Spring Hill, and 3. Working with Osawatomie on their sewer projects are some examples of Commission lead Economic Development projects. Eliminating the position gives us an opportunity to streamline directly to the commission and gives us the opportunity to mold the department moving forward. We did ask the cities to participate in the last budget, but all cities denied doing that. This gives us the opportunity to use those funds and help motivate the cities to see that we have economic development funds to participate in projects.

Commissioner Vickrey said as far as budget goes, we are going to keep it in Miami County Economic Development. So hopefully the cities will recognize the opportunity for them to partner with us and work alongside Economic Development from their cities and gives us the ability to fund our part.

Commissioner Pretz said he has a lot of concerns. He understands the plans going forward that there are a lot of things going on that our present staff is doing concerning small loans. Commissioner Pretz emphasized he still has questions about this action as it will be a different direction. He feels if Miami County is going to have an Economic Development Department, then we should have at least one employee to handle the day-to-day activities.

Commissioner Scruggs said he thinks that the action like this holds the Commission accountable with

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Economic Development. It is what we were elected to do in a sense.
Commissioner Pretz said the Commissioners set the policy. It is our job to do the budget.
Commissioner Scruggs seconded; the vote was carried 3-1 nay (Pretz).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.




George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:


Laura Epp, County Clerk