

**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 October 8, 2025. Those present were:

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

Visitors: David Green, David Knudtson, Brock Elliott. Colin Holthaus, Craig Barnett, Jo Erin Stuteville, David Luke, Stephen Graue, Rick Elliott

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 October 1, 2025
- Approval of accounts payable payment vouchers and payroll
- 2512-LS Hunt Grant of Easement (A25-10-058)
- Remove Action Agenda Item # 2 Louisburg de-annexation.
- Action Agenda #2 will be Award Risk Management Services for Miami County's Workman's Compensation
- Add Action Agenda Item #3 Award Risk Management Services for Miami County's Property and Casualty Insurance

Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion passed, and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Green, 32070 Valley View Drive, Paola thanked the Commission for the apron on Valley View Road. He said it was done last week. He thanked the highway workers that did the work. He appreciates it.

ACTION AGENDA

Sitting as the Miami County Fire District #1 Fire Board

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, requested the Commissioners to sign the resolution to increase the volunteer firefighters' pay from \$35 to \$40. Mr. Whelan said the increase pay would be for Osawatomie, Fontana, and Louisburg volunteer firefighters for responding to calls, training, and maintenance duties. Based on the current contract with Paola their pay was increased the first of the year to \$40. The City of Osawatomie and the City of Louisburg have agreed to match the pay increase for calls within city limits. The last pay increase was in 2023. If approved the pay increase will go into effect January 1, 2026. The funds for the pay increase are in the budget. We are looking at a total increase of \$28,150.00. Commissioner Vickrey said we need to consider what we are saving. The volunteers are saving Miami County a tremendous amount of money. They do a fantastic job. Chairman Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the motion was passed, and the vote was unanimous. (R25-10-032)

End sitting as the Miami County Fire District #1 Fire Board

Sydney Ming, Assistant Finance Director, requested the Commission award Risk Management Services for Workman's Compensation 2025-12-RFP. Chairman Pretz said the Board of Commissioners went out for bids for workman's compensation and property and casualty insurance. The staff did an outstanding job and work getting the request for proposal (RFP) together communicating with individuals. Chairman Pretz appreciated the two companies that submitted bids for workman's compensation and property and casualty insurance.

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Commissioner Pretz stated that this was discussed in length during the study session and asked if there were any more questions before we have a motion. Commissioner Vickrey asked if the question in the study session about the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) was answered. Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator, said we would need to get a medical rider in addition to the policy. Chairman Pretz asked regardless of who bids it? Mr. Mellinger answered with the Elliot Group. Chairman Pretz asked we would not need to get a rider with KCAMP? Mr. Mellinger answered not to cover the basic medical. Commissioner Vaughan asked for the basic medical to be defined. Ms. Ming explained Currently as it stand the endorsement covers the EMT's health department workers, it would be the one that oversees the EMS that we would need to go out for the additional coverage that they require and clarified that would be for the property and casualty insurance not the workman's comp. Commissioner Diediker questioned if that covered the registered nurses. Ms. Ming stated they were covered with the regular endorsement, the only ones that would need to be covered would be the ones that oversee the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Health Department. There is no cost estimate currently. Commissioner Vaughan spoke about the financial aspect being about the same and expressed his opinions about going with an independent agent instead of an insurance pool company. With the Commission focus on Economic Development I feel if a local business has earned it, that we give our money to a local business that support employees that are our neighbors. Chairman Pretz added to Commissioner's comments by saying KWORCC is us, we are the owners as Commissioners it could not get any more local. He also felt like KWORCC was the cheapest bidder when the prices were read in the opening. Commissioner Scruggs said it comes down to service. The fact that Elliot Group is carrying policies on the four biggest municipalities, three school districts, water districts, and fire districts says something. Over the 20 years I have lived here I have heard nothing but good things about the Elliot Group. They have a local office here that employs 22 local employees who live here, shop here and pays taxes here. Commissioner Vickrey said he believes Miami County has fared well being outside the insurance pool with health insurance and believes this will work for the county for our benefit. Commissioner Diediker said he would like to go with the known factor. We have had good luck with KWORCC. They have come in with the cheapest price and they are covering things a little bit better without having to buy extra insurance. Commissioner Diediker moved to award the RFP for workman's compensation to KWORCC Commissioner Pretz seconded; the motion failed 2 to 3, two in favor and with Commissioner Vickrey, Commissioner Scruggs and Commissioner Vaughan opposing. Commissioner Vaughan moved to award the RFP to the Elliot Group with the revised RFP response with the .9 modifier, Commissioner Pretz asked if Commissioner Vaughan was going to clarify how that happened. Commissioner Vaughan responded with it has been clarified on video in work study. "It was released in early September, from my understanding, Elliott acknowledged it, adjusted it based on that, and made the modification." Commissioner Scruggs seconded; the motion carried 3 to 2; three in favor and Commission Diediker and Commissioner Pretz opposing.

Sydney Ming, Assistant Finance Director, requested the Commission award for Risk Management Services for Property and Casualty Insurance 2025-12-RFP. Ms. Ming said the property and casualty insurance was discussed in length in the study session. There were additions added two weeks ago when the Elliot Group came back in with the buy down on the deductibles. During your decision, the Commission will need to weigh that into the decision or if the Commission is going to go with the proposals submitted on September 12, 2025. Both were similar in price but there were vary difference within the policies. We will have to get additional policies for our medical staff and the bonding of our elected officials. Commissioner Vaughan asked if there was a price for the bonds for elected officials. Ms. Ming answered there is but at this time she did not know the price. She clarified that the bonds are statutorily set bonds, so we have to have those. Commissioner Vaughan echoed the comments during the workman's compensation and added if the Elliot Group is awarded the RFP, it should be with the flexibility to provide modifications as needed. Ms. Ming mentioned if the Commission goes with KCAMP as the provider they did provide different deductibles for the wind and hail. Commissioner Vaughan appreciated the work that KCAMP and Elliot Group did to

provide detail. None of us are experts and the details are pretty overwhelming to depict everything, and he is glad we have a lot of professionals to help us make those decisions. Chairman Pretz said he would lean toward KCAMP. KCAMP has great stability. Working with others in his tenure there could be a very sharp increase with rates and has not seen that with KCAMP. Commissioner Vaughan said all property and casualty insurance companies have taken a big hit over the last three or four years. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the risk management service to be awarded to the Elliot Group, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the motion carried 3 to 2, three in favor and Commissioner Diediker and Commissioner Pretz opposing.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mark Whelan, emergency Management Coordinator, gave a brief summary of a lightning strike on an oil tank battery fire in 24300rd block of Pleasant Valley yesterday at 7:42 am. With two oil tanks and brin tank were fully engulfed. Eight fire departments from four counties participated in putting it out. We used around 350 gallons of foam to put the fire out. we had the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for rehab for the firefighters, Road and Bridge and Everygy was on scene. We also had two support agencies Kansas Corporation Commission and National Weather Service-Pleasant Hill. All units departed just after 11:00 am. The owner estimated the damage to be \$100,000.00. No injuries were reported. We are going to attempt to get reimbursed for the trailer and 50 gallons of foam use through the insurance carrier to replenish our supplies.

Shane Krull, County Administrator, said Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, and I went to Pittsburgh yesterday October 7, 2025, and attended the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) region 4 local consult meeting. Mr. Krull gave a brief summary of the meeting.

Mr. Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator, announced Columbus Day, Monday October 13, 2025, is going to be training day. We are shutting down the offices. He gave a description of the training days schedule. I encourage the Commissioners to be there.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

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

- Employee Development Day on Monday, October 13, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Community Center, and the Court House.
- Annual Farm Bureau Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on October 16, 2025,
- City/County quarterly meeting in Spring Hill on October 21, 2025, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Commissioner Vickrey said he was thankful Metcalf is getting completed. They are in the middle of construction and should be done soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sitting as the Miami County Fire District #1 Board

Chairman Pretz moved to have a Personnel Exception Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel for 10 minutes beginning at 1:35 p.m. to include the Commissioners, County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, and Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator. Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion was carried, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Pretz reconvened the regular meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Commissioner Diediker moved to appoint Brandon Ream from Interim Fire Chief to full time Fire Chief at the Fontana Fire Station. Commissioner Scruggs seconded; the motion was carried, and the vote was unanimous.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.



ATTEST:

Laura Epp
Laura Epp, Clerk

George Pretz
George Pretz, Chairman