

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 November 19, 2025. Those present were:

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

Visitors: Wendy Miller, James B. Francis

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 November 12, 2025
- Approval of AP payment vouchers and payroll
- 25007-SUB: Broken Lance Ranch - Final Plat
- 25008-SUB: T&T Addition - Final Plat
- 25018-LS: Fraley Grant of Easement Agreement (A25-11-067)
- Add-on: making Action Agenda number 1A- Signing the resolution of Rural Water District Number 2
- Add-on: Action Item Number 7 – approve the reimbursement from the State of Kansas
- Add-on: Action Item number 8- Haystaq DNA redistricting consultation

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

ACTION AGENDA

Shane Krull, County Administrator gave a brief explanation for the public hearing.

Chairman Pretz opened the public hearing in the matter of order on application for specified land to Rural Water District No.2, Miami County, Kansas at 1:03 pm.

Chairman Pretz closed the public hearing at 1:03 pm and 30 seconds.

Chairman Pretz said he will look for a motion for the proposed resolution on application for specified land to Rural Water District No.2, Miami County, Kansas. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. (R25-11-039)

Resolution to Reschedule the December 24, 2025, Commission Meeting to December 22, 2025. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve signing the resolution, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. (R25-11-040)

Sitting as the Miami County Fire District #1 Board

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, requested the Commission authorize the Commission Chairperson to sign the agreement. Mr. Whelan said the consolidation of Johnson County (JOCO) Fire District (FD) 1 and 2 triggered a clause for a new agreement. The cost for the new five-year contract matches the previous agreement with Johnson County (JOCO) Fire District (FD). The clause on renegotiating the contract if the assessment evaluation of the call volume exceeded certain criteria was removed. There has been an additional five-year addition to the contract. The first five years is a increase of six percent per year and the second five years is an increase of five percent per year. Commissioner Vaughan said great work on all parts. We appreciate all your work, I know it is a long process, thank you. Commissioner Vickrey said we

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are thankful to have friends from Johnson County help us serve Miami County residents. Chairman Pretz said it has been a long, good relationship, we appreciate it. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. (A25-11-068)

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, requested the Commission authorize the Commission Chairperson to sign the agreement. Mr. Whelan asked which contract the Commission would like to go over first? The Northwest Territory or the Northeast Territory? Chairman Pretz answered Northwest and that involves our present contract with Wellsville, correct? Mr. Whelan answered correct.

Mr. Whelan said we have had issues with Wellsville responding to calls in a timely matter in the northwest part of the county. I recommend we execute an agreement with the new Consolidated Fire District #1 (CFD#1). This would cover everything from the south side of W 255th up to the county line from Hillsdale Lake to the Franklin County line. This agreement would provide an engine on fires and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) responses in the contract area. CFD#1 engines are normally staffed with a paramedic and can provide paramedic level care prior to the arrival of Miami County EMS or Franklin County EMS. Structure fires they would provide two engines and a tender. We would supplement rescue response with Miami County assets. They will handle all incidents other than structure fires by themselves. Miami County Fire Department #1 (MIFD#1) provides the Wellsville Fire District with a \$34,000.00 yearly payment. The new contract is \$55,000.00 per year. We get the benefit of a fulltime staffed fire station responding to calls. Response times will improve and citizens in the northwest part of the district will see a reduction in their fire insurance. There is 4 square miles between 255th and 263rd east of Indianapolis that would be covered by Paola. Osawatomie Station will cover the remaining area. Cutler Township in Rantoul is interested in maybe servicing the area. Chairman Pretz asked for run statistics from Cutler. In 2023 Cutler responded to three structure fires and two brush fires, in 2024 they responded to 5 structures, one vehicle and one grass fire. And this year they have responded to ten calls so far, the oil tank battery call a couple of weeks ago, one vehicle fire, six brush fires, and two EMS calls because Wellsville could not respond. It could reduce response times and provide better service to the residents in the northeast area. It could also reduce homeowners' insurance rates if they are within five miles of a responding station. Chairman Pretz asked if this was a five-year contract? Mr. Whelan answered yes, this is a five-year contract with an automatic five year extension. Chairman Pretz asked for the price on the first year. Mr. Whelan answered \$10,000.00 for calendar year 2026, and when it expires in 2030 it will be \$12,624.00.

Chairman Pretz asked for the first-year price on the Wellsville? Mr. Whelan answered the first year is \$55,000.00 and when it expires the end of 2030 it will be \$75,747.00. Commissioner Vaughan asked what Miami County currently pays to Wellsville Fire Department? Mr. Whelan answered \$34,000.00.

Commissioner Vaughan asked if this is approved, are we going to notify Wellsville Fire Department that the payments are going to stop? Mr. Whelan answered they have been notified with a registered letter of the intent to terminate the agreement. Consolidated Fire District #1 would take over February 1, 2026. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. (A25-11-069) (A25-11-070)

End sitting as the Miami County Fire District #1 Board

Mackenzie Owens, Administrative Assistant, recommends that the Commission motion to reevaluate the workers' compensation portion of 2025-13-RFP. Ms. Owens said the procurement office received a complaint that the Board did not follow the competitive bidding process, and they did not give the same opportunities to all respondents. The complaint states the Board violated section 5.3.f of our purchasing policy. After reviewing the complaint, during the study session on 9/24/2025, which was after the proposal opening on September 12, 2025, one of the respondents was able to submit a corrected proposal due to a revised experience modification number that the Board took into consideration. Procurement recommends that the Board motion to set aside the October 8, 2025, vote and reevaluate the original proposals during the study session on November 26, 2025. Due to the time constraints associated with insurance policy renewals, Procurement further requests that, following the reevaluation of the proposals opened on September 12,

2025, the Commission take immediate action, that afternoon if feasible, to award the RFP for workers' compensation. Commissioner Vaughan said we have heard from both parties, we would allow staff to give the overview, so there is not a need to hear from KWORCC's or Elliot next week. Commissioner Pretz moved to re-evaluate, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

Request the Board of County Commissioners approve the amendment to the employment agreement of Shane Krull for the services of County Administrator. Chairman Pretz said we have an employment agreement in place until the end of December 2026. Mr. Krull is requesting to extend that agreement by two months until February 28, 2027. Mr. Krull is considering retirement at that time. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. (A25-11-071)

Shane Krull, County Administrator, requested the Commissioners to sign the resolution establishing a new rate for the cost of maintenance of prisoners. Chairman Pretz said the state sets the amount and we need to have a resolution to accept the rate. Mr. Krull said the resolution mentioned in the study session says the increase is \$112.82 effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Commissioner Vaughan said as discussed in the study session it is the intent to increase the boarding fee back to the cities. Commissioner Vickrey said in the future when the state increases, we intend to increase. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve the new rate from the state. Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. (R25-11-041)

Consider a firm to do the County Commission redistricting. Shane Krull, County Administrator, said we received a proposal from Haystaq DNA to handle the redistricting. We determined we were out of compliance by more than ten percent between our smallest and largest commission districts. We are out of sequence with the release of census down to the precinct level. Haystaq can get started later this week and hope to be finished by the end of the year pending the Commission's approval. Commissioner Vickrey said there is a cost to having fair open elections, this is part of it, but it is the right thing to do. Commissioner Vaughan said he intends to vote no because I believe it is a state function, and they should pay for it. I would push it back to the state. That we are having to use a Washington DC firm to come out and do a state function that we are forced to do by the state. Chairman Pretz said it is just us trying to do it right and fair. Chairman Pretz moved to sign the contract for Haystaq to perform the County Commission redistricting to get the correct numbers; Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the motion was carried 4 to 1; four in favor and Commissioner Vaughan opposing.

APPLICATIONS

Laura Epp, County Clerk, request the Chairman to sign the Cereal Malt Beverage License for We B Smokin', Inc., 32580 Airport Road in Valley Township, Paola, KS. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

Laura Epp, County Clerk, request the Commission to approve the Cereal Malt beverage notice for Dollar General Store # 22007 on 25579 Old Kansas City Road in Marysville Township, Paola, KS. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Scruggs said the Spring Farm Tour will be here during the study session meeting December 3, 2025.

Commissioner Vaughan complimented the Clerk's Office and our Canvass Board, he was unable to join and thanked Shane Krull, County Administrator for filling in for him. He heard from one of the candidates that joined both our canvass and the Johnson County canvass. The candidate made a point to elaborate that ours was a lot more detailed and felt our Canvass was more focused and well done. It was good to hear that

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feedback from somebody, especially with the elections and how important they are. Thank you, Laura Epp County Clerk, for that.

Chairman Pretz said he echoed Commissioner Vaughan and gave appreciation to the volunteers and everyone working the polls, and our County Clerk's Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Pretz moved to have an Attorney-Client Exception Executive Session (K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(2)a) for 30 minutes beginning at 1:35 p.m. to include the Commissioners, County Counselor, County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, County Clerk, and the County Treasurer. The meeting will be held in the training room on the second floor suite 200. Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Pretz reconvened the regular meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Commissioner Pretz moved to have an Attorney-Client Exception Executive Session (K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(2)a) for 10 minutes beginning at 2:10 p.m. to include the Commissioners, County Counselor, County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, County Clerk, and the County Treasurer. The meeting will be held in the training room on the second floor suite 200. Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. No action was taken at this time. Chairman Pretz reconvened the regular meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Public Announcement

George Pretz, Chairman said "Linn County made an error that Miami County was recently made aware of this Linn County error. In a mill levy rate for Prairie View School District USD # 362. The mill levy is used to calculate a portion of the real estate and personal property taxes for Miami County residents that live within the Prairie View School District. The school board approved the correct levy rate on August 26, 2025. Since Linn County is the home county of the school district, the levy amount was forwarded to Linn County representatives. For further processing i.e., for the County Clerk, the Appraiser, and Treasurer. An incorrect mill levy was then inadvertently certified and forwarded to the Miami County Clerk's office to use in Miami County tax statements. Neither the Miami County Clerk nor the Treasurer were aware of the Linn County error when certifying levy's and preparing tax statements for Miami County residents in the Prairie View School District which were sent out on November 14, 2025, last Friday. The incorrect mill levy rate resulted in a tax amount being listed on the statements that was lower than the correct amount. This only effected tax statements sent to USD #362 Prairie View District residents in Miami County. At this time County officials are working on a plan of action to remedy this action taken."

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.




George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST: 
Laura Epp, County Clerk