

**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 December 17, 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	Cari Foster, Operation Support Specialist
W. Jene Vickrey, Commissioner	

Visitors: Rob Roberts, Scott Hoover, Brett Waggoner, Bill and Julie Hilton. Parker Staats, Ana Martens. John Hilton, Sara and Abigail Gamblin

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 December 3, 2025
- Approval of AP payment vouchers and payroll
- Add-on: Action Agenda Item number 8- consideration of approval of the Net Standard ID contract for the Courthouse.

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

ACTION AGENDA

Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, requested the Commissioners to Authorize Road & Bridge to purchase 11 800MHz radios for the motor graders from KA-COMM, INC. Mr. Sandberg said the Road and Bridge Department received three quotes for the 11 800MHZ radios. 1. MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS total \$36,920.40 2. KA-COMM, INC total \$15,889.03 3. HALOID SOLUTIONS total \$9,910.67. The Road and Bridge Department would recommend selecting KA-COMM, INC to purchase the new radios at a price of \$15,889.03. KA-COMM, INC quotes are for 11 new radios with all the hardware needed to install the radios and the programming of the radios. The radios from KA-COMM, INC also include a 3-year warranty. Commissioner Vickrey said it is worth the extra \$6,000.00 for new radios versus 15-year old radios. Commissioner Vickrey moved to go with KA-COMM, INC for \$15,889.03, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, requested the Commissioners to authorize the Road and Bridge Department to enter into an agreement with Bettis Asphalt and Construction, INC. to mill 1272 square yards of asphalt on Tontzville Rd. Bettis Asphalt will perform asphalt milling of the north-bound and south-bound lanes of the bridge approaches on the bridge located on Tontzville Rd. between Harmony Rd. and Lonestar Rd. These bridge approaches have been overlaid numerous times in the past and have created humps at the bridge approaches that can cause vehicles to launch when traversing between the roadway and the bridge. The Road and Bridge Department reached out to two other contractors to perform this work as well as other counties for assistance with this work. The other contractors did not have an interest in performing the milling work only, and the other counties either didn't have the equipment needed to perform the work or didn't have the crews available to assist in the work. Bettis Asphalt was the lone contractor willing to perform the milling work only. Bettis Asphalt and Construction, INC total is \$25,440.00. The money to fund this project will come from the 2025 left over funds to be spent in 2026. Commissioner Vaughan asked how did the bridge get to that? Mr. Sandberg answered doing overlays with no milling. It just built up over time and winter weather. Chairman Pretz asked what happens if you mill off four to five inches and the subsurface

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the charter resolution as presented, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion carried 4 to 1: four in favor and Commissioner Vickrey opposing. **(R25-12-048)**

Sara Denney, Human Resources Director, requested the Commissioners sign the resolution adopting the Miami County Position Classification & Pay Scale. Ms. Denney said the Miami County Position Classification & Pay Scale provides a standardization of pay for all county employees. The 2026 Miami County Position Classification & Pay Scale includes a 2.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) approved during the 2026 budget process. Another change is the addition of a lead dispatcher classification. The other 1.5% that was approved during the budget for increases will be applied in a merit increase for full time employees hired before July 1, 2025, with a satisfactory evaluation. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. **(R25-12-049)**

Sara Denney, Human Resources Director, requested the Commissioners sign the resolution amending the Miami County Organizational Chart. Ms. Denney said The Miami County Organizational Chart manages budgeted and approved positions and staffing within county departments and funds. The amendments, as dictated during the annual budget process, to the county organizational chart are as follows: • 0100-013: Elimination of one (1) full-time IT Director position, grade 13 • 0100-013: Addition of one (1) full-time IT Systems Administrator position, grade 11 • 0100-180: Elimination of one (1) full-time WIC Clerk position, grade 4 • 0100-260: Reclassification of one (1) 0.48 FTE part-time Operations Support Specialist to 1.0 FTE full-time Operations Support Specialist, grade 5 • 0100-271: Reclassification of four (4) Dispatcher positions, grade LEO 6, to four (4) Lead Dispatcher positions, grade LEO 7 • 0100-274: Addition of one (1) full-time Deputy Jailer position, grade LEO 6 • 0100-405: Elimination of one (1) full-time Economic Development Director position, grade 13 Amendments to the Miami County Organizational Chart shall take effect December 27, 2025. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. **(R25-12-050)**

Shane Krull, County Administrator, requested the Commissioners to approve the agreement with Net Standard and authorize Shane Krull to sign the agreement with Net Standard. Mr. Krull said Stephanie Gerken, District Court Clerk, and Kent Harding, County Attorney, came over and highlighted some of the recent connectivity and speed issues that they have had after the service provider upgrade. They found the cabling done during the renovation was in the mid 1990's. The proposal from Net Standard to re-cabling the facility that has 96 drops for \$33,682.80. Install, migrate and organize network cabling and fiber infrastructure to support upgraded cabling and switches and wireless systems for \$17,300.00, and network infrastructure upgrade for the court, including new switching, hardware, and long term support for \$5,772.00. All with category 6 cabling. Commissioner Scruggs said the only concern with doing this is there are a lot of issues with the courthouse that we have to address immediately. My major concern is allotting this money and having to redo it in a couple of years. After listening this morning, it is more of an immediate concern, the functionality of the courts, the data collecting, that is why I am voting for it. Commissioner Diediker said due to the fact we do not have a timeline, and they need this to get their court cases going now. Commissioner Vickrey asked Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator, if there is money in a fund to pay for this? Mr. Mellinger answered at the end of the year when the District Court and County Attorney come in with their budget, I am going to drain the rest of the budget to pay for this and any remaining amount we will take out of building reserves. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

APPLICATIONS

Laura Epp, County Clerk, requested the Chairman to sign the Cereal Malt Beverage License for NightHawk Vineyard and Winery LLC located 16381 W 343rd, Valley Township, Paola, Kansas. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was

unanimous.

Laura Epp, County Clerk, requested the Chairman to sign the Cereal Malt Beverage application notice to the township for Speedy Corner located 2550 Old KC Rd, Hillsdale, Kansas. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

STAFF COMMENTS

Laura Epp, County Clerk, announced all the letters for the School District 362 tax levy have been sent out. The taxpayers should have their notification if they were affected.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vaughan gave an update from the monthly Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) meeting. They approved the budget. revenues went down and expenses went up, they got everything in line. The restructuring of the Committees on the Transportation was done. Shane Krull, County Administrator and Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, are actively advocating to make sure we have a place in those Committees. I will continue to support that as well.

Commissioner Scruggs motioned to reappoint Rusty Gerken to the Planning Commission for a three-year term. Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Vickrey motioned to reappoint Topher Philgreen to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Commissioner Diedker seconded; the motion carried 4 to 1: four in favor and Commissioner Vaughan opposing.

Chairman Pretz announced we will have the County Commission meeting at 11:00 am on Monday, December 22, 2025, instead of Wednesday, December 24, 2025, Christmas Eve,

Chairman Pretz announced there will be a retirement party for Darryl White at the Road and Bridge Department December 29, 2025, at 1:00 pm. Two or more Commissioners may be present.

Chairman Pretz announced Miami County Community Development Department will have an appreciation party Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm located at El Potro, 602 N. Pearl Street, Paola, KS. Two or more Commissioners may be present.

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS AND PROCLAMATION

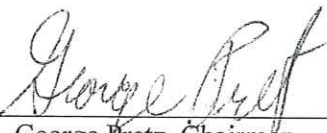
Proclamation for Matt Gamblin, EMS Deputy Chief, for his retirement with the county. Commissioner Pretz read the Proclamation. Mr. Gamblin gave a speech. The Commissioners, Shane Krull, County Administrator, Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator, Frank Burrow, EMS Chief, and others gave speeches. To hear the full speeches and comments please see the recorded video on our county's website.

<https://miamicoks.portal.civicclerk.com/event/869/media>

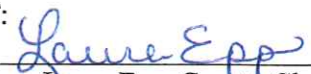
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.




George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:


Laura Epp, County Clerk

is not acceptable? Mr. Sandberg answered we will address that if we find that issue. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. (A25-12-074)

Kenny Cook, Planning Director, requested the Commissioners to sign the resolution for the fee schedule update for Planning and Zoning. Mr. Cook said he provided an updated copy of the fee schedule after the Study Session that removes the item in regard to appeals of site plan reviews that are held by the Planning Commission. The fee schedule is being proposed with the adoption of Short-Term Rentals and Bed & Breakfast Facilities. The fee for these items is proposed to be as follows: Initial Registration - \$100; and Annual Renewal \$50 to cover the county's costs. There are a couple minor changes that include the fee for the staff review for miscellaneous applications lowering it from \$500.00 to \$300.00. The other change is to change the notification fees from \$40.00 to \$50.00. Commissioner Vickrey said he feels the \$100.00 application fee and the \$50.00 renewal fee is a little high. \$50.00 for the initial application and no cost for the renewal is more appropriate. Also to follow up on the discussion earlier on putting a bed tax that is paid by out of county residents makes more sense than charging a prospective business owner. Chairman Pretz moved to approve the fee schedule as presented, Commissioner Vaughan seconded.

Commissioner Vickrey motioned to amend the original motion to change the initial application fee to \$50.00 and the renewal be no cost. Chairman Pretz said the amendment dies without a second.

Chairman Pretz stated the vote is for the original motion, the motion carried 4 to 1: four in favor and Commissioner Vickrey opposing. (R25-12-047)

Shane Krull, County Administrator, requested the Chairman to sign the Neighborhood Revitalization District Master Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Krull said the previous Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP) between the City of Paola and Miami County that we entered into a couple of months ago was sent to the Attorney General's Office for final review and was deemed not valid. They want all three parties in the same agreement instead of multiple agreements. There are no changes in the program, the change is from a legal standpoint. The 2004 agreement has since expired, and a new agreement must now be adopted. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the NRP Interlocal Agreement with the City of Paola, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. (A25-12-075)

Shane Krull, County Administrator, requested the Chairman to sign the Charter Resolution for Transient Guest Tax. Mr. Krull said to follow up on previous discussions on implementing a Transient Guest Tax for temporary lodging in the unincorporated area. We put together a resolution based on K.S.A. 19-101b that will require 2/3 of the County Commission to approve the charter resolution and it will require four out of the five commissioners to approve. If the Commission approves the resolution, the resolution will be published for two consecutive weeks. After a lapse of 61 days pending no petitions the charter resolution will become effective implementing a 6% bed tax on short term rental properties in the City of Fontana and the remaining unincorporated parts of Miami County. The funds collected are allowed, per statute, to be spent on Economic Development and tourism activities. The tax will start being collected April 1, 2026. Kansas Department of Revenue will collect on behalf of the county just like they do for sales tax. Commissioner Vaughan asked if we will need to renew every year or if it will automatically renew? Mr. Krull answered it will auto renew. Commissioner Vickrey said even though Louisburg, Paola, and Osawatomie currently have this tax. I still hate to see us tax potential growth in this area because we want people to come to Miami County and see what we have to offer here. I do not support adding this tax. Commissioner Vaughan said as a commission we have said the county needs to go in a different direction to how we gain revenue. These are people coming from outside the county, paying that revenue to us. I feel it is not an added tax to Miami County residents, it is a way to gain additional revenue tax that we will not have to put on property tax. Commissioner Diediker said he likes this tax for that reason. You pay that tax on everywhere else you go, so Miami County might as well collect on some of it to help offset property tax. Chairman Pretz said the revenue is limited to Economic Development and tourism. Commissioner Scruggs moved to sign and adopt