

**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 January 7, 2026. 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: Chris Tidd, Marjorie Reeder, Gabriel Alvarez, Darcy Domoney, Parker Staats, Dino Motta

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 31, 2025
- Approval of accounts payable payment vouchers

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

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS AND PROCLAMATION

Recognize the Q4 2025 Employee of the Month and Director of the Quarter recipients.

- October 2025 Employee of the Month: Janette Carl, Operations Support Assistant, County Clerk
- November 2025 Employee of the Month: Mackenzie Owens, Executive Assistant, Administration
- December 2025 Employee of the Month: Deana Howard, Operations Support Specialist, Road and Bridge Department
- Q4 2025 Director of the Quarter: Sara Denney, Human Resources Director, Human Resources

Full congratulatory remarks and presentations can be viewed in the recorded meeting video available on the county's website. <https://miamicoks.portal.civicclerk.com/event/872/media>

ACTION AGENDA

Sydney Ming, Interim Director of Finance Director, requested the Commissioners to sign the resolution to waive the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) requirements for fiscal year 2026. Ms. Ming stated that Miami County waive the GAAP every year. The resolution is something we must show the auditor as proof it was passed, which shows we are electing to use the Kansas Budgetary cash basis law of accounting instead of GAAP. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the resolution as presented, and Commissioner Diediker seconded; the vote was unanimous **(R26-01-002)**

Matt Oehlert, Road and Bridge Engineering Project Manager, requested the Commission authorize the Commission Chair to sign the Interlocal Agreement for the grant application for the 223rd Street Study. Mr. Oehlert said this agreement is between Spring Hill, Kansas and Miami County Kansas. Both Spring Hill and Miami County will be applying for grant money that will be used to evaluate improvements on 223rd Street, an eleven-mile stretch, from Columbia Road to 69 highway which will help support future growth and economic development. The engineering firm for Spring Hill is HDR Engineering, Inc. and their total cost is around \$50,000.00 which is a cost share of 50% each. Miami County portion is \$25,000.00. We will apply for a grant for the \$50,000.00 to HDR, Engineering, Inc. from the Kansas Infrastructure Hub. If awarded for the Build Grant it is an 80/20 match. We are estimating 1.5 million dollars for the entire eleven-mile stretch. The 20% match is \$300,000.00 which is a 50/50 match, so Miami County is looking at \$150,000.00. The Interlocal Agreement can be broken at any time if the Commission chooses. Commissioner Vaughan stated

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nice work, this is a project we have been wanting to do for a long time. Commissioner Vickrey stated this could be huge economic growth, thank you. Chairman Pretz asked if any side can get out of the agreement at any time and how much notice? Mr. Oehlert answered correct, and he does not believe there is a specified amount of time. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the vote was unanimous. **(A26-01-001)**

Kenneth Cook, Planning Director, requested the Commission to approve an amendment to the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) 25006-CUP: Alvarez Ranch Amendment of the existing Conditional Use Permit (15005-CUP) for the operation of an equestrian event arena in the Countryside District. Mr. Cook stated the request to amend the existing CUP for the operation of an equestrian event arena in the Countryside District. The amendments include the following: (1) extending hours of operation to 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and (2) events occurring up to twice per month on Saturday or Sunday; from April to November and (3) Use of lighting after dark with the approval of a photo metric plan if needed. The Planning Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend approval of the CUP. Darcy Domoney, applicant's attorney, stated we worked together with the Planning Commission to narrow the hours which is agreeable to the client. He also clarified the months the events can take place. Mr. Domoney asked Mr. Cook about the lighting, and that it is not mentioned on the resolution. Mr. Cook clarified that is part of a building permit for the lighting to verify it complies with our codes. Mr. Cook said the original approval had a review by the Planning commission every five years. With this approval that is updated to our normal policy of every ten years. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. **(R26-01-001)**

Kenneth Cook, Planning Director, requested the Commissioners to approve the 25007-CUP: AT&T Tower Paola East for a 195' tall communications tower, including an equipment shelter and attendant ground-based equipment compound located within a 100' by 100' leased compound area with a 20' access easement and sign the resolution. Mr. Cook stated the location is north of 311th St. and West of Hedge Ln, the cell tower was approved years ago at this location, but the applicant did not come in with a building permit, so the application expired. The applicant has come in with a building permit so now we are going through the process to get it approved. There were no complaints from the neighbors and the conditions that were approved match our conditions for communication towers. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve the CUP for the east tower for AT&T, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous. **(R26-01-003)**

Shane Krull, County Administrator, requested the Commission to sign the Notice to View Partition Fence. Mr. Krull said Brandon Heart contacted him on behalf of Timothy and Jolynn Locke at 27519 Pressonville Road regarding a partition fence. Mr. Heart has cattle on the Locke's property and the partition fence with the Paul's is in disrepair. An agreement for repair expenses has not been made so they are asking for a fence viewing. Mr. Krull said he was given two dates and opted for January 21, 2026, to give time to send the notice. Commissioner Vickrey asked if we would do this in the morning? Mr. Krull answered yes at 8:30 a.m. Commissioner Pretz moved to sign this notice with the addition of naming Shane Krull as the substitute for Chairman Pretz for the fence viewing in case one Commissioner could not make it you would still have four, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

STAFF COMMENTS

Shane Krull acknowledged Lucas Mellinger, Assistant County Administrator, for his service to Miami County. Today is Mr. Mellinger's last day. He is going to head up the Finance Department for the City of Olathe. He has been with us for four and a half years. I appreciate his contributions and growth in the position. To hear all of the congratulatory remarks the recorded meeting video is available on the county's website <https://miamicoks.portal.civicclerk.com/event/872/media>.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chairman Pretz announced the City/County meeting January 28, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Sheriff's Community Room. There will be two or more Commissioner's present.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.



ATTEST:

Laura Epp

Laura Epp, County Clerk

George Pretz
George Pretz, Chairman