

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 28, 2026. Those present were:

George Pretz, Chairman	Shane Krull, County Administrator
Tyler Vaughan, Pro-Tem	Stacey Weaver, Deputy Clerk
Keith Diediker, Commissioner	Cari Foster, Operation Support Specialist
Paul Scruggs, Commissioner	

Absent: Commissioner W. Jene Vickrey

Visitors: Ellen Wernicke

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pretz called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- Approval of minutes of the County Commission Meeting on January 21, 2026.
- Approval of accounts payable payment vouchers and payroll

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

ACTION AGENDA

Sandra Lucas, County Appraiser, requested the Commissioners to authorize the purchase of computers for the Appraisal/Reappraisal Department. Ms. Lucas said it has become necessary for the Appraisal/Reappraisal Department to replace our 2020 and older computers. We have been trying to extend the lifespan of our computers through repairs, but several are now officially obsolete and cannot run the current operating system. We are looking to purchase 12 laptop docking computers that will allow us to be mobile when needed. This purchase was budgeted and approved for the year 2026 at \$22,500, but prices have increased. We would like to order the computers before another forecasted price increase on February 1, 2026. The total is \$32,299.20. Commissioner Vaughan confirmed the budget was \$22,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Sydney Ming, Interim Director of Finance, answered yes, we have been putting money into the county wide tech fund in anticipation that computers were going to need to be replaced. Commissioner Vaughan asked what the life span of the computers are? Casey Brown, Information Technology, answered five to six years. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve the appraiser to purchase twelve laptops and docking stations. Commissioner Scruggs seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, mentioned a Miami County employee from the Health Department had a house fire this morning. Redcross has been notified to help out with immediate needs. There was very dark brown smoke coming out of the second floor windows under pressure and there was a flashover when the firefighters were on the stairwell. It took one hour to get the fire under control. The house was a total loss. The house fire was located on 335th about half a mile east of Summerset.

Chairman Pretz said we had a house fire in Osawatimie over the weekend. Mr. Whelan confirmed that information was correct, it was the Administrative Assistant for Osawatimie Fire District's house.

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, introduced Ellen Wernicke, Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Liaison. Ms. Wernicke said she is representing the 911 State Board Executive Director, Sherry Massey and talked about the State of Kansas 911 Hosted Solution (phone system). To hear the presentation and questions please see the video on the Miami County's website.

<https://miamicoks.portal.civicclerk.com/event/875/media>.

Frank Kelly, Sheriff, mentioned the water damage to the building that happened the other day in the Sheriff's Building. He said they are looking for guidance with the building settling and the doors settling in the jail that needs to be looked at. He talked about having a local company come out and do an analysis or look at our facility. He thinks it is a good idea to set up a maintenance plan with a local vendor to come out once a year to do a maintenance check.

Chairman Pretz asked Frank Kelly, Sheriff if he had news on grants. Mr. Kelly said yes, he does, Senator Moran called and told us we have \$547,000.00 for equipment and training. Chairman Pretz asked how specific the grant was to be allocated? Could it be used on doors? Mr. Kelly said no. He will have the Undersheriff talk to you about the grant money. Matt Kelly, Undersheriff, spoke about how the grant money was to be used.

Shane Krull, County Administrator, mentioned the water main break in front of the Administration Building on Pearl Street yesterday, January 27, 2026. He thanked the City of Paola for getting that repaired in half a day. We had no water get into our basement. The Courthouse did go without water while they fixed the water line. He was thankful the weather was warm enough the water did not freeze. Chairman Pretz thanked the City of Paola.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vaughan thanked the Chairman for organizing the City/County meeting. He appreciated getting everyone together. It was a successful meeting. Chairman Pretz said it was a smaller meeting, maybe we can pick a different date next year. We had good conversations with the Cities and the County.

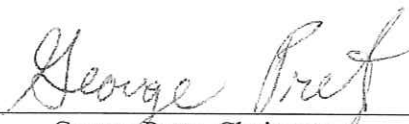
Commissioner Scruggs said he thought the meeting was encouraging. He liked to hear what Paola is doing with the square, being proactive and to hear about Spring Hill and how they are managing the growth.

Chairman Pretz said he attended the Miami County Soil Conservation Meeting last Wednesday night, January 21, 2026. There was a good crowd, and it looks like they are functioning properly. They were looking for a Secretary Coordinator. The person who is doing the Secretary Coordinator position in Linn County was hired part-time to fill that position.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.




George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:


Laura Epp, County Clerk