

**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 February 18, 2026. Those present were:

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

Visitors: Card Crabb, Fletcher Hart, Deborah Eble, Wayne Cutting, Dino and Robin Motta, Alaric Boyle, Patty Jensen, Len Jensen, Jeff Oliver, Derek Henness, William Osborn, Kathleen McElhiney, Frank Henderson, Nelson Worley, Aimee Evans, Elizabeth Grosskreutz, Brian Love, Amber Coffelt, Robert Chavez, Kristie Chavez, Courtney Crawford, Shay Hanyasak

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 February 11, 2026
- Approval of accounts payable payment vouchers
- GOE 2026-002-LS: Jake & Angela Blann (A26-02-005)
- GOE 2026-005-LS: Noah, Cody, Kade & Kathryn Larson (A26-02-006)
- Order of Correction of Irregularities

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals addressed the Board regarding the proposed data center project under consideration by the City of Osawatomie: Len Jensen, 34225 Lookout Road, Osawatomie, Elizabeth Grosskreutz, 401 9th Street, Osawatomie, Nelson Worley, 29322 W. 335th Street, Osawatomie, Aimee Evens, 201 N. 11th Street, Louisburg, Deborah Eble, 3318 Osawatomie Road, Osawatomie, Amber Coffelt, 834 Pacific Ave, Osawatomie, Alaric Boyle, 80820 Laurel Dr, Paola, Kathleen McElhiney, 29209 Lone Star Road, Osawatomie, Dino Motta, 17905 W. 319th Street, Paola, Brian Love, 27242 W 335th Street, Osawatomie. Speakers expressed concerns related to the potential impacts of the proposed data center development, meeting video and audio of full public comments is available on Miami County's website <https://miamicoks.portal.civicclerk.com/event/878/media>.

Courtney Crawford, 30842 Indianapolis Road, Paola, addressed the Board regarding Senate Bill 146. She stated that the bill would extend the return of certain land to the City of Osawatomie for an additional twenty years. Ms. Crawford encouraged the Board to contact the House Local Government Committee to request amendments to restrict data centers, solar facilities, and wind development. It was stated that as Commissioners that is what they can do for their citizens.

ACTION AGENDA

Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, requested the Commission to appoint Pat Campbell as the Noxious Weed Supervisor. Chairman Pretz moved to appoint Pat Campbell as the Noxious Weed Supervisor, Commissioner Vaughan seconded. Shay Hanyasak, representing Lake Region Solid Waste Authority, requested Mr. Campbell also be appointed as an alternate to the Lake Region Solid Waste Authority. Mr. Sandberg stated the appointment can be made at a later date. Chairman Pretz amended his motion to also appoint Pat Campbell as an alternate to the Lake Region Solid Waste Authority, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

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Pat Campbell, Noxious Weed Supervisor, requested approval of signatures on the Annual Noxious Weed Management Plan and Weed Eradication Report. Mr. Campbell said the report is submitted to the State. The report details the number of acres treated, chemicals sold, weeds treated, and chemicals used. Chairman Pretz asked Mr. Campbell any new plans or proposed changes in his first year. Mr. Campbell stated no changes were planned for 2026, but that he anticipated implementing improvements in the fall. Commissioner Vickrey noted that an early spring may require earlier treatment. Campbell was in agreement that this year could require earlier application. Campbell indicated he plans to increase in-house spraying efforts. Commissioner Diediker inquired about continuation of the 50 percent rotational spraying program in the northern portion of the county using Tordon. Mr. Campbell responded he is going to hit the hot spots. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

Matthew Oehlert, Road and Bridge Engineering Project Manager, requested authorization for the Commission Chair to sign the Letter of Commitment for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant. Mr. Oehlert said this letter is for a planning and project grant for 223rd Street from Columbia Road east to U.S. Highway 69. This letter recognizes the interlocal agreement already executed between Miami County and City of Spring Hill for up to \$150,00.00 for the 80/20 grant application. Miami County's share would be ten percent and City of Spring Hill contributing 10 percent. From this morning's discussion I believe the funds will be coming from the Economic Development Fund. Commissioner Vaughan expressed appreciation for Mr. Oehlert, his team, and the City of Spring Hill for their coordination efforts. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

APPLICATIONS

Laura Epp, County Clerk, reported that we are waiting for one more entity that has not yet submitted their completed inventory documentation. As a result, consideration of the inventory will be postponed for one week.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vickrey said to everyone who came to the meeting and spoke today that the Commission is listening to citizens' concerns. It is concerning when the business type energy usage is going to be one of our neighbors. I do not know if the Commission has the power to veto something a City has decided to do.

Commissioner Scruggs stated he is against it. Tell me the potential but also tell me the downside to everything. read a letter from a constituent who could not be at the meeting today that sums up everything. To answer a question about water usage, Scruggs contacted Water District #2 which is combined with Water District #1 and asked how much water goes out of Water District #2. I was told Water District #2 produces one billion gallons of water per year with half a million gallons going to Miami County. This data center uses one million gallons of water per day, which is 73 percent of the total water usage.

Commissioner Diediker agreed with the citizens. The research I have done since I was aware of it on Monday, with the water usage and not knowing the effluents coming out of the data center, he does think this is a good fit for Miami County or the City of Osawatimie. I would be a proponent of putting a moratorium on the data center for the county for a couple of years, so we have a better chance to see the pros and cons to make a better decision without it being rushed.

Commissioner Vaughan said last week was the best week he has had in Miami County. He has been able to sit down with citizens in Hillsdale and address their concerns, be able to talk face to face, and was able to talk about the process. He asked for the communities' respect and decor to understand what our responsibility is, what actions we as commissioners can take, and advocate for that. For eight years I have advocated local control. Local control means you trust the people, at least 51 percent of the voting population

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put us up here to represent them.

Chairman Pretz thanked everyone who came to the meeting. There are pros and cons, but The City of Osawatomie is a separate government entity from Miami County. I understand the City and County meet at this line, and it affects some of the citizens that are close to city limits. City of Osawatomie elected the City Council. The City Council voted to have the data center. As a County we need to be thinking of the unincorporated areas of the County.

Chairman Pretz motioned to do a moratorium on data centers, solar facilities, wind facilities, and battery storage plants in Miami County for two years and directed the County Administrator and Legal Counsel to draft a resolution to be signed next week, at the latest two weeks. Commissioner Vickrey said he will vote for the motion but understands the City of Osawatomie wants to grow their economy. Chairman Pretz said that is Osawatomie's business. The Commissioners have stressed the real economic developments are in the towns where the electric, water, and sewer utilities are. Mr. Krull said, including solar, he believes the County already has a moratorium in place for two-three years and they cannot go indefinite. It would be best to have the County Counselor look into that further and to have him attend the meeting the first Wednesday in March to present the resolution and his findings. Commissioner Diediker seconded; motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

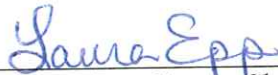
ADJOURNMENT

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




George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:


Laura Epp, County Clerk