

**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 March 25, 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: Mark Shay

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 March 18, 2026
- Approval of accounts payable payment vouchers and payroll

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

ACTION AGENDA

Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, requested approval to purchase a 2025 Komatsu WA270-8 wheel loader for \$199,205.00 with an optional fork attachment for \$6,658.43, for a total of \$205,863.43 utilizing the Sourcewell contract with Komatsu America (011723-KOM) from Road Builders Machinery and Supplies Co. Mr. Sandberg stated the current loader is rusted through in places. He noted the department previously received approval to replace three pieces of equipment. Remaining items scheduled for replacement this year include a dump truck, a CAT motor grader, this loader, and a tractor. If this loader is approved, approximately \$260,000.00 will remain in the 2026 budget, which could replace a motor loader or defer that purchase to the 2027 budget. Commissioner Scruggs clarified the equipment on the handout given to them is what is being requested today and has been already purchased. Mr. Sandberg stated the loader is what is being requested today, and the other equipment is what has already been approved for purchase for 2026. Commissioner Diediker asked how the used dump truck was doing. Mr. Sandberg responded, "it is doing good; it is in full -time use." There have been some minor issues that were expected with general maintenance. Three Sourcewell government contract pricing quotes were obtained for new wheel loaders, along with three used wheel loader options. The used loaders from all three suppliers were more expensive than the new options. Road Builders Machinery provided the lowest quote for the 2025 Komatsu WA270-8. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve the purchase of a 2025 Komatsu WA270-8 wheel loader with the optional fork attachment for a total cost of \$205,863.43 utilizing the Sourcewell contract, Commissioner Scruggs seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, requested approval to authorize staff to solicit quotes for removable chemical application equipment. Mr. Sandberg stated staff currently utilizes a 2008 Suzuki truck, which is in need of replacement. Staff proposes replacing the vehicle with a 200- to 300-gallon tank with pump and spray equipment to be installed on an already-owned truck to accomplish right-of-way spraying on noxious weeds. Commissioner Diediker stated he appreciates Miami County's Road and Bridge Director producing a plan to utilize existing equipment instead of having to buy another vehicle. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve authorization of staff to solicit quotes for removable chemical application equipment as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, and the vote was unanimous.

Matthew Oehlert, Road and Bridge Engineering Project Manager, requested the authorization for the Commission Chair to sign the Notice of Award for G-B Construction, LLC. Project No. AV- 2026-33. Mr. Oehlert stated Miami County had four bidders G-B Construction, LLC, McGowan Associates Inc., Superior Bowen, and Bettis Asphalt and Construction. Inc. G-B Construction, LLC was the lowest bidder at \$649,811.00. The engineer's estimate of probable cost was \$730,561.50. The apparent total cost for construction and civil engineer (CE), which is not final yet, is at \$816,111.00. That is \$33,040.25 under the estimate from the grant application. Kansas Department of Transportation's (KDOT) share would be \$734,499.00 (90%), and Miami County's share would be \$81,612.00 (10%). The project is for rehabilitation of the west taxi lane and hangar ramps at the Miami County Airport. Chairman Pretz moved to authorize the Commission Chair to sign the Notice of Award for G-B Construction, LLC, Project No. AV-2026-33, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the motion carried and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to table the Comprehensive Plan Resolution for one week to allow additional time for department information and Commission review of the Comprehensive Plan, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; the motion carried and the vote was unanimous.

Sitting as the Fire District #1 Board

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, requested approval for emergency replacement of the slide-in unit for Louisburg Fire. Mr. Whelan stated we had a critical failure of the slide-in unit on brush 636 on Sunday at a large haybale fire. The plumbing on the booster reel failed and we are not able to repair the booster reel without replacing the whole unit. The estimated cost is \$2,500.00 plus \$1,000.00 in labor. The manifold is rusting out and needs to be replaced. Due to the age of the slide in unit Mr. Whelan believes it will be beneficial to replace the whole unit. Three quotes were obtained and the lowest quote was from Feld Fire for \$18,998.00, including shipping, with an estimated ten week delivery time. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve the emergency replacement of a slide-in unit from Feld Fire in the amount of \$18,998.00, Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried and the vote was unanimous.

End Sitting as the Fire District #1 Board

STAFF COMMENTS

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, provided a report on fire service calls for Fire District #1 and Fire District #2 from March 20, 2026, through March 22, 2026. The full report is available in the recorded meeting video on the county's website. <https://miamicoks.portal.civicclerk.com/event/883/media>.

Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director spoke on behalf of Noxious Weed Department regarding concerns about recent changes to the chemical voucher program. The change was using one single unit measure. He noted that, pursuant to state requirements, rebate tickets must be obtained prior to receiving chemicals. The Commission must set the prices of the chemicals used as well as the budget for the cost shared program. Noxious Weeds will bring information to the Board next week so the Commission can pick what chemicals are used for the cost share and to have the Commission see what the cost share price looks like so the max price range can be set for what we had for cost share chemicals this year. Chairman Pretz stated we cannot pick what weeds we are going to fight. Mr. Sandberg stated there are multiple chemicals that do different things. We can limit what chemicals we want to choose. Some of the chemicals are very expensive and some are not. Taxpayer funds are being used to give a break on the prices; we can pick the most cost-effective chemicals that will do the job and save money.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vaughan mentioned he visited with representatives of Eliabeth Layton Center (ELC) and Dr. Bjork and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about the services provided by their organization.

Commissioner Scruggs stated that during his fifteen months in office he has worked to balance wants versus

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needs when making voting decisions. He expressed appreciation for the discussion regarding departmental budgeting. He acknowledged Commissioner Vaughan for some great questions during the study session and he appreciates Road and Bridge Department's efforts to operate within its budget.

Commissioner Vickrey stated his son made an appointment to get his drivers license renewed and was in and out in fifteen minutes. It is nice to see something doing good and complimented the department for being efficient.

Chairman Pretz announced there could be two or more commissioners present at the following events:

- The City/County meeting Osawatomie is hosting on March 31, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at 545 Main, Osawatomie.
- The Kansas County Commission Association Meeting is at the Hilton Garden Inn in Hutchinson, Kansas on April 22, 2026, through April 24, 2026.

Chairman Pretz said we had a good discussion today on the budget. It is almost time to start on the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

(Seal)



George Pretz
George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:

Laura Epp
Laura Epp, County Clerk