

**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 May 20, 2026. Those present were:

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

Visitors: Jeff Axmann, Clayton Richardson, Bill Wren, David Young, Marcia Young, Alan Lehman, Bryan Ruoff

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pretz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of minutes of the County Commission Meeting on May 13, 2026
- Approval of accounts payable payment vouchers and payroll
- Letter of support for City of Spring Hill Grant Application

Commissioner Diediker seconded; the motion carried, vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

ACTION AGENDA

Matthew Oehlert, Road and Bridge Engineering Project Manager, requested Commission to authorize the Commission Chair to execute the agreement with Superior Bowen Asphalt Company, LLC for the construction of the 2026 Asphalt Corrective Maintenance Program project number 26-01-CO (670) in the amount of \$4,156,403.69. Mr. Oehlert stated the locations are as follows for the base bid: 287th Street from Pressonville Road east to Hedge Lane and Pressonville Road north to K68 Highway, on Osawatomie Road from 287th north to K68 Highway, on Hedge Lane from 287th north to K68 highway. There are two alternates included. Alternate one located on Lonestar from 303rd north to 287th Street and alternate two located on Harmony Road north of 255th to Tontzville Road ending at Lonestar Road. This project is a two-inch mill and overlay. Work is expected to begin between May 27, 2026, and July 27, 2026, and last for 120 working days. Commissioner Diediker motioned to approve as presented, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed. (A26-05-028)

Matthew Oehlert, Road and Bridge Engineering Project Manager, requested the Commission to authorize the Commission Chair to execute the agreement with Superior Bowen Asphalt Company, LLC for the construction of the 287th Street Reconstruction Project number 21-08-ST (683), \$766,590.84. Mr. Oehlert stated the location is 287th Street and Osawatomie Road. This project will be closed to traffic. Work is expected to begin between May 27, 2026, and July 27, 2026, and last for 90 calendar days. Commissioner Pretz motioned to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed. (A26-05-029)

Shane Krull, County Administrator, requested the Commission sign the resolution appointing Special Deputy Coroners. Mr. Krull stated each year we adopt a resolution that gives Miami County additional compensation or allows Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff that hold certifications to conduct the death scene investigations. Miami County Board of County Commissioners are required to appoint a District Coroner. The District Coroner may then appoint one or more Special Deputy Coroners with the approval of the Commissioners. Miami County appoints lieutenants and battalion chiefs of the Miami County Emergency Medical Services who hold valid certifications for death investigations as Special Deputy Coroners of the

May 20, 2026
Page 2

Sixth Judicial District. These Special Deputy Coroners are paid \$2,600.00 per year in 26 bi-weekly installments. The Lead Death Investigator is paid \$3,2050 per year in 26 bi-weekly installments. Commissioner Vaughan motioned to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed. (R26-05-023)

Kenneth Cook, Planning Director, presented the 2026-001-CUP: New Observatory (ASKC) for reconsideration. Mr. Cook gave an overview of the Conditional Use Permit for the new observatory. Chairman Pretz stated it follows the golden criteria and is agreeable with the findings of the Planning Commission. Commissioner Vickrey stated he went door to door where the observatory currently is and there were more comments about the ball fields than there were on the observatory. They are active with Boy Scouts, youth and clubs. Commissioner Scruggs motioned to approve conditional use permit 2026-001-CUP for the construction and operation of an observatory as proposed by the Astronomical Society of Kansas City (ASKC) based upon the findings and conditions recommended by the Planning Commission. Including that the proposal is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the County's desire to encourage attraction and retention of unique entertainment and recreational destinations throughout the county. The County's Zoning Regulations and the proposed conditions appear to adequately mitigate negative impacts that maybe associated with the application, Chairman Pretz clarified Commissioner Scruggs motion that it included to approve the proposed resolution. Commissioner Scruggs answered yes, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; a roll vote was taken. Commissioner Vickrey - yes, Commissioner Scruggs - yes, Chairman Pretz - yes, Commissioner Vaughan - yes, Commissioner Diediker - nay, 4 in favor; 1 opposed (Commissioner Diediker), the motion passed. (R26-05-024)

STAFF COMMENTS

County Clerk, Laura Epp, noted the Clerk's Office received official notice from the Secretary of Kansas regarding political parties. No Labels Kansas is no longer recognized as a political party in the State of Kansas. As required, the Clerk's office has updated the voter registration forms with these changes. Voters previously affiliated with No Labels Kansas have been updated to unaffiliated and a notice of disposition card will be mailed to those voters in accordance with State Law. This update will not affect their voter eligibility or active voter registration status. If there are questions, a voter can contact the Miami County Clerk and Election's Office or the Secretary of State's Office.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vickrey spoke about the potential data center location near Edgerton.

Commissioner Scruggs reiterated concerns about the runoff into Bull Creek that runs into Hillsdale Lake.

Chairman Pretz stated this Commission has been in budget meetings Monday, May 18, 2026, and Tuesday, May 19, 2026. Additional budget meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 9:00 am before and after the 1:00 p.m. meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.




George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:


Laura Epp, County Clerk