

**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 June 17, 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: Sandra Schultz, Jennifer Harp, Loralie Tangen

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 June 10, 2026
- Approval of accounts payable payment vouchers and payroll
- 2026-003-SUB; Schultz-Jones Subdivision - Plat
- Letter of Support for Spring Hill's application for MARC Planning Sustainable Places funding

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Harp, 33301 Osawatomie Road, Osawatomie, commended the Commissioners for establishing a moratorium on data centers for Miami County and talked about data centers.

ACTION AGENDA

Matthew Oehlert, Road and Bridge Engineering Project Manager, requested the Commission to authorize the Chairman sign the agreement with Kaw Valley Engineering, Inc. for project 26-02-SB (706) in the amount of \$38,880.00. Mr. Oehlert stated this project is a replacement for a failed culvert east of Oxford Road awarded the prior week to perform geotechnical surveying and design services necessary for replacement of this structure. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed. (A26-06-030)

Eric Sandburg, Road and Bridge Director, requested the Commissioners approval to purchase the slide-in spray unit from Sprayer Specialties for \$23,654.57, line-item Road & Bridge equipment. Mr. Sandburg stated this slide-in unit is for the Noxious Weed Department to replace an old mini-truck spray unit. Quotes received: Fairbank Equipment - \$26,827.05 and Sprayer Specialties - \$23,654.57. Commissioner Vickrey asked if the vendor was close to Miami County? Locations are in Olathe and Gardner. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve the purchase from Sprayer Specialties, Commissioner Diediker seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

Sitting as the Fire Board#1 at 1:06 p.m.

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, recommended entering into a three-year agreement with FireCatt for annual fire hose testing to meet NFPA and ISO requirements. Mr. Whelan stated testing of a fire hose is required on a yearly basis to comply with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1952 along with Insurance Services Office (ISO) requirements for insurance rating. This is a very labor-intensive project that takes volunteers away from home for a full day if not more to complete. Our volunteers leave home on an almost daily basis to respond to incidents, train and conduct public education events. Mr.

Whelan explained the benefits of contracted hose testing, including compliance, safety, and equipment preservation. Miami County Fire District #1 owns 30,515 feet of hose. City of Louisburg owns 5,725 ft, City of Osawatimie owns 5,725 ft and the City of Paola owns 6,785 ft. The three cities can opt into the pricing if they desire. Four vendors were asked to provide quotes to Miami County and two vendors responded. FireCatt \$13,426.60 in 2026, 14,036.90 for 2027 and \$14,647.20 for 2028. This includes all costs. Fire Flow quote was for \$30,525.00. This would be paid out of each department's equipment fund. Commissioner Diediker asked Mr. Whelan to see if any of the volunteers would come in with a special per-dem. Commissioner Vickrey asked about the timeline on the contract. Mr. Whelan said FireCatt is working on their fall schedule. Chairman Pretz stated he is willing to do the \$13,426.60 deal and Commissioner Vaughan agreed. Commissioner Diediker moved to table for one week, Commissioner Scruggs seconded; vote taken: 4 in favor; 1 opposed (Chairman Pretz), the motion passed.

End Sitting as the Fire Board at 1:16 p.m.

Sitting as the Board of County Commissioners at 1:16 p.m.

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, recommended a three-year approach for the replacement of uninterrupted power supply (UPS) batteries in the radio towers. Mr. Whelan stated there are six radio tower sites and recommended the replacement of batteries at two towers a year beginning in 2027. Cost in 2027 for replacement is \$23,228.80. Prices may be increased in 2028 and 2029 due to increased material and labor prices. Mr. Whelan stated the UPS batteries installed during tower construction need to be replaced. They normally have a 7-to-10-year life span with proper maintenance. One battery failed and had to be replaced this month. Failure point for the batteries occurs when they fall below 70% strength. These batteries receive maintenance every six months. The UPS ensures that the power to the equipment stays consistent and will run the tower for a short period of time if the generator fails to start. The funds would come from the radio budget under emergency management. Commissioner Vaughan stated he would be willing to replace the UPS batteries for 2027 for \$23,228.80 and see how it goes and test them out before moving forward with the three-year strategy. Commissioner Vaughan motioned to approve the replacement of the UPS batteries in the Paola and Harmony towers for 2027 at the cost of \$23,228.00 using 911 funds not the radio budget, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

Sitting as the Fire Board #1 at 1:19 p.m.

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, Requested the Commissioners to allow the Fire Board to develop a request for proposal (RFP) or allow for the use of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) agreement. I have priced for Miami County to build the vehicles, and the cost would be around \$127,000.00 not including installation of components or staff time. Mr. Whelan stated three brush units (Fontana, Osawatimie and Paola) are due for replacement due to age and/or condition of the vehicle.

Three Engines (Louisburg, Osawatimie and Paola) are due for replacement in 2027, 2028, and 2029. Lead time for the build is around three years if ordered today. 2027 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates will add \$100,000.00 to costs if ordered in 2027 or later. If we order today via RFP or the HGAC agreement, we can save the \$100,000.00 amount by securing a 2026 engine. Payment would be due at delivery. We may have enough in the capital budget to pay for the vehicles or could finance via a bond issue or lease purchase agreement at the board's discretion. Commissioner Pretz motioned to approve to go out for RFP for the three brush units and three engines and look at the HGAC agreement, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

End Sitting as the Fire Board at 1:24 p.m.

Sitting as the Board of County Commissioners at 1:24 p.m.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, gave a report on a house fire Saturday morning June 13th on 223rd Street and Woodland Road in Bucyrus. 911 call came in at 5:44 am. Units from Louisburg, Osawatimie, Paola, and Fontana were dispatched with Overland Park units being dispatched to assist. Units

June 17, 2026
Page 3

cleared the scene at 12:07 p.m. with around a \$325,000.00 loss.

Laura Epp, County Clerk stated elections are coming up, we are proofing ballots to be prepared. Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) ballots will go out today June 17, 2026, or tomorrow June 18, 2026, at the latest to meet that deadline. The official candidate listing was posted on the website.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vickrey stated he attended the Renaissance Festival to benefit wounded veterans Saturday and hopes to see more kids attend next year.

Commissioner Vaughan asked Eric Sandberg, Road and Bridge Director, to get him more information on the cause of the semi incident on 223rd between Ridgeview and Renner.

Chairman Pretz announced the Osawatomie John Brown Jamboree parade is tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. and the kick-off of activities for this weekend, June 20th and 21st.

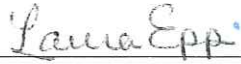
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.




George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:


Laura Epp, County Clerk