

**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 July 15, 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	

News: Brian McCauley, Miami County Republic Newspaper

Visitors: Beth Klinker, Jim Kirk, Carolyn Kirk, Dan Creason, Kailynn Kirk, Jace Kirk, Bill Osborn

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 July 8, 2026
- Approval of accounts payable payment vouchers and payroll

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Beth Klinker, 23783 Clare Road, Paola, clarified the mob referenced at the July 8, 2026, Board of County Commissioners meeting regarding the attendance of citizens at the Planning Commission meeting on July 7, 2026, was a bunch of concerned citizens not a mob and asked the Commissioners to consider the letters and petitions when making their decision at the July 29, 2026, Board of County Commissioners meeting at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS AND PROCLAMATION

Inaugural 2026 "I Voted in Miami County" Sticker Presentation. Laura Epp, County Clerk, introduced the I voted Sticker contest winner Kailynn Kirk. Earlier this year, high school students were invited to create and design an original "I Voted" sticker. Clerk Epp extended her sincere appreciation to every student who submitted a design, to the teachers who encouraged participation in the classroom, and the first round and final round judges. The stickers will be distributed during our 2026 Primary Election and General Election.

ACTION AGENDA

Sydney Ming, Finance Director, requested the Commission to authorize the Commission Chair to sign the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent stating that Bucyrus Lights & Sirens will remain revenue neutral. Ms. Ming stated the proposed rate is 2.122 mills. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the Chairman to sign the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent stating that Bucyrus Lights & Sirens will remain revenue neutral, Commissioner Diediker seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

Sydney Ming, Finance Director, requested the Commission to authorize the Commission Chair to sign the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent stating that Hillsdale Lights & Sirens will remain revenue neutral. Ms. Ming stated the proposed rate is 1.851 mills. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the Chair to sign the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent stating that Hillsdale Lights & Sirens will remain revenue neutral, Commissioner Diediker seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

Sitting as the Miami County Fire Board at 1:09 pm

Sydney Ming, Finance Director, requested the Commission to authorize the Commission Chair to sign the Notice

of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent, stating that Miami County Fire District #2 will remain revenue neutral. Ms. Ming stated the proposed estimated rate is 4.605 mills. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the Commission Chair to sign the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent stating that Miami County Fire District #2 will remain revenue neutral, Commissioner Diediker seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

Still sitting as Miami County Fire Board

Sydney Ming, Finance Director, requested the Commission to authorize the Commission Chair to sign the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent, stating that Miami County Fire District #1 will be exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Ms. Ming stated the proposed mill levy rate is 4.000, which is an additional \$250,000.00. The date of the hearing is August 26, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the Commission Chair to sign the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent, stating that Miami County Fire District #1 will be exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Commissioner Diediker seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

Closed sitting as Miami County Fire Board at 1:11p.m.

Sydney Ming, Finance Director, requested the Commission to authorize the Commission Chair to sign the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent, stating that Miami County, Kansas, will be exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Ms. Ming stated the proposed mill levy rate is 38.004. The date of the hearing is August 26, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the Commission to authorize the Commission Chair to sign the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent, stating that Miami County, Kansas, will be exceeding the revenue neutral rate, Commissioner Diediker seconded; vote taken: 4 in favor; 1 opposed (Vickrey), the motion passed.

STAFF COMMENTS

Laura Epp, County Clerk, recognized our employee of the month from the Clerk Office for May, Marte Tubbs. She was on vacation last week.

Laura Epp, County Clerk, welcomed Angie Shores to the Clerk Office. Ms. Shores will fill the Operation Support Specialist position.

Laura Epp, County Clerk, announced tomorrow, July 16, 2026, early voting starts in the Administration Building in the Board of County Commissioner Chambers with overflow in the Clerk's Office. Voting will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Two late night opportunities, Thursday, July 23, 2026, and Tuesday, July 28, 2026, voting will be from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August 1, 2026, we will have voting from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Voters may view their sample ballots on VoterView Kansas.

Laura Epp, County Clerk, updated on a polling location change in Osawatomie for 2026 Primary Election. Voters will be voting at Trojan Elementary for just the Primary Election on August 4, 2026.

Laura Epp, County Clerk, reminded the citizens this is a partisan primary election, so party affiliation determines what party ballot voters receive. This primary every registered voter will have the opportunity to vote because of the Kansas Constitutional Amendment Question that will appear on all ballots.

Laura Epp, County Clerk, election worker training is in full swing. We will be training 121 workers. Clerk Epp thanked the commission and county departments for their continued support and accommodations on making these trainings possible and doing them on site.

Laura Epp, County Clerk, announced the Clerk's Office has officially been awarded over \$40,000.00 in elections security grant funding. These funds will support equipment tracking, chain of custody improvements, secure transport, security enhancements, and other important election security projects. It will be approximately \$5,500.00 coming from the general fund, building improvements and election supply for the 90/10 match. Clerk Epp asked the Commission to make a motion to formally acknowledge receipt of the grant funds. Chairman Pretz made a motion to approve the grant funds. At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk stated the Elections Security Grant was for \$44,690.00 with a 10 percent match, the security door came in higher due to the delay of the award and increase in cost as to why it is \$5,500.00 for the ten percent match. Commissioner Diediker seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Pretz said he appreciates all Miami County staff and department heads working with the

Commission on the budget. We hope to get it approved August 26, 2026.

Commissioner Vaughan commented politics are interesting. He has been really encouraged over the last few weeks with the individuals he has personally been able to speak with who are interested in the well-being of Miami County. The board makes hard decisions for the people we represent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

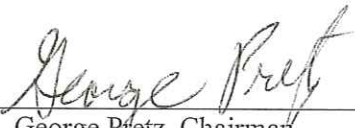
Commissioner Pretz moved to have an Attorney-Client Privilege Exception (K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2)) Executive Session for 15 minutes beginning at 1:25 p.m. in the Commissioners private chambers to include the Commissioners County Administrator, and County Counselor. Commissioner Vickrey seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed. Chairman Pretz reconvened the regular meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Commissioner Pretz moved to extend the Attorney-Client Privilege Exception (K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2)) Executive Session for 15 minutes beginning at 1:41 p.m. in the Commissioners private chambers to include the Commissioners, County Administrator, and County Counselor. Commissioner Vickrey seconded; vote taken: 5 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed. Chairman Pretz reconvened the regular meeting at 1:56 p.m. No action was taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.




George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:


Laura Epp, County Clerk