

**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 22, 2026. Those present were:

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

Absent: Tyler Vaughan, Pro-Tem

Visitors: Elizabeth Klinker, Rosemary and John Begley

CALL TO ORDER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Diediker moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- Approval of minutes of the County Commission Meeting on July 15, 2026
- Approval of accounts payable payment vouchers
- Grant of Easement 2026-015-LS: McCaskey **A26-07-035**
- Grant of Easement 2026-016-LS: McCaskey **A26-07-036**
- 2026-005-SUB: Roether's Addition

Commissioner Scruggs seconded; vote taken: 4 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elizabeth Klinker, 23783 Clare Road, Paola, spoke as a concerned citizen on the proposed zoning change and the impacts to Hillsdale community. Ms. Klinker presented a petition with 169 signatures to give the commission. Chairman Pretz asked Ms. Klinker to give the petition to the Clerk.

Rosemary Begley, 10482 W. 319th, Louisburg, addressed road conditions on Switzer Road between 319th and 311th. She requested the Board to consider paving the roadway, citing excessive dust and reduced visibility following the increase in the speed limit.

ACTION AGENDA

Brandon Ream, EMS Deputy Chief, requested approval to purchase five XR60 5G routers to replace aging 4G units experiencing connectivity issues in EMS response vehicles. The total co, including installation, is \$10,968. and will be funded from EMS equipment accounts, 0100-307-3701 and 0100-307-3702. Commissioner Vickrey expressed the importance to have working GPS and asked if 911 funds can be used. Commissioner Vickrey moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; vote taken: 4 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, requested authorization for the Chairman to execute a new 5-year Motorola service agreement replacing the current agreement expiring at the end of 2026. Mr. Whelan stated the current 5-year service agreement expires at the end of 2026. The agreement maintains existing service levels, includes software upgrades and security patches, is funded within the current budget, and provides an estimated taxpayer savings through continued in-house maintenance. Commissioner Vickrey thanked Mr. Whelan for keeping the cost in budget or under budget. Commissioner Diediker moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; vote taken: 4 in favor; 0 opposed, the motion passed.

A26-07-037 Ref: A22-07-041

STAFF COMMENTS

Kenny Cook, Planning Director, responded to the public comment regarding the protest petition. Planning has received protest petitions received by the Clerk's Office. The petition period by state statute ended July 21, 2026, by 4:30 p.m. Any protest petitions received after the statutory deadline will not be considered when determining validity. They will be included in with the staff request. Chairman Pretz asked if Mr. Cook had verified if Miami County has a protest petition. Mr. Cook answered he has not done the final calculations to verify the twenty percent. The calculations should be done by the end of the week.

Laura Epp, County Clerk, announced early voting is happening in the Administration Building. Voting will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 16-31. 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. and the final day to vote will be August 3, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Registered voters would like to view their sample ballot ahead of time online via VoterView KS. <https://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/VoterView>.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vickery commented that commercial property represents approximately nine percent of county tax base and expressed support for continued commercial growth.

Chairman Pretz announced two or more commissioners could be present at the Miami County fair events during the week.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.




George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:


Laura Epp, County Clerk