

**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 August 26, 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: Theresa VanHoecke, John Kaps, Dan Creason, Jeff Oliver, Linda and Mike Hash, CW Powell, Chris VanHoecke, Michael Wyse, Dale Hearn, James Chandler, Steven Speakman, Bill Osborn, M. Hudson, Jeanne Woolsey, Linda Davidson, Dan Davidson, D. Craig Barnett, Dennis Karina, Larry Fulk, Alec Burford, Patricia Wetmore.

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 August 19, 2026
- Approval of accounts payable payment vouchers and payroll
- Approval of corrected minutes of the County Commission Meeting on July 29, 2026
- Approval of minutes of the Canvass Meeting on August 17, 2026

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris VanHoecke, 4592 W. 223rd Street, Bucyrus, expressed concerns daytime Commission meetings, property taxes, and the level of county services provided.

Dale Hearn, 34681 W. 231st Street, Edgerton, expressed concerns regarding the tax increase reflected on his proposed tax notice and encouraged the County to identify areas to keep tax increases closer to the cost of living.

Michael Wyse, 39810 Highway 169, Lane, expressed concerns regarding difficulties purchasing a home and obtaining a building permit through Planning and Zoning.

Steve Speakman, 33203 W. 327th, Paola, expressed concerns about the taxes continually increasing, residents being able to pay on fixed incomes, and updates of crosswalks in the cities.

ACTION AGENDA

Sydney Ming, Director of Finance, gave a brief overview of Miami County's 2027 budget.

Chairman Pretz opened the public hearing to exceed revenue neutral for Miami County Kansas 2027 Budget at 1:18 m.

Jeanne Woolsey, 29490 Cedar Niles Road, Paola, asked what the \$750,000.00 reserve money is for? Finance Director Sydney Ming and the Commissioners discussed the County's reserve requirements and the relationship between reserves and the County's bond rating.

Alec Burford, 25606 Old KC Road, Paola, addressed concerns regarding challenges he has experienced in regard to his business on zoned property and working through the rezoning process. He stated he has been here for thirty years, wants to stay, but is looking to leave Miami County.

Mike Hash, 22465 S. Roosevelt, Spring Hill, spoke about the general fund and questioned who oversees the fund and the expertise to make decisions. Chairman Pretz stated the County has a three-month budget process with the departments. Commissioner Scruggs responded the Commission oversees the General fund. Chairman Pretz responded the Commission relies on staff for expertise. Commissioner Vickrey stated the county has stayed revenue neutral three out of the last five years.

Michael Wyse 39810 Highway 169, Lane, questioned the projected cost of Emergency Medical Services and expressed concerns regarding the effect of reimbursements on the amount funded through property taxes. Commissioners discussed the portion of Emergency Medical Services expenses not covered by reimbursements and anticipated service revenues.

Tucker Klaasmeyer, 25605 Old KC Road, Paola, mentioned he runs a business in Miami County and expressed concerns about the road conditions, the effectiveness of purchasing additional road equipment, and an increase of more than \$20,000.00 in property taxes on a business property in one year. He also expressed concerns that Miami County is no longer feasible for a growing family and businesses when restricted on the ability to rezone property for commercial use.

Commissioner Vaughan discussed the County's efforts over the eight years he has been with the County; the reserve funds have gone from twenty-eight percent down to eleven percent. The County has focused more on grant funding for one-time use, reduced staff, cut unfilled positions, and reduced the reserve fund to try to stay revenue neutral.

Ron Claar, 21541 Lackman Rd, Spring Hill, spoke about increased taxes over the years and how taxes are less in Cass County. He expressed concern that continued tax increases make it difficult to retain residency in Miami County.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to authorize the Commission to approve the signature to authorize the Resolution to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate for the Miami County Budget, Commissioner Diediker seconded; Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) – Commissioners Vickrey, Scruggs, Pretz, Vaughan, Diediker. Nays (0). Motion Passed (5-0) (R26-08-029)

Chairman Pretz closed the public hearing at 1:43 p.m..

Chairman Pretz opened the public hearing on the proposed Miami County Kansas 2027 Budget at 1:43 p.m.

Mike Hash, 22465 S. Roosevelt, Spring Hill, asked if the 2027 budget is going to be approved today and mentioned the negative viewpoint present at the meeting.

Dale Hearn, 34681 W. 231st Street, Edgerton, asked if Road and Bridge was going to speak today? Commissioner Vaughan stated the budget meetings lasted three months, open to the public and streamed live. Commissioner Vickrey mentioned that the videos are archived and available to view.

Judy Rauber, 29337 Palmer Drive, Paola, expressed concerns regarding property taxes, comparing the taxes on her current Miami County residence with those of her previous residence in Missouri. She also commented on real estate development and the need for commercial growth.

Chairman Pretz closed the public hearing at 1:52 p.m.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the adoption of the budget for Miami County Kansas 2027 Budget as presented, Commissioner Diediker seconded; Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) – Commissioners Vickrey, Scruggs, Pretz, Vaughan, Diediker. Nays (0). Motion Passed (5-0). (R26-08-029)

Sitting as the Fire District #1 Board

Sydney Ming, Director of Finance, gave a brief overview of the Rural Fire District #1. Mark Whelan, Emergency Management Coordinator, explained the costs and where the money is going. Commissioner Vickrey asked Mr. Whelan to explain the process to buy. Mr. Whelan explained the process and spoke about current contracts.

Chairman Pretz opened the public hearing to exceed revenue neutral for the 2027 Miami County Rural Fire District #1 Budget at 2:06 p.m.

Michael Wyse, 39810 Highway 169, Lane, asked whether surplus military equipment had been considered as an alternative source for fire equipment. Emergency Management Coordinator Mark Whelan advised that available equipment was being allocated to other counties. Mr. Wyse also expressed concerns regarding equipment costs and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.

Dale Hearn, 34681 W. 231st Street, Edgerton, asked about the Fire District #1 is proposing to purchase? Mr. Whelan answered three engines, one tender, and four brush units. Mr. Hearn inquiry as to whether the purchases are a need or want and encouraging the Board to consider alternatives rather than exceeding revenue neutral. Chairman Pretz stated the County has to save money over the next few years, not buy all in 2027. Mr. Hearn questioned the Commission to not approve exceed revenue neutral, to look into options. Commissioner Vaughan stated we do not always follow the certain standards

the Fire Districts ask of us, we look at the used market and look into other resources to reduce costs. Commissioner Scr. stated the deferred problems always become near-by problems. until we can take care of the deferred problems we will never get ahead.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to authorize the Commission to sign the Resolution to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate for the Miami County Rural Fire District #1 Budget, Commissioner Diediker seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) – Commissioners Vickrey, Scruggs, Pretz, Vaughan, Diediker. Nays (0). Motion Passed (5-0) **(R26-08-030)**

Chairman Pretz closed the public hearing at 2:20 p.m.

Chairman Pretz opened the public hearing to adopt the budget for the 2027 Miami County Rural Fire District #1 Budget at 2:21 p.m.

Michael Wyse 39810 Highway 169, Lane, asked about the relationship between Miami County's ambulance service area hospitals. Commissioner Vaughan explained that Miami County operates a tax-funded ambulance service rather than a privately funded service.

Dale Hearn, 34681 W. 231st Street, Edgerton, talked about the budget process.

Chairman Pretz closed the public hearing at 2:26 p.m.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to adopt the 2027 Miami County Rural Fire District #1 Budget, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) – Commissioners Vickrey, Scruggs, Pretz, Vaughan, Diediker. Nays (0). Motion Passed (5-0) **(R26-08-030)**

Closed sitting as the Fire District #1 Board

Sitting as the Fire District #2 Board

Sydney Ming, Director of Finance, gave a brief overview of Rural Fire District #2.

Chairman Pretz opened the public hearing to adopt the budget for the 2027 Miami County Rural Fire District #2 Budget at 2:29 p.m.

Chairman Pretz closed the public hearing at 2:29 p.m.

Commissioner Vaughan thanked the residents for being patient and understanding the increase to the mill levy to protect the contract Miami County has with Johnson County Fire District #1.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to approve the adoption of the 2027 Miami County Rural Fire District #2 Budget, Commissioner Vickrey seconded; Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) – Commissioners Vickrey, Scruggs, Pretz, Vaughan, Diediker. Nays (0). Motion Passed (5-0)

Closed sitting as the Fire District #2 Board

Sydney Ming, Director of Finance, gave a brief overview of the Bucyrus Lights & Sirens budget.

Chairman Pretz opened the public hearing to adopt the budget for the 2027 Bucyrus Lights & Sirens Budget at 2:31 p.m.

Chairman Pretz closed the public hearing at 2:32 p.m.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to adopt the 2027 Bucyrus Lights & Sirens Budget, Commissioner Diediker seconded; Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) – Commissioners Vickrey, Scruggs, Pretz, Vaughan, Diediker. Nays (0). Motion Passed (5-0)

Sydney Ming, Director of Finance, gave a brief overview of the Hillsdale Lights & Sirens budget.

Chairman Pretz opened the public hearing to adopt the budget for the 2027 Hillsdale Lights & Sirens Budget at 2:33 p.m.

Chairman Pretz closed the public hearing at 2:33 p.m.

Commissioner Vaughan moved to adopt the 2027 Hillsdale Lights & Sirens Budget, Commissioner Diediker seconded; Roll Call Vote: Ayes (5) – Commissioners Vickrey, Scruggs, Pretz, Vaughan, Diediker. Nays (0). Motion Passed (5-0)

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COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

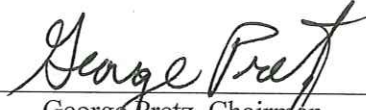
Commissioner Vickrey expressed his appreciation to everyone for their patience today. It is good to hear from constituents and friends.

Chairman Pretz, thanked the departments, staff, and employees putting the budgets together, also thanked the Commissioners, and the citizens to make the budgets work. We are going to continue to provide twenty-four hours a day, seven days a

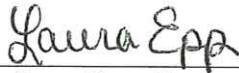
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.




George Pretz, Chairman

ATTEST:



Laura Epp, County Clerk