

**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 13, 2022. Those present were:

Rob Roberts, Chairman	Shane Krull, County Administrator
Tyler Vaughan, Pro-Tem	Janet White, County Clerk
Danny Gallagher, Commissioner	Jessi King, Operation Support Assistant
Phil Dixon, Commissioner	
George Pretz, Commissioner	

Absent: Shelley Woodard, County Counselor ~ attended via telephone

News: Jennifer McDaniel, Miami County Communications

Visitors: Jeff Gaona, Nolan Banks

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Roberts 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 6, 2022
- Approval of AP payment vouchers and payroll

Commissioner Gallagher seconded; the vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

JR McMahon, Road & Bridge Director, presented an agreement with KDOT for the Local Bridge Improvement Program. He explained that as KDOT is working toward the goal of reducing the number of bridges and getting existing bridges back up, they are offering reimbursements of \$150,000 for a contracted bridge repair and an additional \$50,000 reimbursement for a permanent closure and removal of inventory. Mr. McMahon proposed that the bridge on 399th Street near Crescent Hill be replaced. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Dixon seconded; the vote was unanimous. (A22-07-038)

Chairman Roberts presented a resolution placing a moratorium on solar farms not to exceed 6 months. He explained that currently Miami County has no regulations on solar farms in excess of 1 megawatt and the commission wants to give the planning department and planning commission time to determine and develop the appropriate approach to building commercial solar structures. Commissioner Gallagher clarified that this moratorium does not impact individual, household solar and that this resolution is not a vote for or against solar farms. Commissioner Dixon moved to approve as presented, Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous. (R22-07-036)

Chairman Roberts then presented a notice of not exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2023 fiscal year budget. He explained that through months of budget meetings with department heads, the commissioners have expressed a passion for remaining revenue neutral and not increasing taxes for Miami County. Commissioner Dixon stated that after the most thorough budget meetings he had been in, he was very proud to move to approve as presented, Commissioner Gallagher seconded; the vote was unanimous.

STAFF COMMENTS

JR McMahon, Road & Bridge Director, stated that he had a meeting about Metcalf 2.0 setting a start date for the middle of this month and work starting to be seen in August. Chairman Roberts requested that Mr. McMahon arrange a ribbon cutting in Louisburg with MARC, KDOT, and the other entities working on this project to celebrate the investment and success of the project. Mr. McMahon also informed the commissioners that he had reached out to the Secretary of Transportation and requested that the announcement of projects in August to be done in Miami County.

Chairman Roberts announced that the County Commissioners will now be sitting as the Fire District #1 and #2 Fire Board.

Chairman Roberts asked Lucas Mellinger, Financial Director, to discuss and further clarify the budgets for the Miami County Fire Districts. Mr. Mellinger explained that coming up on the deadline for notification of intent to remain revenue neutral or not, the major consideration is the amount of money needed to maintain firetrucks and to buy firetrucks on the equipment replacement schedule. Commissioner Vaughan explained that Fire District Two is under contract with Johnson County and does not currently manage any equipment and with significant increases in the mill rate in the past few years, he questioned what the change would be if they were to stay revenue neutral. He then recommended that Fire District Two stay consistent with the revenue neutral approach that the county is currently taking. Commissioner Pretz then asked how much was in the equipment reserves for Fire District One. Mr. Mellinger said that there was just enough for the Louisburg firetruck and then the budget would be wiped out. The commissioners discussed that any revenue generated in the fire district is used directly for the delivery of service or equipment upgrades and that is of the utmost importance to the volunteers as well as the citizens of the county. Shane Krull, County Administrator, added that the working relationship with Overland Park is another area of consideration. After discussion of cost of firetrucks and reserving funds for future purchases, Chairman Roberts asked Mr. Mellinger to do a full comparison of the numbers on tax increases with the different options for next week. Commissioner Gallagher wanted to be sure that the overarching message to the firefighters was that they want to keep them safe with the best equipment and support available. Chairman Roberts thanked Mr. Mellinger and moved to the next item of business.

Janet White, County Clerk, announced that Advance Voting had begun and would move into the Commission Chambers starting Thursday.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Vaughan announced that Friday morning in Spring Hill, Fox 4 News will be broadcasting live from the historic Main Street, highlighting all the businesses in town.

Commissioner Gallagher stated that Osawatomie has gotten some nice moisture, but to pray for rain and cooler weather.

Commissioner Dixon wanted everyone to know that Covid is ramping up again, though not as severe as it was previously, but it is back.

Commissioner Pretz announced that there was a unique new mural going up in Osawatomie.

Chairman Roberts stated that Panasonic had announced plans for a new EV battery plant for Tesla in Kansas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Gallagher moved to have an Attorney-Client Privilege Executive Session to discuss security systems matter for 15 minutes beginning at 1:37 to include the Commissioners, County Administrator, County Counselor (via phone), Rich Larson, Jeff Goana, and Nolan Banks. Commissioner Dixon seconded; the vote was unanimous. No action was taken at this time. Chairman Roberts reconvened the regular meeting at 1:52.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to have an Attorney-Client Privilege Executive Session to discuss security systems matter for 5 minutes beginning at 1:55 to include the Commissioners, County Administrator, County Counselor (via phone), Rich Larson, Jeff Goana, and Nolan Banks. Commissioner Vaughan seconded; the vote was unanimous. No action was taken at this time. Chairman Roberts reconvened the regular meeting at 2:00.

Commissioner Pretz moved to have an Attorney-Client Privilege Executive Session to the applications of

certain county regulations for 10 minutes beginning at 2:03 to include the Commissioners, County Administrator, and County Counselor (via phone). Commissioner Dixon seconded; the vote was unanimous. No action was taken at this time. Chairman Roberts reconvened the regular meeting at 2:13.

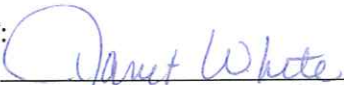
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

(Seal)


Rob Roberts, Chairman

ATTEST:


Janet White, County Clerk

