

# Smith Co. Commissioners Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2025

The County Commissioners met in a regular session on July 28, 2025, in the County Commissioners' room. Present were Commissioners Brady Peterson and Jim Gwennap. Also present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Travis Story, Assistant Road Supervisor and Mitch Fritz, Road Supervisor.

At 8:30 a.m. Gwennap called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded Peterson to approve the 7/21/2025 regular minutes and 7/23/2025 special minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Gwennap to approve the 7/28/2025 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners approved payroll #15 for \$149,678.33.

The commissioners approved voucher #15008-#15048 and wires for the following accounts:

- General \$11,450.96
- Road & Bridge \$51,808.39
- Noxious Weed \$503.19
- Health \$200.00
- Appraiser \$113.30
- Solid Waste \$999.37
- EMS \$23,123.91
- Special Alcohol \$1,000.00
- Special Bridge \$1,650.00
- Health Care Sales Tax \$22,832.88
- Next Gen. E911 \$305.02
- Employee Benefits \$61,095.46
- Payroll Clearing \$43,576.30

The commissioners, Fritz and Story discussed the following:

1. Peterson shared he has contact information for an individual who has asphalt millings and is wanting to get rid of them.

2. Peterson also mentioned a pile of asphalt millings near X Rd. Fritz stated he believed he looked at these and there was a bunch of trash in this pile.

3. Gwennap discussed O Rd, North of 90 Rd. A year ago, rock was hauled in this area, but the project was never completed. Now the roadway ditches need pulled and the road reshaped.

4. Gwennap discussed C Rd, South of Kensington. Currently, the road has powdered out. Fritz stated if we get rain, the crew will

focus on fixing this area first.

5. Gwennap asked about the dozer blade that was purchased from Foley Equipment. Fritz stated the blade will be utilized by the blade men to fix tubes.

6. Gwennap asked about the fuel prices.

7. Fritz shared the Infrastructure Hub meeting was a repeat of the last time. Jordan Dettmer with Penco joined the meeting this time.

8. Fritz stated a dive team with be assessing the structure of the bridge at the old lake. Fritz stated this is done every 5 years.

9. Story shared a longevity pay increase for 6 months of service.

Story and Fritz left the meeting.

The commissioners reviewed the email from Sarah Ragsdale regarding the hospital board member terms. Lori Ifland's term expired 6/2025 and the board recommendation is to reappoint her for 4 more years.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Gwennap to reappoint Lori Ifland to the Smith County Memorial Hospital Board. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Gwennap to approve 5 longevity pay increases. Motion carried unanimously.

Peterson shared he was in contact with Mike with USDA. Peterson shared the current interest rate and the lengths of the loan. Peterson shared the fiscal year is Oct. 1. Mike suggested we reach out to Senator Moran's office for grant opportunities.

Maxwell shared a letter from Nicole Crawford. Crawford stated she will be on a leave of absence and requests no payment for the month of August.

Maxwell shared the quarterly health insurance report.

Allen Lanus joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Lanus stated he has a couple of employees interested in CPR training.

2. Lanus stated he attended a webinar training through Rapid Deploy.

3. Lanus stated Kodie Bixler, Andrea Carver and Tiffany Wiseman will be attending APCO training in September. Kent will also be attending for his longevity recognition. Lanus shared Brett Decker recertified with NCIC, so he will be available for fill in shifts.

Dennis Pletcher joined the meeting.

Pletcher left the meeting.

4. Lanus stated he was in contact with Tom Chapman about Webster County dispatch. Chapman intends to obtain a local agreement with Webster County for emergency response.

Lanus left the meeting.

Chris Jones joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Jones stated he is currently spraying throughout the County. Jones stated he is spraying bind weed.

2. Jones stated he will be looking to replace the heat source in the shop in the future.

Trenton Ringle joined the meeting.

3. Jones also mentioned the lighting in the shop as well. The commissioners asked Jones to get bids from S&P Mechanical and Dave's Heating and Cooling for the heating and lighting.

Laura Hageman joined the meeting.

Jones left the meeting.

Ringle discussed the need for an impound lot for vehicles. Ringle asked for the commissioners to consider allowing the sheriff's department to utilize a portion of the county land near the landfill. The commissioners asked Ringle to develop a more solid plan.

Hageman discussed the following:

1. August 3 is National Night Out. Hageman has asked for emergency response vehicles to attend. There will be a picnic and also be a pool party.

2. Hageman will be attending **SHICK training next week.**

3. School enrollment is also next week. Brittany and Alaina will be attending the enrollment.

4. Hageman is currently working on setting up CPR training for county employees.

5. Hageman shared the current measles count is 90 cases.

6. Hageman shared there will be an additional grant cut in public health.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded Gwennap to convene in executive session at 10:55 a.m. for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, employee performance. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell left the meeting. Also in the session was Laura Hageman. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 11:07 a.m.

Gerard Michaud with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas joined

the meeting. Michaud shared DSNWK statistics for the 18-county area. Michaud asked the commissioners to continue their support of \$28,495.00 for the 2026 fiscal year.

Michaud left the meeting.

At 11:52 a.m. a motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to adjourn until 1:30 p.m. for the department head meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The County Commissioners met in a special session on July 28, 2025, in the EMS classroom. Present were Commissioners Brady Peterson and Jim Gwennap. Also present was Ashley Maxwell, Mitch Fritz, Travis Story, Trenton Ringle, Allen Lanus, Travis Conaway, Laura Hageman, Tom Chapman and Anna Porter.

Maxwell gave a brief description of the clerk's office duties.

Gwennap gave an update on the Old Hospital Site. Gwennap also shared there will be a job fair for local contractors. Gwennap shared the breakdown of the units, stating there will be 3 bedroom units, 2 bedroom units and 1 bedroom units. Peterson added there will be a foreman living in Smith Center to oversee the project. Peterson also shared that prisoners from Stockton will be utilized to clean up the property.

The commissioners asked the department heads to continue training through KCAMP University.

Ringle gave an update on what is happening in the sheriff's department.

Hageman shared she is working with the EMS department to set up CPR training for county employees.

Hageman also discussed the locations of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) throughout the

county. Several department heads will work with Hageman to compile a list of those locations.

Porter shared the bill exempting boats, utvs, golf carts, etc. passed. This bill becomes law January 1, 2026.

Hageman asked about the 2026 budgets since the process was different this year. Gwennap informed the group that all budgets were approved and the budget hearing will be held August 18, 2025.

The next department head meeting will be held September 29, 2025.

At 2:48 p.m. a motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

These minutes are not official until signed by the county commissioners and attested to by the County Clerk.

New Year, New Beginnings!  
Hope everyone is ready to make this school year Amazing.  
The Smith Co. Drug & Alcohol Council

SMITH COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS		
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SMITH COUNTY PIONEER 201 S. MAIN STREET, SMITH CENTER, KS. 66967 ph. 785*282*3371	James Gwennap 785-389-5111 Smith Co. Commissioner Dist. #1	Brady Peterson Smith Co. Commissioner Dist. #2
	Kurt Ifland /785-476-7586 Smith Co. Commissioner Dist. #3	Ashley Maxwell Smith Co. Clerk 785*282*5110
CITY OF SMITH CENTER Jill Conaway/CLERK 785*282*3812		
Travis Conaway Smith Co. Sheriff 785*282*5180	Bryce Wiehl Mayor of Smith Center	Chris Cole Smith Center Councilman
Vernon Reinking Co. Treasurer 785*282*5170	Donald Wick Smith Center Councilman	Tracy Kingsburg Smith Center Councilman
Stephanie Arment Register of Deeds 785*282*5160	Everett Mansholt Smith Center Councilman	Ty Wallgren Smith Center Councilman
CITY OF KENSINGTON Amber Hardacre/CLERK 785*476*2668		
Max Kuhlmann Mayor	Adam Synoground Kensington Councilman	Donald Dodds Sr. Kensington Councilman
Blayne Bienhoff Kensington Councilman	Charlie Grimm Kensington Councilman	Donald Dodds Jr. Kensington Councilman
CITY OF LEBANON Betsy Lambert/CLERK 785*389*1141		
Rick Chapin Mayor	Bill Befort Lebanon Councilman	Hannah Ramriez Lebanon Councilwomen
Randy Maus Lebanon Councilman	Marty Hanson Lebanon Councilman	Betty Pitcher Lebanon Councilwomen
CITY OF GAYLORD Kim Ifland/CLERK 785*697*2697		
Barbra Lehmann Mayor	Dennis Lehmann Gaylord Councilman	Dena Dannenburg Gaylord Councilwomen
Adam Ifland Gaylord Councilman	Eddie Adams Gaylord Councilman	Darin Godsey Gaylord Councilman
CITY OF CEDAR CLERK 785*476*8101		
Rebecca Mueller Mayor	Linda Matus Cedar Councilwomen	Cheryl Glaser Cedar Councilwomen
Spencer Kirchhoff Cedar Councilman	CITY OF ATHOL Dianne Hrabe/CLERK 785*476*8500	
	Joell Wagenblast Mayor	Cade Rietzke Athol Councilman
	David Feldman Athol Councilman	Daniel Saltsman Athol Councilman
	Allen Daniels Athol Councilman	Barb Jones Athol Councilwomen



## Local Helping Local

Insurance Smart

PHILLIPSBURG 785-546-5254  
KENSINGTON 785-476-3298  
SMITH CENTER 785-686-5046  
LUCAS 785-6982272  
LARRY 7858525-6415

785\*282\*6691

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316 Court street  
Smith Center KS  
785-282-6994  
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785-282-0255

HAIR GRAPHICS

106 W. KANSAS  
Smith Center KS  
785\*282\*6593  
Open: M.Tue. & Fri.  
Jenny Kingsbury

SFI

Denton Schoen, Owner  
PO Box 308, Smith Center, KS 66967  
(B) 785-282-6006  
(O) 785-282-6910  
(TF) 800-332-3953

Grain Fumigation ~ Space Fumigation  
Profume Fumigation ~ Phosphine Recirculation  
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Website: www.schoenfumigation.com  
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Services available in our County

THE SMITH COUNTY PIONEER

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