

Smith County Commissioners Meeting Minutes

The County Commissioners met in a regular session on August 25, 2025, in the County Commissioners' room. Present were Commissioners Brady Peterson, Kurt Ifland 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 Ifland and seconded Peterson to approve the 8/18/2025 regular minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to approve the 8/25/2025 agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners approved payroll #17 for \$148,970.67.

The commissioners approved voucher #15114-voucher #15174 and wires for the following accounts:

General \$14,479.13
Road & Bridge \$47,683.22
Noxious Weed \$1,120.91
Health \$2,892.45
Appraiser \$1,008.05

Solid Waste \$1,549.88
EMS \$882.24
Employee Benefits \$57,165.96

Special Alcohol Fund \$363.92

Health Care Sales Tax \$24,165.96

Payroll Clearing \$42,712.21

ROD Technology \$547.77

Next Gen. E911 \$305.86
Motor Vehicle Fund \$2,000.00

TOTAL \$196,985.45
The commissioners, Story and Fritz discussed the following:

1. Ifland discussed 160 Rd between Hwy 8 and I Rd. The blade man worked it last week

and then they received 2" of rain that washed it out.

2. Ifland discussed 180 Rd and E Rd. Ifland stated there is a culvert that the top has been

ripped off.

3. Ifland discussed 230 Rd between J Rd and N Rd. There are areas of this road that are

impassable.

4. Ifland discussed L Rd between Hwy 9, North to the gravel. Ifland stated the ditches need pulled to fix this road correctly.

5. Peterson discussed baseone vs. perma-zyme. Fritz stated he has heard of perma-zyme.

He has also done research on perma-zyme, fly-ash and baseone for soil stabilizers.

6. Gwennap asked about the infrastructure grant. Story stated they haven't made any progress since the last meeting. The grant is due in November.

7. Gwennap asked about placing a driveway tube on EE Rd between 300 Rd and 310 Rd.

8. Gwennap discussed Y Rd between 60 Rd and 70 Rd, there is a bridge that has a divot on

the South side that needs fixed.

9. Gwennap discussed AA Rd between 60 Rd and 40 Rd and also on 40 Rd between AA

Rd and BB Rd.

10. Gwennap discussed 30 Rd, West of Hwy 281.

11. Gwennap stated he is still noticing a windrow in the draws and it is keeping water on the

roadways.

12. Ifland discussed an exposed culvert on N Rd between 220 Rd and 230 Rd.

13. Fritz and Story dis-

cussed 70 Rd and 50 Rd between Hwy 281 to DD Rd.

Fritz and Story left the meeting.

Maxwell shared the quote from SecureTech. The quote is for \$13,820.00. At this time, the commissioners are not interested in the service.

Maxwell shared with the Board that Foulston Siefkin LLP has a conflict with the Q Rd and 30 Rd bridge incident. Forrest Rhodes with Foulston recommended another attorney. The commissioners asked Maxwell to contact this attorney.

Allen Lanus joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Lanus stated there was a mutual aid fire yesterday and the dispatcher responded well.

Chris Jones joined the meeting.

2. Lanus shared there are currently 3 inmates.

3. Lanus shared the Entropol maintenance renewal is due within the next 60 days. The quote

shows an increase.

Lanus left the meeting.

Jones and the commissioners discussed the following:

1. Gwennap asked Jones to spray the trees on 50 Rd, East of Hwy 281 when he is in the area.

2. Jones stated he is continually spraying as weather permits.

3. The commissioners asked about weed control by spraying roadways. Jones stated it has

been attempted in the past. Jones stated that teamwork with the blade men would be a must.

Jones stated he feels like if you did it, more employees would be needed.

4. Jones stated he did reach out to the local HVAC businesses in the county for a quote for the

shop heater. Jones stated he hasn't heard back from either one yet. Jones left the meeting.

The commissioners initiated 2 journal entries.

Trenton Ringle joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Ringle shared the Glen Sears Trust is willing to sell the lot on New York St. Peterson asked about charging a storage

fee. Ringle stated they would charge a daily storage fee.commissioners suggested a starting price.

2. Ringle shared the sheriff's office will be taking CPR training tomorrow.

3. Gwennap discussed the purchase policy.

Laura Hageman joined the meeting. Ringle left the meeting.

Hageman discussed the following:

1. Hageman shared she received the Dane G. Hansen funding for the rest of the sidewalk

project.

2. Hageman shared the health department will be hosting the movies this weekend.

3. Hageman shared the next safety meeting this Thursday at the landfill.

4. Hageman stated the health department is currently setting up flu vaccine clinics.

5. Hageman shared KDHE stated the measles outbreak in Kansas is officially over.

Ringle rejoined the meeting. Hageman left the meeting.

Ringle shared a flyer about new commissary. The commissioners asked about the policy regarding the commissary. Ringle stated he was unaware if the policy has been adopted.

Aaron Shute joined the meeting and thanked the board for the work that has been completed on 20 Rd. Shute left the meeting.

Ringle left the meeting.

Keith Wangerin joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Wangerin shared he attended the Region 4 meeting last week. Wangerin stated he was

approached by Minneapolis about needing a cot. The commissioners

will accept sealed bids

for 1 Stryker Cot until September 8th at 9:00 a.m.

2. Wangerin discussed purchasing new uniforms for EMS with the new county logo.

3. Wangerin shared there is a patient tracking system mandated by the State coming in the

future.

4. Wangerin discussed the possibility of adding an additional crew. Wangerin asked the board to consider allowing Wangerin to place an ad for 2 open positions. The board is in favor of advertising for 2 positions.

Wangerin left the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to approve resolution 25-09 directing the commencement of tax foreclosure action. Motion carried unanimously.

Adam Ifland joined the meeting and discussed the insurance at the fairgrounds. Ifland stated the insurance paid them for the hog barn and the horse barn. Ifland stated they have 1 year to complete the repairs needed on the buildings. Ifland stated the insurance premiums increased by approximately \$2,000.00. The fair board is asking the commissioners to consider insuring the current structures at the fairgrounds.

Adam Ifland left the meeting.

At 12:11 p.m. a motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to adjourn as there was no further business. Motion carried unanimously.

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

MEETING NOTICE

Annual meeting for
Crystal Plains Cemetery
to be held on September
22, 2025 @ 6:00 pm at
Crystal Plains Cemetery



Welcome Back

St. John Lutheran Church, rural Athol, was blessed to have 3 pastors and their spouses at worship Sunday, September 7, 2025. Pastor Ann Auten is the current pastor. Pastor Dave Kramer, retired, Smith Center, and Pastor Bob Sinclair, retired, Nampa, Idaho, were visiting. Both Pastor Dave and Pastor Bob had recently served at St. John before retiring.

Submitted Photo



Living out of town, it's sometimes hard to arrange to have several of the kids' friends over all at once. Even more challenging these days is working around everyone's schedules. My oldest doesn't ask for much for her birthday,

or ever, so when she said a handful of her friends could actually come over Friday evening, I stopped, dropped everything else, and baked a whole slew of hamburger buns and a carrot cake. The schedules were free, but of course, the weather was wet, and wet weather makes it even harder to get anyone to our house. My husband got handed the job of picking up and dropping off, as no one's parents needed to attempt our road, this wet year has done a number on

it. He said both times he took our corner he heard the words "Tokyo drift" from one of the girls as the pickup uncontrollably slid its back end around the corner while he crept forward through the slick, deep mud.

I thought I'd overhear some talk of boys or drama during their stay, but no, they played a couple of drawing games and even provoked our rooster, Savage, to chase them. It was truly refreshing to see their time together be so down-to-earth. No one played on their phones; they were all present. Just freshman girls enjoying each other and making memories.

Even though my oldest didn't ask for anything material, I felt I came up with

the perfect gift. We've always encouraged her hobbies, we'd buy art supplies, fabric, print woodworking patterns, let her take over the kitchen, etc. She had mentioned candle making recently, and I just couldn't ignore her desire to, yet again, try something new. I got online and found all the basics for making some "clean" beeswax candles. It was hard to narrow down essential oil scents, because I justified needing all of them for either candles or soap. She's excited to nail down another day for her friends to come, make candles, and spread the joy of hobbies.

Soap making has been on my want-to-do list for quite some time. It just kept slipping to the bottom of the list

because I was actually a little intimidated by it. A friend of mine and I discussed doing it together, and all it would take was finding a day. Well, we finally found that day last month. I went to her house with all of my soap-making supplies and a basic recipe. We got the older girls involved and set to it. I had frozen our raw milk into ice cubes beforehand, since putting cold milk with the lye instead of frozen would have scalded the milk.

I really expected more of a dangerous time, my husband even contributed some pretty serious eye protection for the lye and milk process, but really, it was fine. Nothing too scary, nothing to sway me from doing it again, nothing to stop me from adding a few more soap-making supplies in with that candle-making order (ahem). Our one issue was that after adding our selected natural fragrance, the mixture seized up a bit, so

instead of pouring the soap into the molds, we glopped it. The bars aren't the prettiest,

instead of pouring the soap into the molds, we glopped it. The bars aren't the prettiest, but I'd say they are perfectly rustic! We're counting down the days until they're cured and ready to use.

With a homeschooler at

home, I look for good opportunities for learning, life always seems to present something. Well, Pepper the milk cow had a large lump on her neck, not surprising after all the poking and IVs when she had milk fever, and one morning last week, we finally figured out it was actually an abscess because it ruptured. The husband left for work, the older two got on the bus, and it was just me, the homeschooler, and the abscess. Of course, my young homeschooler was pretty appalled at even the sight of it, let alone with the fact that I wanted her to participate in cleaning it. She loves animals, wants to have all the animals, so she was going to learn what sometimes comes with owning them. Her words were "vomit coming from Pepper's neck", pretty picture, right? She stuck with me till the end, not quietly by any means, but she did. She was my "clean hands" and go-getter. We even turned it into an official science lesson, with her completing an abscess diagram with crayons and paper! A real hands-on science lesson she'll never forget.

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When you remember to soak your dried beans overnight, this is a super healthy, simple, and tasty side dish for any Mexican

meal.

Refried Beans

Ingredients

- 1 lb pinto beans dried
- 2 cloves garlic smashed
- 1/2 onion quartered
- 6 cups water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons lard or oil

Instructions

1. Prepare: Sort through the beans to ensure that they are good and no rocks are mixed in.

2. Soak: Rinse with water in a stainer to clean. Or if soaking the beans, place in a medium size mixing bowl and cover completely with water. Let sit overnight. Strain the beans the next day after soaking.

3. Cover: Add the beans smashed garlic and onion to a large pot or pan. Pour the water in. Beans should be fully submerged in water.

4. Cook: Bring to a boil, stir in the salt, then turn the heat to low and continue to simmer covered. Allow to cook for about 30 minutes, remove lid, stir, and continue to cook an additional 30-60 minutes until the beans are softened and easily mashed. 5. Fry: Once the beans are soft, heat lard or oil in a large cast iron skillet over medium heat. Once the oil is heated, carefully ladle the beans, garlic and some of the bean broth into the skillet. Allow the beans to "fry" in the oil while mashing.

Free Square Dance Fun

Singles and/or Couples

STARTING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

5 TO 7 P.M. (EVERY 2 WEEKS)

FRONT PORCH CAFE IN ALTON

Casual Dress

For information call (don't text)

Peg (785) 483-0660

