

Doniphan County meeting minutes

Unofficial minutes By Clerk Peggy Franken

On September 22, 2025 the Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the office of the Doniphan County Commission, Troy, Kansas, at 8:30 A.M. with Second District County Commissioner Wayne Grable, Chairman, calling the meeting to order. First District County Commissioner Timothy D. Collins, Third District County Commissioner Bobby Hall and County Clerk Peggy Franken present. County Attorney Charles D. Baskins was present for a portion of the meeting.

The Kansas Chief Reporter Melanie Davis, Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris, Doniphan County Health Department Administrator/Home Health Director Chantal Wilburn, LPN, Coleman Equipment Sales Representative Curtis Zahnd, and Kansas Department of Transportation District Engineer Wes Moore were present for a portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve the County Commission meeting agenda. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve the County Commission meeting minutes of September 15, 2025 regular meeting as written. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve abated taxes to the Doniphan County tax roll based on Highland Community College Board of Tax Appeals decision for years 2024 in the amount of \$6,486.86 and 2025 in the amount of \$6,286.34. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center currently houses ten local inmates.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the hiring of Gary Ramey, part-time driver in the Transportation Department, subject to pre-employment screening. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed to posting an employment advertisement for the dual positions of Emergency Management Coordinator/Planning and Zoning Administrator on a full-time basis.

County Clerk Peggy Franken presented the County Commission with price quotes for dust control application at the Doniphan County Transfer Station. The Board of County Commissioners postponed action until Spring 2026.

Household Hazardous Waste collections for the month of August 2025 were presented to the County Board for their review by County Clerk Peggy Franken.

County Commissioner Bobby Hall presented the Board with options to purchase a snowplow for 2024 Ford F-250 in Third Road District:

Jackson Lawn Equipment
\$11,314.00 (9' V-Plow installed)
Jackson Lawn Equipment
\$8,927.00 (8' straight blade installed)
Snow-Way
\$10,062.00 (8' straight blade installed)

Bolin Hydraulic
\$10,000.00 (8' straight blade installed)

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve the best option of Jackson Lawn Equipment for the purchase of 9' V-Plow installed, in the amount of \$11,314.00. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hall asked the County Commission to consider sealing 175th Road asphalt during the 2026 season.

The Board of County Commissioners held discussion on late season 2025 chip seal. The County Commissioners agreed to compile a list of roadways to be chip sealed and asphalted during the 2026 season by 2025 year end in order to get on vendors' schedules earlier in the year.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris presented the County Commission with August 2025 Road Department expense report, Road Improvement Fund balances, rock stockpile, amount of rock hauled, tire, bridge plank and road tube inventories for their review.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to pay the cost of rock for rebuilding Monument Road, Section 12, Township 4, Range 21E, in the amount of \$5,029.88 from the Road and Bridge fund. Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris presented the County Commission with a list of bridge structures in need of immediate attention, per recent RS and Off-System bridge inspections performed by engineers with Schwab-Eaton, PA.

Commissioner Grable informed the County Commission that Contractor Mike Kiefer, Kiefer Excavating, furnished rye seed, rented a drill from the Natural Resources Conservation Services Office and had already seeded, at meeting time the previous week, CRP ground disturbed by construction on Monument Road, Section 12, Township 4, Range 21E. The Second District Road Crew purchased grass seed to sow road banks and yards along the roadway, with the County to sew the remaining CRP ground in December 2025.

Commissioner Grable told the County Board he was contacted by Alan Larson, adjoining landowner to tube replacement project on 140th Road, west of Kansas Highway 7, Section 10, Township 4, Range 20E, stating he (Larson) would take care of all grass re-seeding around the project site. Mr. Larson also extended a thank you to Doniphan County and Urban Construction for doing a good job on the project.

Commissioner Grable said he attended Rural Water District No. 6 board meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, regarding exposed waterline due to replacement of 5' x 110' culvert on 275th Road, Section 1, Township 2, Range 19E. Rural Water District No. 6 Attorney Joel Euler presented the board with a Request and Permission for placement of waterline in county right-of-way, signed by representatives of Rural Water District No. 6 on December 4, 2015 and approved and executed by the Board of County Commissioners

on December 7, 2015. Per item eleven (11) "Doniphan Co. RWD 6 will bear all costs to repair said lines when damaged by the County, during construction and/or regular maintenance of the county's facilities" and item thirteen (13) "Doniphan Co. RWD 6 shall also bear all costs incurred for the repair or relocation of its line located on private property which are incurred or required as a result of work being done on the County's right-of-way." Commissioner Grable stated according to the approved Request and Permission Doniphan County is relieved of all responsibility for the waterline.

At 8:55 A.M. Commissioner Hall made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interests of non-elect Road Department personnel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:00 A.M. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Clerk and Road Office Manager remained.

At 9:00 A.M. Chairman Grable called to order public hearing for adoption of 2026 Township, Cemetery, and Fire District budgets. There being no public comment, Chairman Grable closed the hearing at 9:03 A.M.

Health Department Administrator/Home Health Director Chantal Wilburn, LPN, reported on August 2025 census figures: Beginning of August twelve patients, end of the month seventeen. Thirteen admissions, 8 discharges, eleven personal care clients, twenty-two housekeeping clients, and 3 respite care clients. Two precept nursing students are currently interning at the Health Department, one from Benedictine College for both home health and public health. The other from Missouri Western for public health.

The annual drive-thru flu shot clinic will be held in the alley behind the Doniphan County Health Department, 201 S. Main Street, Troy, Kansas, on October 3, 2025 from 7:30 A.M. until 5:30 P.M.

At 9:14 A.M. Commissioner Hall

made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interests of non-elect Health Department personnel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:24 A.M. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney, County Clerk and Health Department Administrator/Home Health Director remained.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to raise Health Department Administrator/Home Health Director Chantal Wilburn's pay to \$35.00 per hour for assuming full duties of Administrator/Director over the Department. Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Curtis Zahnd, Sales Representative with Coleman Equipment, Inc., called on the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to recess for a break at 9:48 A.M., with the meeting to be called back to order at 9:53 A.M. in the office of the Doniphan County Commission. Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Wes Moore, Kansas Department of Transportation Area District Engineer, met with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss repair of box culvert on Kansas Highway 20, south of Denton, Kansas, Sections 22-23, Township 4, Range 19E. The project is set to be let for bid October 2026, with construction in 2027. The Kansas Department of Transportation will provide funds to Doniphan County to build up detour routes during construction. The proposed detour route is 130th Road to Blackjack Road to K-20 highway.

Engineer Moore also told the County Commission he will be providing Doniphan County with signage for the US bike route to mark the route through Doniphan County on 180th Spur and Last Chance roads.

There being no further business before the Board, Commissioner Collins made a motion to adjourn at 10:29 A.M. Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Wathena City meeting minutes

Unofficial minutes By Clerk Tammy Bembrick

The Wathena City Council met in session Monday, September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Wathena City Hall. Council members present were Council President Bob Halter, Cory Shue and Bob Ryser. Mayor John Hontz, and council members Jarod Jackson and Aaron Cluck were absent. Also in attendance were City Clerk Tammy Bembrick, City Superintendent Tim Smith, City Attorney Alan Boeh, Police Chief Dennis Thompson, Carol Hartman and Julie Feldkamp.

Council President Bob Halter opened the public hearing session to discuss Resolution 2025-2 to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate for 2026. City Clerk read the resolution. Discussion followed.

Hearing no comments from the public, motion was made by Cory Shue, second by Bob Ryser to approve Resolution 2025-2 to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate as established by the County for 2026. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried. Public hearing was then closed at 6:03pm.

Council President Bob Halter then opened the public hearing for the 2026 Budget. Discussion followed.

Hearing no comments from the public, motion was made by Cory Shue, second by Bob Ryser to approve the 2026 Budget as submitted by the City Clerk. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried. Public hearing was then closed at 6:05pm.

Council President then called to the regular session to order. Bob Ryser offered prayer.

Motion was made by Bob Ryser, second by Cory Shue to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2025 council meeting. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

Council reviewed the bills presented for approval by the City Clerk.

Motion was made by Cory Shue, second by Bob Ryser to approve the bills as listed. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

There was one building permit submitted for approval from Midland Steel to construct a 30ft x 15ft breakroom onto the existing building located at 202 Boeh Lane. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Bob Ryser, second by Cory Shue to approve the building permit for a breakroom as submitted by Midland Steel. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

Carol Hartman approached council regarding her water service. Mrs. Hartman explained that she was getting some kind of discharge in her water into her bathroom and kitchen causing a dirty residue to form on in the sinks, toilet and shower. Discussion followed. Superintendent Tim Smith will investigate and report back to Mrs. Hartman and council.

Chief of Police presented the police department activity report to Council.

Council discussed the following with Chief Thompson: activity report, working extra hours, hiring additional officers and status of nuisance at 2nd and Seward and 106 Spruce. Discussion followed.

City Superintendent Tim Smith presented the maintenance department activity report to Council.

The Council discussed the following items with the Superintendent: Activity report, status of the chip/seal resurfacing, asphalt work that is beginning, water connections and asphalt at 5th and Benton streets, asphalt repairs to 5th & Jessie after water leak and to 9th street north of Dennis. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Cory Shue, second by Bob Ryser to approve the road repairs at 9th and Dennis and 5th and Jessie streets with Midwest Sealing and Construction up to \$6,500.00. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

City Attorney requested a 10-minute executive session to discuss a legal matter.

The Council discussed the following items with the City Clerk: demolition of 401 Benton going out for rebid and the need to schedule a work session to discuss water rates. Discussion followed.

The Council discussed the following items: Council had no roundtable items for discussion at this time.

Motion was made by Cory Shue, second by Bob Ryser to go into a 10-minute executive session with council members, City Clerk and City Attorney to discuss a legal issue. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried. Executive session began at 6:43pm.

Regular session reconvened at 6:52pm. No action taken.

There being no further business, motion was made by Bob Ryser, second by Cory Shue to adjourn the meeting. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

Elwood City meeting

Unofficial minutes By Clerk Pam King

On September 15, 2025 at 6:00pm Mayor Timmy Kieser, Sr. called the regularly scheduled meeting to order. Those attending: council members: Megan Shackelford, Dustin Robinson and CJ Ganer. Also attending: Charles Baskins, Brandon Whetstine, Bill Johnson, Ronda Liechti, Shirley Vaughn and Pam King. Council members Sam Meers and Travis Holcomb were absent.

INVOCATION

CJ Garner gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dustin Robinson moved, Megan Shackelford seconded, to approve as written the September 2, 2025 regular council meeting minutes. CJ Garner, yea.

VISITORS

Shirley Vaughn appeared before the governing body to discuss the condition of her property at 605 Oak Street. The property was processed as a nuisance-needed cleaned up. The property has been cleaned up, but the Chief of Police wanted to inspect the inside of the house, before determining she has met all requirements. Vaughn asked about brush pile-how to get the gate unlocked. Vaughn was told she did not need to come back to the meeting, unless the Chief of Police instructed her to.

Ronda Liechti said there is a problem with people speeding on Vermont Street, at 2nd Street. Chief Whetstine said his department will patrol the area more often.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Whetstine gave the governing body the activities report.

Whetstine gave the governing body a bid from MTI for security cameras, for City Hall, the Police Department and the City Park. Megan Shackelford moved, CJ Garner seconded, to approve the bid from MTI, in the approximate amount of \$7826 for security cameras at City Hall, the Police Department and the City Park. Dustin Robinson, yea.

CITY SUPERVISOR

Bill Johnson informed the governing body the water tower has been painted, and will be filled tomorrow.

Dustin Robinson moved, Megan Shackelford seconded, to approve the bid for \$4036.60 to remove the rust from the 2016 Chevy pick up. CJ Garner, yea.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS

Dustin Robinson moved, Megan Shackelford seconded, to approve checks numbered 68676-68744. CJ Garner, yea.

GOVERNING BODY

CJ Garner said at 3rd and Lincoln Streets, a tree that has fallen needs to be removed, and the weeds need to

be cut. The property owner will be notified.

Malcolm Greer, applicant for code enforcer, will be at the next meeting.

Garner asked that the ordinance regulating the amount of time to complete construction on a mobile home, skirting, be amended.

Garner said the property owner at 9th and Kentucky Streets needs to be notified to remove the vehicles parked in the street. No parking signs will be placed along 9th Street. The police department will notify the owner of the property. If the cars are not removed, they will be towed.

Garner asked if 804 Vermont Street had been notified to clean the property. The property will be processed as a nuisance.

Dustin Robinson discussed the percentage of rental properties in town. 34% of properties in town are rentals. Robinson said housing is a big issue, for those wanting to own a home in Elwood. Robinson would like to see the City address this issue. Megan Shackelford said she is part of a committee assessing housing needs in Doniphan County. Shackelford also said if the City has codes and ordinances that are not enforced, no one will want to build here. Another misconception about Elwood was, we are in a flood zone. Elwood is NOT in a flood zone, we are protected by a federal levee.

Shackelford said Certa Foam is going to spray foam the concession stand in a couple of weeks.

Shackelford suggested the City provide trash service, putting the fee on the utility bill. The issue will be researched, and discussed at a later date.

Shackelford, representing the Elwood Activities Group, requested the City donate \$600 for the Halloween Celebration/Parade. Dustin Robinson moved, CJ Garner seconded, to donate \$600 to the Elwood Activities Group for the Halloween Celebration/Parade. Megan Shackelford, yea.

CJ Garner suggested the City have a house decorating contest for Halloween and Christmas. The prizes will be \$100, \$75 and \$50. If the property has any zoning/ordinance violations (weeds, inoperable vehicles or trash) the property will be disqualified.

Dustin Robinson wants to have a Christmas Dinner for employees and their families. It will be decided if the dinner will be held at the community center or at a restaurant. The date will also be determined.

ADJORNMENT

At 6:45 Dustin Robinson moved, Megan Shackelford seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.

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