

WATER

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and approved a resolution outlining the details of the bond series.

The city does not have to move forward with the bond series if the interest rate is more than 4 percent, according to the bond purchase agreement.

Also, during the Aug. 12 meeting, council members approved a professional services agreement with Kaw Valley Engineering for \$40,050.

The city previously was working with Kaw Valley

to come up with a plan to stabilize the Wea Creek streambank, but the new agreement shifts the focus to relocating the waterline to the south.

The new agreement includes a topographic survey, preparation of plans, permitting through KDHE, preparation of the contract and bid document, construction administration, construction testing and inspection, and administrative and project management.

Paola City Council member J.R. McMahon, who is the former Miami County road and bridge director, said he agrees with

the decision to relocate the waterline rather than try to stabilize the streambank using layers of rock known as riprap.

“We have to get our waterline out of risk,” McMahon said. “This is stuff we have to do.”

The other council members and Mayor Leigh House agreed that the bond issuance makes sense.

“Bonds aren’t our favorite, but sometimes they’re the best way to handle big projects,” House said.

Council members are expected to approve legal documents related to the bond issuance at their September meeting.



Brian McCauley / Miami County Republic

The city of Paola plans to relocate its primary waterline south of 311th Street at Wea Creek because of issues related to streambank erosion. It’s one of three water projects the city plans to fund using a \$1.05 million bond issuance.

BUDGETS

Continued from A1

budgets. Below is a breakdown of some of the meetings scheduled in Miami County based on public notices published by local taxing entities.

**MIAMI COUNTY**

Miami County’s proposed mill levy for the 2026 budget is 36.755, which is an increase of nearly two mills from the current 34.767. It is also higher than the revenue neutral rate of 32.824.

The proposed 2026 tax rate is similar to the county’s mill levy in 2024, which was 36.50. Last year, Miami County commissioners decided to go revenue neutral, which lowered the mill levy to 34.767.

Miami County’s assessed valuation increased from \$707,228,477 to \$749,148,777.

Miami County’s budget hearing and hearing to exceed revenue neutral rate are scheduled to take place during the Miami County Commission meeting at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 27, inside the commission chambers at the Miami County Administration



File photo

Miami County’s budget hearing and hearing to exceed revenue neutral rate are scheduled to take place during the Miami County Commission meeting at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 27, inside the commission chambers at the Miami County Administration Building in Paola.

Building in Paola.

**PAOLA**

Paola’s proposed mill levy for the 2026 budget is 42.242, which is a slight reduction from the current 42.353 but more than the revenue neutral rate of 40.621.

In order to meet the revenue neutral rate, the Paola City Council would need to cut about \$145,700 from the proposed budget, according to city documents.

Paola’s assessed valuation increased from \$86,179,203 to \$89,857,849.

Paola’s budget hearing and hearing to exceed revenue neutral rate are scheduled to take place during

the Paola City Council meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, at the Paola Justice Center.

**OSAWATOMIE**

Osawatomie’s proposed mill levy for the 2026 budget is 76.00, which is a reduction from the current 77.791 but still higher than the revenue neutral rate of 72.236.

Osawatomie’s assessed valuation increased from \$39,024,042 to \$42,026,174.

Osawatomie’s budget hearing and hearing to exceed revenue neutral rate are scheduled to take place during the Osawatomie City Council meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, at Memorial Hall.

been published, but it is expected to take place during a second meeting in September, city officials said.

**SPRING HILL**

Spring Hill’s proposed mill levy for the 2026 budget is 22.690, which is a slight reduction from the current 22.970 but still higher than the revenue neutral rate of 20.747.

The proposed mill levy is also much lower than the 2024 tax rate of 36.242.

Spring Hill’s assessed valuation increased from \$187,702,804 to \$204,462,299.

Spring Hill’s budget hearing and hearing to exceed revenue neutral rate are scheduled to take place during the Spring Hill City Council meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, at Spring Hill City Hall.

**PAOLA USD 368**

Paola USD 368’s 2025-2026 budget includes a reduction in the tax rate beyond the revenue neutral rate.

The 2025-2026 mill levy is 42.339, which is less than the current 47.986 and more than 3 mills less than the revenue neutral rate of 45.580.

Paola USD 368’s general fund assessed valuation increased from \$214,889,431 to \$227,126,006. The assessed valuation of all other funds increased from \$254,109,919 to

\$266,846,923.

Despite the increase in assessed valuation, the school district’s total taxes levied are projected to decrease from \$11,948,504 to \$10,503,631, a decrease of \$1,444,873.

Much of the decrease can be attributed to the school district recently paying off its bond debt, which eliminated about 6 mills dedicated to the bond and interest fund.

In November, the school district will be asking voters to approve a proposed cost-of-living tax that this year would have added 1.758 to the mill levy.

The budget public hearing took place during a school board meeting Monday, Aug. 11.

**OSAWATOMIE USD 367**

Osawatomie USD 367’s proposed mill levy for the 2025-2026 budget is 58.840, which is lower than the current mill levy but higher than the revenue neutral rate.

Osawatomie school board members, during their Aug. 11 meeting, agreed to schedule the hearing to exceed the revenue neutral rate at 7 p.m. during a school board meeting Monday, Sept. 8, at Osawatomie High School. The hearing will be immediately followed by the budget hearing at 7:10 p.m. during the same meeting.

School board members also agreed to advertise for an open at-large position on the school board. Applications will be accepted until Sept. 4.

**LOUISBURG USD 416**

Louisburg USD 416’s proposed mill levy for the 2025-2026 budget is 50.171, which is the same as the 2024-2025 school year.

The revenue neutral rate is 48.691 when the general fund is at the required 20 mill rate.

The district’s general

fund assessed valuation increased from \$193,737,335 to \$205,240,871. The assessed valuation of all other funds increased from \$225,396,787 to \$237,042,075.

Superintendent Brian Biermann said that due to an increase in assessed valuation and lower student enrollment, the district is projected to lose over \$300,000 in state aid.

The district’s budget hearing and hearing to exceed revenue neutral rate are scheduled to take place during a board meeting beginning at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, at Circle Grove, located at 29020 Mission Bellevue Road.

**SPRING HILL USD 230**

Spring Hill USD 230 is still finalizing its budget information and notices, but Director of Business and Finance Nathan Holder said the school district does intend to exceed the revenue neutral rate even though the mill levy will likely be slightly lower than last year.

The hearing to exceed the revenue neutral rate is scheduled for 5:15 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, and it will be followed by the budget hearing at 5:45 p.m. at the Spring Hill District Administrative Center.

**LOUISBURG LIBRARY DISTRICT NO. 1**

Louisburg Library District No. 1’s proposed mill levy for the 2026 budget is 4.486, which is a slight increase from the current 4.290 and more than the revenue neutral rate of 4.080.

The library district’s assessed valuation increased from \$226,871,518 to \$238,646,824.

The library district’s budget hearing and hearing to exceed revenue rate are scheduled to take place during a board meeting beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, at the Louisburg Library, located at 206 S. Broadway St.

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**THE MIAMI COUNTY REPUBLIC**

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