

Smith Co. Commissioners Meeting Minutes

The County Commissioners met in a special session on March 2, 2026, at the Road and Bridge Shop. Present were Commissioners Kurt Ifland, Brady Peterson and Jim Gwennap. Also present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Josh Long, Larry Krouse, Aaron Gible, Bill Brooks, Taz Manchester, John Kautz, Chase Brewer, David Tucker, Domic Long, Shawn Craig, Dustin Kendall, Jeremy Presbrey, Travis Story, Isaac Skidmore, Jon Beck, Rickie Williams and Tom Story.

At 7:00 a.m. Ifland called the meeting to order.olan Richardson and JR Rice joined the meeting.

The following topics were discussed: Commending the employees for work completed

Windrows Roadway edges and the need to get the water off the roads

Cole Conaway joined the meeting.

Dirt roads

Driveway and field entrances

Summer projects

Goals

Kansas Infrastructure Hub grant

Tree mulcher

John Deere blade

Grinder-removal of breaker bar

At 7:23 a.m. a motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Ifland to adjourn as there was no further business. Motion carried unanimously.

The County Commissioners met in a regular session on March 2, 2026, in the County Commissioners' room. Present were Commissioners Kurt Ifland, Brady Peterson and Jim Gwennap. Also present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Travis Story, Road Supervisor, Lester Clapp and Brian Thayer.

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

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to approve the 2/23/2026 minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to approve the 3/2/2026 agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 8:35 a.m. for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, potential employee. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell and Thayer left the meeting. Also in the session was Travis Story and Lester Clapp. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 8:47 a.m.

Maxwell rejoined the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 8:47 a.m. for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, potential employee. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell left the meeting. Also in the session was Travis Story and Lester Clapp. Clapp left the session at 8:48 a.m. and rejoined the session at 8:51

a.m. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 8:52 a.m.

Maxwell rejoined the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Ifland to extend an offer of employment in the road and bridge department to Lester Clapp. Motion carried unanimously.

Clapp left the meeting. Ethan White joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 8:55 a.m. for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell left the meeting.

Also in the session was Travis Story and Ethan White. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 9:10 a.m.

Maxwell rejoined the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 9:10 a.m. for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, potential employee. Motion carried unanimously.

Maxwell left the meeting. Also in the session was Travis Story and Ethan White. White left the session at 9:12 a.m. and rejoined the session at 9:14 a.m. No action was taken.

Regular session reconvened at 9:15 a.m.

Maxwell rejoined the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to extend an offer of employment in the road and bridge department to Ethan White. Motion carried unanimously.

White left the meeting. The commissioners and Story discussed the following:

1. Ifland discussed a tube on 120 Rd between A Rd and B Rd.

2. Gwennap followed up on a field driveway on 190 Rd, East of J Rd. Story stated he passed the information on to JR Rice.

3. Gwennap followed up on the bridge on 110 Rd between U Rd and V Rd. Story stated the bridge crew will repair the bridge.

4. Gwennap followed up on 160 Rd and N Rd. Story stated they are going to work on 110 Rd and then will move to 160 Rd and N Rd.

5. Gwennap discussed the grease situation. Story stated they currently have mystic 6 grease and will change to something with molly in it.

6. Gwennap asked about the sheep's foot. Story stated CAT was at the shop on Friday to look at the equipment they want to trade in.

7. Gwennap discussed 60 Rd between A Rd and B Rd. Gwennap discussed the possibility of adding gravel or some other type of material.

8. Gwennap asked Story of his opinion of utilizing rail car tubes. Story stated the county currently has one. Story will look into pricing.

9. Ifland discussed 210 Rd between H Rd and I Rd. There is a narrow area that needs to be reviewed.

10. Story shared email materials in regard to

Northwest Kansas Planning and Development administration fees submitted in the Kansas Infrastructure Hub grant.

Ryan Allen joined the meeting.

11. Story shared Wagner is currently working on obtaining bids for a new tractor mower.

12. Story stated the Perma-Zyme has arrived.

13. Story shared the grinder will be going to Concordia for repairs.

14. Story discussed water availability for the C Rd project. The commissioners discussed the possibility of researching a tank.

15. Story discussed John Kautz's district and the number of projects that need to be completed. Story stated that other individuals will be assisting him.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 9:49 a.m. for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, employee performance. Maxwell, Allen and Thayer left the meeting. Also in the session was Travis Story. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 9:54 a.m.

Maxwell, Allen and Thayer rejoined the meeting.

16. Story shared he was contacted for some drainage studies for 310 Rd and EE Rd.

17. Maxwell shared an update on the bridge on 140 Rd between D Rd and F Rd. Story left the meeting.

Allen discussed the following:

1. Allen discussed the dumpsters at the landfill. There are (6) dumpsters, each 2 yards in size. The commissioners are accepting sealed bids for all (6) dumpsters. Bids will be accepted through March 23, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

2. Allen reminded the commissioners that there is paint available at the landfill for citizens.

3. Allen stated they cleaned blown trash up last week.

4. Allen discussed the phone number at the landfill.

Allen left the meeting. Gwennap stated RWE sent out letters recently to landowners. RWE also informed Gwennap that Lane Douglas with RWE will be in the area within the next 6 weeks to attempt to acquire more land leases. RWE also indicated they have narrowed up the footprint but didn't elaborate on the new footprint. RWE also indicated that they hadn't ever offered the 70/30 pool before, but they will continue to offer it for this project.

Gwennap discussed concerns with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development. Last week, county representatives were made aware that the 2024 audit was never completed. The board is currently searching for an auditing firm to perform the audits needed. Gwennap also expressed concerns with executive sessions via Zoom. Gwennap shared that following the meeting, Gwennap and the staff at Northwest Kansas Planning and Development discussed

additional concerns with financials.

Keith Wangerin joined the meeting via telephone and discussed the following:

1. Wangerin discussed the Community Paramedicine grant. The grant will go through KDHE. Wangerin is working with Jason White and Smith County Memorial Hospital. There will be 4-6 agencies in Kansas applying for grant funding. The grant will be for 1 year. Following that 1 year, the services will be submitted through individuals' insurance for reimbursement. Smith County will be applying for a minimum of \$200,000.00. Wangerin shared the billing will be like the current charting system.

2. Wangerin shared a job application with the board. Wangerin would like to arrange an interview this week.

3. Wangerin discussed the CPR program. Wangerin stated they are currently updating the program to a computer. Wangerin asked if he could update his computer for the CPR program. The commissioners are in favor of the update.

Wangerin left the meeting.

Brittany Overmiller and Laura Hageman joined the meeting and discussed the county drug testing policy. The health department was not contacted by the sheriff's department when there was an employee involved in an accident. The commissioners discussed the lack of leadership in that department and along with that there is a lack of guidelines passed on to the employees. The health department has drafted a step-by-step notice for employees stating exactly what to do if you are involved in an accident.

Tabitha Owen joined the meeting

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 11:18 a.m. for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, employee performance. Motion carried unanimously. Thayer left the meeting. Also in the session was Tabitha Owen, Ashley Maxwell, Brittany Overmiller and Laura Hageman. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 11:28 a.m.

Owen left the meeting.

Thayer rejoined the meeting.

Thayer visited with the board about the impound lot. Thayer would like to purchase the property. The commissioners informed Thayer that the property is not for sale.

The commissioners signed the contract with the Kansas Department of Transportation to treat Noxious Weeds.

The commissioners initiated 2 voided checks.

At 11:51 a.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.

KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS ARE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FOR SMITH CO. COMMISSION; THE CITIES OF SMITH CENTER, KENSINGTON, LEBANON, CEDAR, GAYLORD AND ATHOL; USD #110 AND USD#237

SMITH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THE SMITH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEET EACH MONDAY, AT 8:30 A.M. AT THE SMITH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

JAMES GWENNAP DISTRICT 1
TERM ENDS: 2026

BRADY PETERSON DISTRICT 2
TERM ENDS: 2028

KURT IFLAND DISTRICT 3
TERM ENDS: 2028

ASHLEY MAXWELL CLERK
TERM ENDS: 2028

VERNON REINKING TREASURER
TERM ENDS: 2028

STEPHANIE ARMENT REGISTER OF DEEDS
TERM ENDS: 2028

SMITH CENTER CITY

THE SMITH CENTER CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH AT 6 P.M. AT THE SRADER CENTER

BRYCE WIEHL MAYOR
TERM ENDS: 2029

DONALD WICK COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2027

EVERETT MANSHOLT COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2027

CHRIS COLE COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

TRACY KINGSBURY COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

TY WALLGREN COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

BRITTANY NILES CLERK
APPOINTED:

MELISSA COLBY TREASURER/BILLING
APPOINTED:

KENSINGTON CITY

THE KENSINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5 P.M. AT THE CITY OFFICE

MAX KUHLMANN MAYOR
TERM ENDS: 2027

BLAYNE BIENHOFF COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

ADAM SYNOGROUND COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2027

TRACY ATCHISON COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

DONALD DODDS SR COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2027

DONALD DODDS JR COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

AMBER HARDACRE CLERK
APPOINTED:

LEBANON CITY

THE LEBANON CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7 P.M. AT THE SRADER CENTER

RICK CHAPIN MAYOR
TERM ENDS: 2029

BILL BEFORT COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

MARTY HANSON COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2027

RANDY MAUS COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2027

HANNAH RAMIREZ COUNCILWOMAN
TERM ENDS: 2027

BETTY PILCHER COUNCILWOMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

KARLIE KURCIAK CLERK
APPOINTED:

GAYLORD CITY

THE GAYLORD CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH @ 7:00 P.M.

BARBRA LEHMANN MAYOR
TERM ENDS: 2027

DENNIS LEHMANN COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

ADAM IFLAND COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2027

EDDIE ADAMS COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

DENA DANNENBURG COUNCILWOMAN
TERM ENDS: 2027

DARIN GODSEY COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

KIM IFLAND CLERK
APPOINTED:

CEDAR CITY

THE CEDAR CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7PM @ THE CEDAR DEPOT

REBECCA MUELLER MAYOR
TERM ENDS: 2027

LINDA MATUS COUNCILWOMAN
TERM ENDS: 2027

MOIYA STUBBS COUNCILWOMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

CHERYL GLASER COUNCILWOMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

SUE RILEY CLERK
APPOINTED:

ATHOL CITY

THE ATHOL CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

ALLEN DANIELS MAYOR
TERM ENDS: 2029

JANA DANIELS COUNCILWOMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

MONTY JONES COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

BEVERLY FELDMAN COUNCILWOMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

CADE RIETZKE COUNCILMAN
TERM ENDS: 2029

BARB JONES CLERK
APPOINTED:

USD #237

USD #237 MEETS THE 2ND MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH AT 7 P.M.

JOE WIEHL BOARD MEMBER
TERM ENDS: 2029

MARTY HANSON VICE PRESIDENT
TERM ENDS: 2027

JODI FRYDENDALL BOARD MEMBER
TERM ENDS: 2027

SARA PRUDEN BOARD MEMBER
TERM ENDS: 2027

LIBBY McDONALD BOARD MEMBER
TERM ENDS: 2029

WYATT RHOADES BOARD MEMBER
TERM ENDS: 2029

ADAM RENTSCHLER BOARD MEMBER
TERM ENDS: 2027

USD #110

THE USD #110 MEETS THE 2ND MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH AT 7 P.M.

STACI FOREMAN PRESIDENT
TERM ENDS: 2030

BRIDGET WYRILL VICE PRESIDENT
TERM ENDS: 2030

JUSTIN ABBOT BOARD MEMBER
TERM ENDS: 2030

ALI HADLEY BOARD MEMBER
TERM ENDS: 2030

KATHY HOLLING BOARD MEMBER
TERM ENDS: 2028

TINA DENNIS BOARD MEMBER
TERM ENDS: 2030

•Pushing the limits

about their birthday. I do remember when my mom turned 36 and I told Judi that we should not tell anyone that it is our mom's birthday because they might ask how old she was and I

thought 36 was OLD and how embarrassing it was to have such an old mom. Sorry Mom!

Even this year as my sister and I are planing a celebration for our mom, she

said she did not out to bother anyone with a party. I told her no one is going to be bothered that everyone we invite will be happy to help her celebrate. I have spent the last year getting

Continued from Page 7

stuff for her celebration and she was going to show up and let Judi and I handle the rest.



Ask about our Graduation Special

A Subscription to the Smith Co. Pioneer makes a great gift for Mother's Day or for the Senior about to Graduate. Stop by our office

@ 112 W. Kansas St. or call us @ 785-282-3371