

Smith County Commissioners Meeting Minutes

The County Commissioners met in a regular session on May 18, 2026, in the County Commissioners’ room. Present were Commissioners Kurt Ifland, Brady Peterson and Jim Gwennap. Also present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Jeremy Presbrey and John George.

At 8:32 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 5/11/2026 minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to approve the 5/18/2026 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners approved payroll #10 for \$166,877.72.

Commissioners approved voucher #16393-voucher#16466 and wires for the following accounts:

Employee Benefits \$71,188.77
Payroll Clearing \$49,700.32
TOTAL \$120,889.09

The commissioners and Presbrey discussed the following:

1. Presbrey shared the update on the C Rd project. Presbrey shared the truck drivers from Gana Company are arriving today at approximately 9:00 a.m. Presbrey shared the routes of the water trucks due to the amount of water needed.

2. Presbrey shared Travis Story is working on obtaining additional rock from the Cornwell rock pit.

3. Presbrey stated there was a tree removed off 240 Rd that fell during the storm.

4. Presbrey stated Ryan Rietzke shared he has crushed concrete available if the county is interested.

5. Presbrey discussed a driveway on 180 Rd and I Rd. It will be addressed when the trucks are available.

6. Presbrey asked the requirements for insurance for volunteer firemen.

Dominic Eck with Gilmore and Bell joined the meeting via telephone. Domonic shared the purpose on issuance of industrial revenue bonds for the Hannah Heights project.

Ifland opened the public hearing for the issuance of industrial revenue bonds.

George asked about how the project is funded.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to approve resolution 26-04. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Gwennap stated he viewed the 110 Rd project at approximately 7:15 p.m. one day last week. Gwennap commended the crew for their work.

8. Gwennap asked about equipment. Presbrey stated there is a roller down.

Presbrey left the meeting.

The commissioners reviewed the written report from Orazem & Scalora Engineering P.A. and asked Maxwell to contact engineer Gerit Garman to move forward with obtaining a proposal for improving the electrical grid at the courthouse and sheriff’s office.

The commissioners discussed mediation of the Q Rd bridge.

The commissioners approved 2 tax abatements.

The commissioners reviewed an emergency information packet for individual households and also businesses. The commissioners approved the draft provided by Allen Lanus.

The commissioners approved the 2026 farm acreage agreement with Steven Kugler with the same prices as last year.

Maxwell shared the in person audit was conducted on May 12. AdamsBrown, LLC will complete the audit and share the findings at a later date.

Maxwell also shared the budget preparation meeting will be held July 6, 2026. The process will be the same as last year.

The commissioners reviewed the engagement letter from AdamsBrown, LLC for budget preparation.

The commissioners approved the engagement letter.

The commissioners discussed the fuel and the current prices. John George expressed his concern with taking business outside the county. The commissioners discussed the prices and the extent of those differences.

The commissioners discussed having a conversation with Travis Story to plan for the replacement of the bridge on Q Rd between 30 Rd and 40 Rd.

The commissioners discussed the bridge on 140

•Continued on page 12

LEGAL NOTICE

On May 11, 2026, the City of Smith Center, KS adopted ordinance no. 1053, amending Ordinance No. 937. Ordinance No. 1053 prohibits permanent erection or placement of certain portable structures in residential districts but allowing placement in business and industrial zones under certain conditions and allowing a temporary permit for such use in all zones. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at the City Office, 119 West Court, and on the city website: www.smithcenterks.com. This summary is certified by Tabitha Owen, City Attorney.
(First published in the Smith Co. Pioneer Thursday, June 4, 2026.)

(First published in the Smith Co. Pioneer Thursday, May 28, 2026.)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SMITH COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of RANDY WILLIAM ROLAND, Deceased. Case No. SM-2026-PR-000012
NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:
You are hereby notified that a Petition for Issuance of Letters of Administration was filed in the above captioned case in this Court by TRAVIS ROLAND praying for appointment as administrator and issuance of letters of testamentary; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto, if any, on or before JUNE 26, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. of said day, in the said above Court in the City of

Smith Center, Smith County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition for Issuance of Letters of Administration. All creditors of the above-named decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four (4) months from the date of first publication of this notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

TRAVIS ROLAND, Petitioner
BY: /s/ Kyle C. Alen
Kyle C. Allen #27734
Allen & McDowell Law, LLC
113 N. Main St.
Smith Center, KS 66967
Tel: 785.282.6688
Fax: 785.686.5067 kyle@allenmcdowell.com Attorney for Petitioner
June 11

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

Smith County is seeking qualified consulting firms for pre-construction engineering and project management in the category equivalent to the Kansas Department of Transportation’s (KDOT) Work Category: 212 – Highway Design Minor Facility for the project listed below. Qualifications for roadway construction inspection in the equivalent to the KDOT’s Work Category: 241 will also be considered. Construction Engineering will also be considered.

**Description**  
High Risk Rural Road (HRRR) project 92 C-5417-01, which is a systemic signing project including analysis work to determine proper sign placement using established engineering principles on major and minor collector routes in the southern half of the county.

**Schedule and Deadlines**  
Date: May 20th, 2026  
Technical proposals are due on or before June 8th, 2026 to be delivered by mail to Smith County Road Department, 218 South Grant Street, Suite 2, Smith Center, Kansas 66967. Interested consulting firms must be pre-qualified by KDOT in the work categories noted above. Anticipated Schedule for Subsequent Events:  
Evaluation and ranking of technical proposals shall take place on or about June 9th, 2026 after which all firms that submitted letters of interest will be notified of the ranking. Negotiations with the highest ranked firm to commence on or about June 15th, 2026, KDOT Three-Party agreement in place and in effect June 22nd, 2026, Notice to Proceed to

be issued when the agreement has been fully executed and the funding is in place.

**Request for Proposal (Technical)**  
Smith County is seeking a consultant to provide design services for Smith County Southern Half Major and Minor Collector Signing Project. The work includes analysis work to determine the proper sign placement for 112 miles of un-paved Major Collectors, and 64 Miles of un-paved Minor Collectors using established engineering principles. Plans will be developed by the firm to implement improvements to regulatory and warning signs on major and minor collectors in the southern half of the county using State and Federal requirements. Inspection during construction is anticipated to be part of the services provided.

**Evaluation Factors**  
Technical proposals will be evaluated based on the factors listed below to rank the most qualified firm in order of preference as first, second, third, etc. If determined necessary by Smith County, a Preliminary Review Committee will be formed to reduce the number of firms evaluated to no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5). Reasons for exclusion from evaluation will be: size and/or qualifications; experience of personnel available for project; current uncompleted work or distribution of work; performance; no response from firm; or other reason. Firms excluded from short list will be notified as to reason for exclusion. Factors for evaluation and weight: 1. Ability to perform the desired services within

the time prescribed – 15 pts; 2. Past performance of firm – 15 pts; 3. Training of staff – 15 pts; 4. Previous experience with similar work and knowledge of project procedures – 15 pts; 5. Commitment of resources that could limit performance (ex.: staff, equipment) – 15 pts; 6. Firm’s familiarity with project area – 15 pts; 7. Accessibility of firm’s office – 10 pts. The highest ranked firm will be asked to enter into negotiations with Smith County for an agreement. In the event Smith County cannot reach agreement with the ranked firm, it will terminate negotiations with the said firm and commence negotiations with the next highest ranked firm, and so on, until an agreement is reached for a satisfactory scope of services for a fair and reasonable number of hours, or Smith County decides to pursue other alternatives.

**Contract Terms and Conditions**  
This is a KDOT project using KDOT funding. A standard three (3) phase, three (3) party agreement will be utilized with special attachments for the Kansas “Tax Clearance Certificate”, the “Certification of Final Indirect Costs”, and the “Policy Regarding Sexual Harassment”.  
**Instructions for Technical Proposal**  
Note: No costs shall be contained in the technical proposal. Technical proposals will consist of the technical proposal and a completed and signed Special Attachment No. 9

(“Certificate of Final Indirect Costs”), a completed and signed Special Attachment No. 10 (“Tax Clearance Certificate”). All these forms can be obtained via mail to Smith County Road Department, 218 South Grant St., Suite 2, Smith Center, Kansas 66967  
The main text of consultant’s technical proposal must not exceed six (6) pages (including cover sheets, indexes, etc.) to address the topics listed. Describe processes and procedures proposed by consultant to meet the project completion deadline listed above. Describe processes and procedures, included best practices, that will be used to perform the tasks and produce the deliverables described above under “Request for Proposal (Technical)”. Include in the technical proposal items such as:  
• Project manager/engineer in charge  
• History of project with similar tasks  
• Availability of staff to meet schedule without overtime  
• Cost-effective or cost-reduction practices, processes or procedures used by consultant, if any  
Any sub-consultant and their role (if any) that will be performing services on the project must complete Special Attachment No. 9 (“Certificate of Final Indirect Costs”), and the Special Attachment No. 10 (“Tax Clearance Certificate”). Questions about this request for qualifications shall be sent to Smith County Road Department, 218 South Grant St., Suite 2, Smith Center, Kansas 66967.fs

(Published in the Smith Co. Pioneer on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

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

|                                                               |                                                                                              |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>JAMES GWENNAP</b><br><i>DISTRICT 1</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2026  | THE SMITH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEET EACH MONDAY, AT 8:30 A.M. AT THE SMITH COUNTY COURTHOUSE |  |
| <b>BRADY PETERSON</b><br><i>DISTRICT 2</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2028 | <b>KURT IFLAND</b><br><i>DISTRICT 3</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2028                                   |  |
| <b>SMITH COUNTY OFFICIALS</b>                                 | <b>ASHLEY MAXWELL</b><br><i>CLERK</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2028                                     |  |
| <b>TRAVIS CONAWAY</b><br><i>SHERIFF</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2028    | <b>VERNON REINKING</b><br><i>TREASURER</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2028                                |  |
| <b>TABITHA OWENS</b><br><i>ATTORNEY</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2028    | <b>STEPHANIE ARMENT</b><br><i>REGISTER OF DEEDS</i><br>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

|                                                                 |                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BRYCE WIEHL</b><br><i>MAYOR</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029           | <b>CHRIS COLE</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029      |
| <b>DONALD WICK</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027      | <b>TRACY KINGSBURY</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029 |
| <b>EVERETT MANSHOLT</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027 | <b>TY WALLGREN</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029     |
| <b>SMITH CENTER CITY OFFICIALS</b>                              | <b>BRITTANY NILES</b><br><i>CLERK</i><br>APPOINTED:            |
| <b>MELISSA COLBY</b><br><i>TREASURER/BILLING</i><br>APPOINTED:  | <b>KIM MAUDLIN</b><br><i>ADMIN/TRANSIT</i><br>APPOINTED:       |

KENSINGTON CITY

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>MAX KUHLMANN</b><br><i>MAYOR</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027         | THE KENSINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5 P.M. AT THE CITY OFFICE |  |
| <b>BLAYNE BIENHOFF</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029 | <b>DONALD DODDS SR</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027                              |  |
| <b>ADAM SYNOGROUND</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027 | <b>DONALD DODDS JR</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029                              |  |
| <b>TRACY ATCHISON</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029  | <b>AMBER HARDACRE</b><br><i>CLERK</i><br>APPOINTED:                                         |  |

LEBANON CITY

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|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>RICK CHAPIN</b><br><i>MAYOR</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029       | THE LEBANON CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7 P.M. AT THE CITY OFFICE |  |
| <b>BILL BEFORT</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029  | <b>HANNAH RARMAIS</b><br><i>COUNCILWOMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027                           |  |
| <b>MARTY HANSON</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027 | <b>BETTY PILCHER</b><br><i>COUNCILWOMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029                            |  |
| <b>RANDY MAUS</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027   | <b>KARLIE KURCIAK</b><br><i>CLERK</i><br>APPOINTED:                                       |  |

GAYLORD CITY

|                                                               |                                                                           |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>BARBRA LEHMANN</b><br><i>MAYOR</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027      | THE GAYLORD CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH @ 7:00 P.M. |  |
| <b>DENNIS LEHMANN</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029 | <b>DENA DANNENBURG</b><br><i>COUNCILWOMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027          |  |
| <b>ADAM IFLAND</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027    | <b>DARIN GODSEY</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029               |  |
| <b>EDDIE ADAMS</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029    | <b>KIM IFLAND</b><br><i>CLERK</i><br>APPOINTED:                           |  |

CEDAR CITY

|                                                               |                                                                                   |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>REBECCA MUELLER</b><br><i>MAYOR</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027     | THE CEDAR CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7PM @ THE CEDAR DEPOT |  |
| <b>LINDA MATUS</b><br><i>COUNCILWOMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027  | <b>CHERYL GLASER</b><br><i>COUNCILWOMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029                    |  |
| <b>MOIYA STUBBS</b><br><i>COUNCILWOMEN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029 | <b>SUE RILEY</b><br><i>CLERK</i><br>APPOINTED:                                    |  |

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

|                                                               |                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ALLEN DANIELS</b><br><i>MAYOR</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029       | <b>BEVERLY FELDMAN</b><br><i>COUNCIL WOMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029 |
| <b>JANA DANIELS</b><br><i>COUNCILWOMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029 | <b>CADE RIETZKE</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029       |
| <b>MONTY JONES</b><br><i>COUNCILMAN</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029    | <b>BARB JONES</b><br><i>CLERK</i><br>APPOINTED:                   |

|                                                                  |                                                                           |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>JOE WIEHL</b><br><i>BOARD MEMBER</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029       | <b>USD #237</b><br>USD #237 MEETS THE 2ND MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH AT 7 P.M. |  |
| <b>MARTY HANSON</b><br><i>VICE PRESIDENT</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027  | <b>LIBBY McDONALD</b><br><i>BOARD MEMBER</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029           |  |
| <b>JODI FRYDENDALL</b><br><i>BOARD MEMBER</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027 | <b>WYATT RHOADES</b><br><i>BOARD MEMBER</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2029            |  |
| <b>SARA PRUDEN</b><br><i>BOARD MEMBER</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027     | <b>ADAM RENTSCHLER</b><br><i>BOARD MEMBER</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2027          |  |

USD #110

|                                                                   |                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STACI FOREMAN</b><br><i>PRESIDENT</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2030       | <b>ALI HADLEY</b><br><i>BOARD MEMBER</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2030    |
| <b>BRIDGET WYRILL</b><br><i>VICE PRESIDENT</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2030 | <b>KATHY HOLLING</b><br><i>BOARD MEMBER</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2028 |
| <b>JUSTIN ABBOT</b><br><i>BOARD MEMBER</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2030     | <b>TINA DENNIS</b><br><i>BOARD MEMBER</i><br>TERM ENDS: 2030   |