

Smith Co. Commissioners Meeting Minutes

The County Commissioners met in a regular session on August 24, 2026, in the County Commissioners’ Room. Present were Commissioners Kurt Ifland, Jim Gwennap and Brady Peterson. Also present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Travis Story, Road and Bridge Supervisor and John Kautz, Assistant Road and Bridge Supervisor.

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

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Gwennap to approve the 8/17/2026 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to approve the 8/24/2026 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners approved payroll #17 for \$168,432.97.

The commissioners approved voucher #16885-voucher #16978 and wires for the following accounts:

- General \$13,549.56
- Road & Bridge \$172,424.94
- Noxious Weed \$1,135.72
- Health \$2,113.33
- Appraiser \$96.53
- Solid Waste \$4,526.64
- EMS \$3,850.10
- Employee Benefits \$72,986.01
- Special Alcohol Fund \$1,856.34
- Health Care Sales Tax \$22,077.73
- Payroll Clearing \$50,148.67
- ROD Technology Fund \$372.00
- Next Gen. E911 \$308.13
- TOTAL \$345,445.70

The commissioners, Story and Kautz discussed the following:

- 1. Ifland discussed AA Rd and 150 Rd.
- 2. Ifland discussed DD Rd and 150 Rd.
- 3. Ifland discussed a cul-

vert on AA Rd, North of 150 Rd.

4. Ifland discussed a bridge on 110 Rd between A Rd and B Rd.

5. Ifland shared there have been dirt roads worked in the Southern part of the county.

6. Peterson shared the dirt roads that have been rebuilt held up with the rains.

7. Ifland discussed the hole at the edge of Gaylord on L Rd. Ifland stated it is the second block North of Highway 9.

8. Ifland discussed 60 Rd and Highway 8.

9. Gwennap discussed a hole on T Rd, South of 30 Rd.

10. Gwennap stated he received compliments on S Rd.

11. Gwennap asked about completion of the project on AA Rd. Story stated it is being fixed today.

12. Gwennap discussed a tube on K Rd, South of 160 Rd. Gwennap also discussed the holes in the roadway.

13. Gwennap discussed 90 Rd and K Rd.

14. Gwennap asked about bus routes. Story stated he has only gotten maps from Smith Center.

15. Gwennap discussed numerous areas where there a large windrows, the windrows are in the ditch and the roadways keep getting wider and wider.

16. Gwennap discussed North of M Rd and 20 Rd.

17. Story discussed training. Story shared there are 3 individuals capable of training.

18. Story discussed the blade foreman duties. The commissioners feel there are projects that aren’t getting fully completed. The commissioners also discussed the benefits to the foreman driving roadways once a week.

19. Kautz discussed the idea of more gravel roads and less rock roads.

20. Story discussed C Rd, North of Kensington.

21. Story discussed large projects in the future. These projects will start in

the fall of each year.

22. Story asked about T Rd between 30 Rd and 50 Rd.

23. Story stated he was approached about creating a snow route. He would like to add the residents with medical needs as well to the route.

24. Story stated CAT has returned 2 of the hubs for Dustin Kendall’s blade. The other 2 hubs have been sent to CAT for repair.

25. Story stated Jeremy Presbrey’s blade is having issues and will require repairs by CAT.

26. Story stated the new Kenworth will be having warranty work done soon.

27. Story stated a shop meeting will be held on Friday to discuss moving forward with C Rd.

28. Kautz shared a job application with the board.

29. Gwennap and Peterson shared the information from the meeting with Shannon Praete.

30. Ifland asked about a blade replacement plan. Story stated he hasn’t worked on it recently.

Story and Kautz left the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release in Full of All Claims for \$300,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Jones joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Jones stated he is continuing to spray as the weather permits.

2. Jones has plans to get back on the highways.

3. Gwennap asked about the possibility of the weed department spraying roadway edges. Jones stated he doesn’t think he could spray all roads efficiently.

Jones left the meeting.

Laura Hageman joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. The safety meeting review will be held tomorrow (8/25/2026) at 1:00 p.m.

2. Hageman reiterated USD 237 chose to contract with the hospital and clinic to cover the school nurse re-

quirements.

3. Hageman will be meeting with the hospital soon for community needs review.

4. Hageman shared she made contact with Greg Hobelmann in regard to the more secure emails.

Hageman left the meeting.

Trenton Ringle joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 10:28 a.m. for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, employee performance. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell left the meeting. Also in the session was Trenton Ringle. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 10:43 a.m.

Ringle left the meeting. Maxwell rejoined the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to take disciplinary action as previously discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

Tom Chapman joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Chapman shared the debris management plan, recovery plan and fatality management plan.

2. Chapman also said he will be attending the KEMA conference next week in Manhattan.

3. Chapman discussed purchasing low angle rescue training materials. Peterson suggested applying for funding through the community foundation grant.

Chapman left the meeting.

The commissioners approved 46 abatements.

At 11:17 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

JAMES GWENNAP <i>DISTRICT 1</i> TERM ENDS: 2026	THE SMITH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEET EACH MONDAY, AT 8:30 A.M. AT THE SMITH COUNTY COURTHOUSE	KURT IFLAND <i>DISTRICT 3</i> TERM ENDS: 2028
BRADY PETERSON <i>DISTRICT 2</i> TERM ENDS: 2028		ASHLEY MAXWELL <i>CLERK</i> TERM ENDS: 2028
SMITH COUNTY OFFICIALS		VERNON REINKING <i>TREASURER</i> TERM ENDS: 2028
TRAVIS CONAWAY <i>SHERIFF</i> TERM ENDS: 2028		STEPHANIE ARMENT <i>REGISTER OF DEEDS</i> TERM ENDS: 2028
TABITHA OWENS <i>ATTORNEY</i> 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 <i>MAYOR</i> TERM ENDS: 2029	CHRIS COLE <i>COUNCILMAN</i> TERM ENDS: 2029
DONALD WICK <i>COUNCILMAN</i> TERM ENDS: 2027	TRACY KINGSBURY <i>COUNCILMAN</i> TERM ENDS: 2029
EVERETT MANSHOLT <i>COUNCILMAN</i> TERM ENDS: 2027	TY WALLGREN <i>COUNCILMAN</i> TERM ENDS: 2029

SMITH CENTER CITY OFFICIALS

MELISSA COLBY <i>TREASURER/BILLING</i> APPOINTED:	BRITTANY NILES <i>CLERK</i> APPOINTED:
	KIM MAUDLIN <i>ADMIN/TRANSIT</i> APPOINTED:

KENSINGTON CITY

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

LEBANON CITY

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

GAYLORD CITY

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

CEDAR CITY

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

ATHOL CITY

THE ATHOL CITY COUNCIL MEETS THE 1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH	
ALLEN DANIELS <i>MAYOR</i> TERM ENDS: 2029	BEVERLY FELDMAN <i>COUNCILWOMAN</i> TERM ENDS: 2029
JANA DANIELS <i>COUNCILWOMAN</i> TERM ENDS: 2029	CADE RIETZKE <i>COUNCILMAN</i> TERM ENDS: 2029
MONTY JONES <i>COUNCILMAN</i> TERM ENDS: 2029	BARB JONES <i>CLERK</i> APPOINTED:

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

USD #110

THE USD #110 MEETS THE 2ND MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH AT 7 P.M.	
STACI FOREMAN <i>PRESIDENT</i> TERM ENDS: 2030	ALI HADLEY <i>BOARD MEMBER</i> TERM ENDS: 2030
BRIDGET WYRILL <i>VICE PRESIDENT</i> TERM ENDS: 2030	KATHY HOLLING <i>BOARD MEMBER</i> TERM ENDS: 2028
JUSTIN ABBOT <i>BOARD MEMBER</i> TERM ENDS: 2030	TINA DENNIS <i>BOARD MEMBER</i> TERM ENDS: 2030

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING							
The governing body of Swan Township Smith County							
will meet on September 20th, 2026 at 6:45 P.M. at Ron Wolf Residence for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Smith County Clerk's Office and will be available at this hearing.							
BUDGET SUMMARY							
Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.							
Fund	Prior Year Actual 2025 Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Estimate 2026 Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Proposed Budget 2027 Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	310		740		715		
Totals	310	0.000	740	0.000	715	0	0.000
Revenue Neutral Rate** 0.000							
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	310		740		715		
Total Tax Levied	0		0		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	1,921,682		1,921,682		1,737,351		
Outstanding Indebtedness, Jan 1	2024		2025		2026		
G.O. Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		0		0		
*Tax rates are expressed in mills.							
**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988							
Steven Wangerin Township Clerk			(Published in the Smith Co. Pioneer, Thursday, September 10, 2026				
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