County Commissioners meeting minutes

Unofficial minutes
By Clerk Peggy Franken

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 and County Clerk Peggy Franken present. County Attorney Charles D. Baskins was present for a portion of the meeting. Third District County Commissioner Bobby Hall was absent.

Commissioner-Elect Roger Hopkins observed. Others present for a portion of the meeting included Sheriff Mark Allen, County Maintenance Superintendent Dennis McKittrick, Gerald E. Pierce, Jr., Sheryl Pierce, Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris, and Custodian Laura Winkel.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the beginning of the meeting.

Grable made a motion to approve the amended County Commission meeting agenda to include meeting with Custodian regarding south courthouse porch landing and gazebo repair. Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Collins made a motion to approve minutes of the November 9, 2026, regular County Commission meeting and November 9, 2026 General election canvass as written. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Collins made a motion to approve abated taxes to the 2026 Doniphan County tax roll in the amount of $14,116.02. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Collins made a motion to approve payroll and warrants for the period of November 16, 2026 as presented. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Fee report for the month of October 2026 was presented to the Board on behalf of the Sheriff for review.

The Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center currently houses 16 local inmates.

Sheriff Mark Allen and County Maintenance Superintendent Dennis McKittrick presented the Board of County Commissioners with a price quote from Tech Electronics in the amount of $35,700.00 to replace the current obsolete fire alarm system at the Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center. Tech Electronics shall remove the existing Fire-Lite MS 9200UD fire alarm control panel and furnish and install a new Notifier NFW-100X addressable fire alarm control panel complete with CLSS gateway, dual-SIM cellular communicator, system batteries and associated panel equipment as part of the contractual agreement. Commissioner Collins made a motion to enter into a contractual agreement with Techs Electronics for replacement of the fire alarm system at the Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center in the amount of $35,700.00 with payment to be made from the New Sales Tax fund. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Sheriff Mark Allen told the Board of County Commissioners that the Doniphan County Sheriff's Department was awarded the Kansas Department of Transportation Behavioral Safety and Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant in the amount of $17,196.00. The grant award is broken down into three categories: personnel $10,000.00, equipment $5,396.00 and travel $1,000.00. Funds are awarded to local law enforcement agencies for high-visibility overtime enforcement to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities. Sheriff Allen asked the Board of County Commissioners, who are responsible for setting the pay plan for County employees, to approve overtime pay (reimbursable through the STEP grant) for the salaried Undersheriff position, while participating in STEP grant activities. Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve overtime pay for the Undersheriff's position while participating in STEP grant activities as long as the overtime pay is fully reimbursable through the Kansas Department of Transportation Behavioral Safety and Special Traffic Enforcement Program. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Gerald E. Pierce, Jr. (G.E.) and Sheryl Pierce, adjoining property owners, appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to discuss request for payment letter received from the Doniphan County Road Department for 130th Road rebuild project, east of Kansas Highway 7 (Section 13, Township 4, Range 20E). And presented them with a copy of the County Commission minutes from the October 27, 2025 meeting wherein adjoining landowners agreed to pledge $5,000.00 each towards the road rebuild project. Mr. Pierce stated that he and Sheryl are withholding payment from the County because they believe the terms of the February 11, 2026 Temporary Work Agreement were not met. Mr. Pierce said 20 years ago he had his property surveyed and in looking at the rebuilt section of the north-south road it appears to be placed 2/3-3/4 on his property. G.E. contacted Surveyor Harlan Ross, with Schwab Eaton, to see if he could meet with him when he resurveyed the road for permanent road record. In meeting with Mr. Ross, it was discovered both survey markers on the west edge of the property were removed by the sub-contractor at the time the new road was constructed. The southwest survey marker was re-established but the others were completely destroyed, even after being directed by the surveyor at the time not to doze out or touch the survey markers. Sheryl Pierce told the County Board the survey markers dated back to the 1800's and were dozed out by the sub-contractor. G.E. said if the north-south road is in fact on him he plans to construct a fence 20' off the centerline of the county road, thereby shortening up the roadbed. Speaking directly to the Temporary Work Agreement he specifically addressed each item: 1) The new road as constructed does not go all the way to the Tharman property. 2) Timber was cleared and piled on Pierce ground, left scattered all over the ground. 3) 120' x 36" and 60' x 48" installed tubes were metal instead of plastic as stated in the agreement. 4) 130th Road will have a minimum 20' roadway and not exceed the current right-of-way of 40'. According to Pierces the hill at the bottom (east) end of the road is a 17' roadbed with no shoulders that is built to a 20° grade with 90° drop off. 5) Road to be rocked once completed. G.E. said the road is still not rocked. 6) 130th Road right-of-way to remain 40'. G.E. plans to put up a fence 20' from the centerline of the county road, thus shortening the roadbed. And 7) Original completion date April 15, 2026. The road project was not complete until August according to G.E. Pierce, forcing Pierce's financial loss by not being able to burn CRP ground and having to perform areal application of herbicide. In addition, the road has not been seeded. G.E. asked that the County Commissioners, County Attorney and Commissioner-Elect Hopkins view the road as constructed with adjoining landowners. Sheryl Pierce asked who provided oversight to the sub-contractor during construction. And cited safety issues with the steep incline on the hill leading to their property. Believing the road is not viable, G.E. and Sheryl Pierce are withholding payment for the 130th Road rebuild project, which constructed a road to gain access to their property located in the south one-half of the southeast quarter, Section 13, Township 4 Range 20E. G.E. Pierce asked about the County's Error's and Omissions insurance policy. Chairman Grable said no comments would be made by the Board until legal counsel and Commissioner Hall are present.

Upon arrival of County Attorney Charles D. Baskins, G.E. and Sheryl Pierce reviewed the terms of the 130th Road Temporary Work Agreement with him, laying out their reasons for not paying the pledged $5,000.00 towards the road rebuild project. County Attorney Baskins asked if Pierce's could access the road via motorized vehicle. G.E. said they could not access it with a car. Sheryl Pierce said they need a viable road, not a farm road, saying if someone is to build there in the future they need a safe road. She further stated other governmental entities also have safety concerns with the way the road was built. No action was taken.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris presented the County Commission with culvert prices from Gateway Pipe Inc. for their review.

E-mail correspondence was presented to the County Commission from Jennifer Lock regarding conditions of streets within the corporate city limits of White Cloud, Kansas. The Board of County Commissioners took no action citing no jurisdiction within corporate city limits.

Lindsay Norris, Road Office Manager, presented the County Commission with sign options to be erected within Doniphan County right-of-way on Mesquito Creek Road, leading to the intersection of US Highway 36, stating "Look Again Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" with red flashing signals as an alternative to the County submitting a utility permit application to the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and KDOT performing a traffic engineering study for placement of a lighted stop sign at both the north and south intersections of US Highway 36 and Mesquito Creek Road. No action was taken pending discussion with Commissioner Hall.

Township Road Improvement Fund and County rock balances were presented to the County Commission for review by Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris. The balances do not include rock hauled in October.

Chris Adelman, Husker Steel, telephoned the Road Office with an alternate cost estimate to repair the east end of bridge T-15-3 on 280th Road, first bridge east of Ash Point Road (Section 5-32, Township 2, Range 19E) and perform debris cleanout. No action taken.

Collins made a motion to enter into an agreement with Schwab Eaton to provide professional land surveying services to write a road right-of-way easement description and Certificate of Survey on the new right-of-way for 130th Road (Sections 13 and 24, Township 4, Range 20E) in the amount of $4,400.00. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Collins made a motion to approve the following Road Department invoices: Engemann Drainage $1,824.00 (120' x 18" tube District 2)R&W Towing$560.00 (tow bill 2012 Freightliner (#4)) Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

At 9:32 A.M. Collins made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing property acquisition, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:42 A.M. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0. County Attorney, County Clerk, Road Office Manager and Commissioner-Elect Hopkins remained. No action taken.

Collins made a motion to enter into an agreement with Gordon CPA for 2026 auditing services in an amount not to exceed $18,300.00. Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Custodian Laura Winkel presented the County Commission with a proposal from Olson Masonry, LLC to cut and install limestone (from original courthouse steps) along the stair riser of the top step of the south courthouse steps to transition onto the porch landing in the amount of $5,200.00. Commissioner Grable made a motion to accept the proposal of Olson Masonry, LLC in the amount of $5,200.00 with payment to be made from New Sales Tax fund. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Custodian Winkel also told the County Commission Stonebarger Electrical has given an alternate bid to install 3:1 cedar slats on the gazebo railing in the amount of $300.00 per section or $2,700.00 total, in lieu of installing metal railing. Commissioner Collins made a motion to accept and approve installation of 3:1 cedar slates for the courtyard gazebo railing in an amount not to exceed $2,700.00 with payment to be made from the New Sales Tax fund and work to be completed before the Troy Christmas on the Square event scheduled for November 28, 2026. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

At 10:03 A.M. Commissioner Grable made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing confidential data relating to the financial affairs or trade secrets of corporations, partnerships, trusts and individual proprietorships, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 10:08 A.M. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0. County Attorney, County Clerk and Commissioner-Elect Hopkins remained. No action taken.

Collins informed the County Board the engine on the 2012 Freightliner (#4) blew. The Board agreed to seek cost estimates to repair before looking to replace the truck and trailer.

There being no further business before the Board, at 10:17 A.M. Grable made a motion to adjourn. Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Special meeting to discuss gazebo repairs

The Board of County Commissioners met in special session at 8:30 A.M. in the office of the Doniphan County Commission, with Second District County Commissioner Wayne Grable, Chairman, calling the meeting to order for the purpose of discussing courtyard gazebo repair with Contractor Michael Stonebarger, Stonebarger Electric, of Highland. 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.

Others present included Contractor Michael Stonebarger, Stonebarger Electric, of Highland, Kansas, and Custodian Laura Winkel.

The Board inspected the gazebo alongside the Contractor, Custodian, County Clerk, and County Attorney. Contractor Michael Stonebarger will complete the following by Nov 23.

·Plumb and square all 6"x6" cedar posts.

·Install side railings using 3.25"x1" cedar slats spaced 2" apart, framed with 2"x4" top and bottom rails.

·Install bench seating along each cedar slat railing section.

·Attach "L" support brackets to the inside of each 6"x6" cedar post beneath the benches.

·Install 1"x4" trim around the base of each 6"x6" cedar post.

·Install cord trim around the top of the 6"x6" cedar posts at the ceiling line.

·Repair ceiling

·Straighten the cupola on top of the gazebo.

·Install electrical outlets beneath the bench seating and mount a light switch on the north 6"x6" cedar post.

In addition, Contractor Michael Stonebarger will paint the entire structure white in the spring of 2027.

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City of Wathena
Emergency Numbers

In the event of electrical, water, animal control or other problems in the City of Wathena after regular city hall business hours call:
City Crew emergency 989-4735
Wathena Police 785-985-3711
County Sheriff Emergency 911

LET OUR LIVES BE FULL OF BOTH
Thanks & Giving
As we celebrate the many blessings we've been so lucky to enjoy this year, we count good friends like you among them. May you enjoy laughter and happiness around the table this Thanksgiving as you count your blessings.

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