

# County Commissioners Extend Solar And Data Center Moratoriums To Review Development Policies

**Official Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
Submitted By Harper  
County Clerk's Office  
February 16, 2026**

The Harper County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session. Chairperson McCurley called the meeting to order with Commissioners Struble and Waldschmidt. Shonda Larson, Board Assistant and Ami DeLacerda, County Clerk, were also present.

Ethan Waldschmidt, Waldron, was present to observe for his Government class at Chaparral.

Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve the 2/9/2026 meeting minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$78,832.99; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Struble moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$113,752.23; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Waldschmidt inquired where Commissioner McCurley obtained the information about a lawsuit in King-

man County related to a Windfarm. Commissioner McCurley stated her information came from an article in the Kingman Leader-Courier referencing Kingman County meeting minutes. The article indicated that a "settlement" had been reached between the County and NextEra. Commissioner Waldschmidt noted that he had spoken with multiple Commissioners and both area windfarm operators, and no one was aware of a lawsuit. There was an agreement, however, settling on a reimbursement amount for repairs to roads damaged, per their contract. Ms. DeLacerda also confirmed this with the Kingman County Clerk. Commissioner Waldschmidt noted that the implication of a lawsuit was misleading. Commissioner McCurley agreed, stating her point was to make people aware there were issues.

The group discussed the oil/salt water spill in Kingman County.

Jason Jump, editor of the Harper Advocate and Attica Independent, entered the meeting at 8:43 a.m.

Mike Bennett & Janet Slankard, Public Works, met with the Board. The results of the recent road count survey returned errors, and the Board agreed to test multiple products on a section of NW 90 Road.

Ms. Slankard presented lease paperwork for Foley graders, approved for signature by the County Counselor. Commissioner Wald-

schmidt moved to approve an Inordinate Spending Request in the amount of \$59,500.00 to Ray's Truck, LLC for the purchase of a dump truck for Public Works; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Struble asked for the scrub seal and chip seal requests for proposal be fast tracked, expressing concern about the damage being done to the roads in the meantime. Ms. Slankard stated there will be two RFPs published, one for roads currently ready, and one for road work completed in the future.

Josh Teel, Building & Grounds/IT and the Board opened and reviewed the following bids for the 5th floor Clocktower access project: Crossover Construction - \$10,975.00; Sumner Co. Construction & Remodel - \$20,600.00.

Mr. Teel will review and summarize the bids, and return with a recommendation.

Shonda Larson, Board Assist/Finance Director, updated the Board about a transfer \$15,331.50 from the Public Safety fund, noted that we have received the 2026 inspection fee from Waste Connections, and advised them of a request from a landowner for lighting at a stop sign on the Mag Plant Road. The request was denied by the Public Works Supervisor due to the lack of traffic in the area. The City of Harper requested adding an application fee to the Ad Valorem Tax Rebate Program application process. The Board denied the request, noting the purpose of the program is to encourage growth in the county, and their opinion that there are enough fees involved. The Board approved Ms. Larson's participation in the Harper County Community Foundation's Prepare to Launch program as her schedule allows.

Gracen Griffin, Child-care, gave a department update. There are currently 8 children in Anthony, 9 in Attica, and 7-10 on the waiting list. She is working on State Licensure for both facilities. Ms. Griffin updated the Board on a situation 2 weeks

ago, where a staff member's child was running to their car to leave, and a resident contacted the local Police Department concerned that kids were running around unsupervised.

Ms. Griffin advised that another private daycare would be reopening in Harper in March. There was also discussion on the number of open daycares, recent closings, and the structure changes for the USD 361 Pre School program.

At 9:23 a.m., Commissioner Struble moved to enter Executive Session. The justification for closing the meeting is to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. The open meeting will resume at 9:30 a.m. in this room; the motion passed unanimously. Ms. DeLacerda remained in the meeting. The regular meeting resumed at 9:30 a.m. with no binding action taken.

Mr. Teel returned to the meeting, and discussion continued on the 5th floor project. Commissioners McCurley and Struble requested information on the potential of a grant award before making a decision.

Joe Pennycuff, Appraiser, advised the Board that valuation notices that will go out by March 15th, but not in time for the March 1st deadline. The process is complete; however, he noticed some things during the protest hearings that he wants to follow up on, which will delay the mailing. The Planning and Zoning Board will meet Wednesday night, with David Foster to continue work on the Comprehensive Plan.

At 9:43 a.m., Commissioner Struble moved to enter Executive Session. The justification for closing the meeting is to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel. The open meeting will resume at 9:53 a.m. in this room; the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Pennycuff and Ms. DeLacerda remained in the meeting. At 9:53 a.m., Commissioner Struble moved to extend for 5 minutes; the motion passed unanimously. The regular meeting resumed at 9:58 a.m. with no binding ac-

## COOKING CORNER ELISHA'S FAVORITE DISHES

National Meatball Day March 9th

### Sausage & Beef Meatballs

#### Ingredients

- 1 lb. Ground Beef (80/20)
- 1 lb. Italian Sausage (mild or spicy)
- ¼ cup Breadcrumbs
- ½ cup Grated Parmesan
- 3 cloves Garlic (minced)
- 2 tbsp. chopped Parsley
- ½ tsp. Italian Seasoning
- 2 Eggs
- ¼ cup Milk
- ½ tsp. Salt
- ½ tsp. Black Pepper

#### Instructions

Preheat oven to 400°F. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Mix gently. Roll into golf-ball sized meatballs. Place on lined baking sheet. Bake 18-22 minutes or until cooked through. Serve meatballs over your favorite pasta with sauce, or with mashed potatoes & gravy!

tion taken.

There was further discussion on anticipated values for 2026, and potential changes to oil and gas values.

Ami DeLacerda, County Clerk, met with the Board. There was discussion on the search for Daycare liability insurance coverage, a new employee onboarding process, using Commissioner McCurley's signature on the payroll checks, and early voting for the March 3, 2026 election.

Commissioner Struble moved to approve Resolution 2026-03, updating the Employee Handbook; the motion passed unanimously.

The group discussed the Social Media policy, and the differences between a Private and Public entity.

Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve a Real Estate Add resulting in a \$1,831.34 increase

to taxes; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve a Real Estate Abatement resulting in a refund of \$2,234.66; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Struble moved to approve Resolution 2026-04, extending the Moratorium on Solar until 6/1/2026; the motion passed 2-1 (Waldschmidt).

Commissioner Struble moved to approve Resolution 2026-05, extending the Moratorium on Data Centers until 6/1/2026; the motion passed 2-1 (Waldschmidt).

At 10:20 a.m., Commissioner Struble moved to enter Executive Session. The justification for closing the meeting is to discuss personnel matters of nonelected

## COUNTY

Continued on Page 6

## LEGAL NOTICE

(First Published in The Anthony Republican, Wednesday, March 11, 2026) 3t

### IN THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT, HARPER COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: )  
SYLVIA E. RANSON, deceased. ) Case No. HP-2025-PR-05

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on February 23, 2026, a Petition was filed in this Court by Gena M. Ricker, an heir, devisee and legatee of the Decedent, requesting that Letters of Administration be issued to her, without bond.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before April 2, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the District Court of Harper County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Gena M. Ricker, Petitioner

Mandi J. Stephenson, #24694  
Attorney for Petitioner  
STEPHENSON LAW OFFICE LLC  
PO Box 204  
Kingman, KS 67068  
620-532-5156 telephone  
mandi@stephensonkslaw.com

## ~ THANK YOU ~

The family of Pat Wolff wishes to express our gratitude to our friends, neighbors, church family, classmates, co-workers, and our generous community for the love and support shown to us during our time of loss.

Your prayers, visits, meals, and memories have brought strength and laughter. A special thank you to the nursing staff at Patterson Health Center and Wheatland Health Care Center in Kingman. You love our loved one as your own.

Gerald, Carrie, Jason & Jennifer

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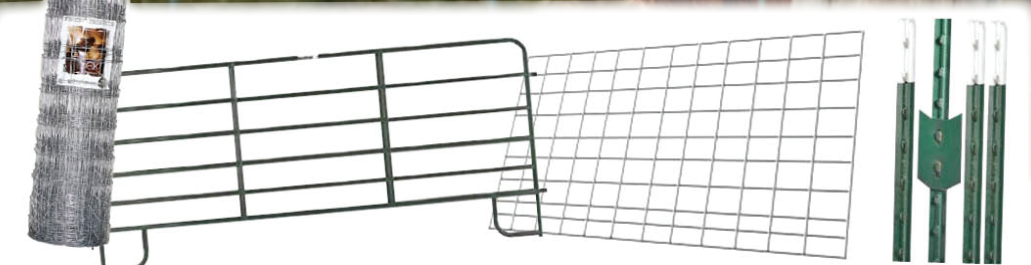
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If you prefer, you may also contact us by email.

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