

Commissioners Hear Wind Farm Frustrations, Approve Annexation For Anthony's Solar Project

**Official Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
Submitted By Harper
County Clerk's Office
April 20, 2026**

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

Vernon Hibbard, Township 6 Treasurer, was present for Public Comment. He provided a copy of a news article to the Board and expressed concern about the windfarms, including noise and light issues experienced, and the ability to sell land potentially being restricted by the contract. Mr. Hibbard also noted the bind weed and Johnson grass had not been treated recently in that area and requested the county mow the intersections. He requested the Board include

representatives from the area the next time they seat a committee, and inquired about the replacement of road signs.

Mike Bennett and Faith Rothenbush, Public Works, met with the Board and reviewed progress maps.

Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve an application to the Federal Fund Exchange program for \$79,486.94; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to publish a request for proposal for bids on a new excavator from 4/27/2026 – 5/15/2026. The bids will be opened on 5/18/2026 at 8:45 a.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to publish a request for proposal for bids on a new skid loader from 4/27/2026 – 5/15/2026. The bids will be opened on 5/18/2026 at 8:45 a.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Struble moved to approve an Inordinate Spending Authorization for four 2018 trucks, two 2026 belly dump trucks, one 2017 Peterbilt dump truck, and one 2018 Kenworth dump truck from Wichita Trailer in the amount of \$315,600.00; the motion passed unanimously.

The group continued discussion about other equipment needs. Mr. Bennett advised that the road being used to test a new soil stabilization product is almost ready, however the frequent moving and/or destruction of the "road closed" signs are causing issues.

Melinda Ewertz & Larry Berry, City of Anthony, presented a Request for Property Annexation to the Board to install a city-owned solar project on a 15-acre plot situated adjacent to the existing substation. Ms. Ewertz & Mr. Berry confirmed that neighboring landowners were aware and had not expressed opposition, 40% of the cost will come from federal funding sources as long as they break ground on the project by 7/3/2026, and the power generated will be used locally.

Commissioner Waldschmidt expressed his favor for the project, stating his opinion that we should maintain control of our resources. Commissioner McCurley stated that although she is not generally in favor of solar projects in the County, she appreciates the location and believes this project will help alleviate increasing costs for local residents.

Commissioner Struble noted the moratorium currently in place, and his instinct to be careful about allowing this project but not others. Commissioner McCurley clarified that the Board's role in this project is only to approve the annexation request. Mr. Berry stated that this project is small, just large enough to help lo-

cal energy customers, and the companies filling for permits throughout the county are wanting much larger facilities that won't serve local residents.

Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve the Request for Property Annexation; the motion passed unanimously.

Gracen Griffin, Daycare, gave a department update, advising that the licenses had been renewed and Fire Marshall inspections were complete for both Anthony and Attica locations. She noted a staffing shortage during the school year, but summer months were full. There is interest in full time positions, which we do not have open at this time, but it is hard to staff part time positions. The current wait list for Anthony is 10, Attica is 5, and Ms. Griffin noted that if she had additional staff, she could open more spots.

Ms. Griffin advised the Board about a recent issue related to our policy on diarrhea. The Board stated that they trust Ms. Griffin's judgement, and verified that she works with the State to create policy. Commissioner McCurley requested Ms. Griffin look into available meal reimbursement programs.

Heather Struble, Health Department, gave a department update and stated that Public Health Week activities were successful and well attended. She advised that Patterson Health Center had given notice that they will provide RN coverage through 7/1/2026, and she has scheduled a potential RN candidate to job shadow the PHC RN. One of our two Attendant Care Providers has resigned, causing the department to reduce the hours for the current case load and start a wait list. 3rd Quarter grant reports have been submitted, and the department has agreed to administer vaccinations at the 5/13 sports physical clinic at Patterson Health Center. The annual Pharmacy evaluation and HCBS audit were both completed successfully with

COOKING CORNER ELISHA'S FAVORITE DISHES

Fried Apple Hand Pies

Ingredients

- 2 pounds Dried Apples • 2 cups Water
- 2 1/2 teaspoons Cinnamon • 1 1/3 cups Sugar
- 3 cups Self-Rising Flour • 1 cup Whole Milk
- 1 to 2 cups Canola Oil • 1/2 cup Shortening

Instructions

Rinse and drain dried apples. Add apples to a pot with 2 cups of water on the stove. Simmer on low heat for about 30 to 45 minutes, stirring occasionally and adding a little more water if needed, until soft, mash with a potato masher, then add sugar and cinnamon to taste.

For the dough, work shortening into self-rising flour until crumbly, then slowly add whole milk. Work the flour in a little at a time until it forms a dough ball. Slightly knead, then place in the refrigerator, along with the filling, for at least 4 hours or overnight.

On a floured surface, roll dough to 1/8-inch thickness. Cut into 6-inch diameter circles. Spread 3 tablespoons of filling on one side. Fold dough over, crimp edges, and pierce with a fork. In a large skillet, fry pies in canola oil over medium-high heat for 1 to 2 minutes per side and on the flat edge, or until golden brown.

Transfer to a paper towel-lined pan sprinkle with cinnamon sugar, cool slightly before eating, optional-drizzle of caramel.

no issues identified.

Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve In Home Services Manual Health Department Manual updates; the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Waldschmidt moved to approve In Home Services Manual

FILES

Continued on next page

PROPERTIES FOR SALE



Anthony 624 N. Springfield
3,500+ ranch home w/ 4+ bedrooms and 2.5 baths, located in the heart of Anthony.



Attica 142 W. Ave B
Move-in ready, 2 bedroom, 1 bath home on a corner lot located near downtown.



Anthony 401 S. Lincoln
Updated 2 bedroom, 1 bath on a large corner lot located near elementary school.



Anthony 123 N. Bluff
Commercial property offering 4,800 sq/ft. of multi-unit space, one block off Main.



Harper 887 Frontage Rd.
Commercial Building with 5,000+ sq/ft. Built in 2013 on 4.86 acres on access road.



Anthony 316 W. Main
4,850 sq/ft. historic commercial building with prime Main Street frontage.

Feature Listing: 211 W. Main • Anthony, KS

Newly remodeled, located in downtown Anthony. Sale includes a lot of the interior contents.

CENTURY 21
Grigsby Realty

Gary Grigsby, Broker
Phone: 620-886-0766
Email: c21grigsby@aol.com

Josh Insee, Sales Associate
Phone: 620-243-3388

Rogena Grigsby, Broker Assoc
Phone: 620-886-1626
Email: rogena.grigsby@gmail.com

Megan Insee, Sales Associate
Phone: 620-243-2938

Phone: 620-915-2121

28th Annual Sunflower Balloon Fest

Anthony Airport and Downtown
May 15-16-17, 2026

\$2 festival buttons and \$25 t-shirts available at the airport and at downtown businesses before the festival.

All events are subject to change and weather permitting.

Balloon Flight Times

Friday, May 15th
6PM - Sunset Launch
8PM - Glow

Saturday, May 16th
6-7:30AM Balloon Launch
6PM - Sunset Launch
8PM - Glow

Sunday, May 17th
6-7:30AM Balloon Launch

BALLOON FLIGHTS: \$275 PER PERSON
TETHERED RIDES: \$25 PER PERSON
CASH ONLY

Friday, May 15th
Anthony Airport
Balloon launch window (6PM-dusk)
Tethered rides - **\$25 Cash only**
Balloon Glow (dusk-9PM)
Helicopter Rides (5PM-dusk) **\$50 cash**

2026 Presenting Sponsor
HCCF HARPER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Balloon Sponsors:
Henry Dick Digging
Anthony Co-op
Bank of the Plains
Irwin Potter Drug



Thank you, Sponsors!!

Community Sponsors:
Patterson Health Center
Peoples Bank and Trust
KanOkla
Idle Hour
Wayne Dennis Grant

Kid Zone Sponsors:
Dodgen Construction & Remodeling
Celco

Sunday, May 17th
Anthony Airport
Balloon launch window (6:30AM-7:30AM)

A BIG THANKS to all who make this festival possible including our sponsors, the City of Anthony, our balloonists and crews, our volunteers and YOU!!

Thank you for your support!
TheAnthonyChamberofCommerce
Board of Directors

www.anthonychamberofcommerce.com

Saturday, May 16th
Anthony Airport - Morning
Balloon launch window (6-7:30AM)
Hot Air Balloon Rides (8-10AM) **\$275 per person Cash**
Helicopter Rides (8AM-dusk) **\$50 Cash only**
Young Eagles Airplane Rides-Free, must pre-register (10-2)
Downtown Anthony - All day Link at anthonychamberofcommerce.com
Food Court and Craft Vendors-All day
Bouncy Houses (9AM-3PM)
Touch-A-Truck-on South Bluff (9AM-Noon)
Melodrama-The Arts Center, Anthony Theater (10, 12 & 2)
Medieval Re-Enactment-outside Anthony Theater (10AM)
Perplexing Puzzle Contest-OnyxCreek Coffee Shop (10AM)
Balloon Basket Photo Op-Courthouse **\$10 cash** (10-3)
Car Show-Harper County Courthouse grounds (9-3)
Parade-starting at Mass & Main (3PM)
Live Music, Back 40-The Idle Hour Bar and Grill (9PM)


Anthony Airport
Live music by the Cam Allen Band (4-8PM)
Face Painting (5-7PM)
Balloon launch Window (6-7PM)
Hot Air Balloon Rides **\$275 per person CASH only**
Tethered Rides **\$25 per person CASH** - Rides limited
Balloon Glow (8PM)



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