

# CITY COUNCIL OF SYRACUSE

## MEETING MINUTES

### MARCH 10 , 2025

City Clerk’s Office  
March 10, 2025  
12:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the governing body was held on March 10, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. Coun-cilmembers present were Casey Finlay, Michele Boy, Vance Keller, Don Miller and Mayor Blake Up-son. Employees present were Brian Bloyd, City Administrator, Linda Dinkel, City Clerk,  
Daliz Oquendo, City Treasurer, David Stimatze, Fire Chief, and Rob Gale, City Attorney. Lanee Ow-ens was present. Councilman Joe Thomeczek was absent.

Mayor Upson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

close the road if they wanted it closed. Councilman Keller seconded the motion and this motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Finlay made motion to put the 1120 acres of pasture out for bid with conditions of:

- One year lease, renewable for four more years.
- Payment of lease by April 15th each year.
- Maximum of 35 animal units.
- Grazing season of May 1st to November 1st each year.
- Discretion of council to lower the number of units any year due to condition of pasture and or drought.
- Fencing to be maintained in same condition as when lease starts.

There were no public comments

Councilman Keller made motion to add the road by the airport to the agenda and approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Finlay and this motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Boy made motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2025. Motion was se-conded by Councilman Finlay and this motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Keller made motion to approve Appropriation Ord. #1028 in the amount of \$137,938.36.

Councilwoman Boy seconded the motion and this motion passed unanimously.

Bloyd presented two quotes from AK roofing to repair the roof of City Hall. One quote was to sand and apply silicone to the foam and apply a coat of foam and seal it with silicone. Quote was \$19418.40. Second was to remove the foam and apply ISO board and hot tar, and capsheet. Quote was \$26,870.25

Bloyd was instructed to check on metal roofing. Councilwoman Boy made motion to authorize Bloyd to decide on how to proceed with repairing/replacing roof up to \$27,000. Motion was se-conded by Councilman Finlay and this motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Gale informed the City Council that the County Commissioners were considering closing the road running east and west just north of the water tower by the airport. Councilman Finlay made motion to allow the Commissioners to

Visibility of pedestrians in the dark and early morning was discussed. City Council would like pe-destrians to use caution and to make an effort to be visible to drivers, and also for drivers to use caution. We will ask Sheriff’s office to do an awareness announcement.

Councilwoman Boy made motion to adopt the protocol and criteria for the use of tranquilizers by the Animal Control Officer or other appointed employees of the City of Syracuse. Councilman Keller seconded the motion and this motion passed unanimously. Protocol and criteria attached to minutes.

Reports:

Administrator: We are doing maintenance work on equipment. We are getting ready to fertilize the parks. We are hoping to have pasture fence mended soon. Water use report has been submit-ted. Croell should be moved by Memorial Day.

Round Table: Councilwoman Boy thanked the crew for the new stop sign on the corner of Avenue B and Main Street. Councilwoman Boy made motion to adjourn. Councilman Finlay seconded and this motion passed unanimously.

# HAMILTON COUNTY

## SHERIFF’S REPORT

**New Inmates:**

**Lance Michael Woods**, age 47, 516 E Texas St., Horace, KS 67879 arrested on 4/13/2025: Contract housing for Greeley County

**Released Inmates:**

**William Joseph Dunagan**, age 44, 1504 E 6th Street,. Lamar, CO arrested on 2/8/2025 for possession of narcotics: (Time served probation granted.)

**Justin W Hassler**, age 40, 102 S Nott St., Syracuse, KS Arrested on 4/9/2025 for Assault and Criminal Trespass: (Out on Bond)

### Public Notices

*First published in The Syracuse Journal on March 27, 2025*

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR MERGER OF BANKS**  
Notice is hereby given that Dream First Bank, National Association, Syracuse, Kansas, has made an application to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency for permission to merge with BancCentral, National Association, Alva, Oklahoma. Dream First Bank will survive the bank merger. It is contemplated that all branches of the above-named institutions will continue to be operated.  
This notice is published pursuant to 12 USC 1828(c) and 12 CFR 5. Anyone may submit written comments on this application by April 27, 2025: Director for Licensing, 1050 17th Street, Suite 1500, Denver, Colorado 80265 or by emailing LicensingPublicComments@occ.treas.gov.  
The public may find information regarding this application, including the date of the end of the public comment period, in the OCC Weekly Bulletin at www.occ.gov. Requests for a copy of the public file on the application should be made to the Director for Licensing at 500 North Akard Street, Suite 1600, Dallas, Texas 75201, or by emailing Licensing@occ.treas.gov.

# HM COUNTY COMMISSIONER

## MEETING MINUTES

### APRIL 1, 2025

Michael W. Lewis, Chairman  
Andy Coleman, Vice Chairman  
Brian Grilliot, Commissioner  
Aaron Plunkett, Commissioner  
Nikki Schwerdfeger, Commissioner

Robert Gale, Jr., Attorney  
Angie Moser, County Clerk  
Senior class members

Commissioner Lewis called the Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with all Commissioners and Attorney Gale present. Commissioner Lewis welcomed the group of high school seniors observing the meeting and had them introduce themselves.

AGENDA: Commissioner Schwerdfeger moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Coleman seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

PRIOR MINUTES: Commissioner Grilliot moved to approve the March 18, 2025 Commissioners’ Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Plunkett seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

FRANK BURNS: Mr. Burns, Superintendent of Rural Operations, gave his monthly report as follows:

- 1) Gave an update on the Southwest Plains Dairy project.
- 2) The Coolidge Bridge Contractor has had some equipment breakdowns. The old concrete will be hauled to the County’s Landfill during the Landfill’s regular hours Tuesday through Saturday.
- 3) Frank will meet this week with S & S Rock Crushing contractor to discuss the work to be done in the road material pit.
- 4) Crew will be grading to smooth the roads after the rain.
- 5) Discussed the proposal from B & H Paving for this year’s chip and seal project that includes double chip and seal to County Road 36 in the amount of \$169,006.25. Commissioner Coleman moved to approve B & H Paving’s proposal as presented. Commissioner Plunkett seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.
- 6) With the concerns of wild fires, Steve Phillips asked the Road Department to help mow the area around the Airport, and the mowing should be done this week.
- 7) The Solid Waste Committee met this morning. The Committee discussed the need to replace the trash truck.
- 8) Discussed placing a spray tracker hardware & software on the County’s spray rig to help with the documentation of where Kerstin Mitchell sprays in the County. With the cost of the tracker, it was decided to find an alternative way to track the spraying.
- 9) Frank would like to find a contractor that consistently collects the metal from the Landfill. The last two contractors have not followed through as often as needed. He will get more information and report back to the Commission.

SDSI: Steve Sandoval with Southwest Developmental Services, Inc. (SDSI), discussed the services available to Hamilton County through SDSI, Inc. and presented his organization’s request for a 2026 appropriation to the Commissioners.

RCDC: Rebecca Clancy and Stephanie Wills, with Russell Child Development Center, discussed the services their organization provides to children in Hamilton County. Ms. Clancy also presented RCDC’s request for a 2026 appropriation.

LANDMARK APPRAISAL: Terry Lawhon with Landmark Appraisal, and Letisha Esquibel, County Appraiser, discussed the transition of our County Appraiser from Landmark Appraisal to contracting with Letisha Esquibel as our Appraiser. Terry explained the services the Appraiser provides to the County. Letisha has formed a Limited Liability Company (ACE Appraisal, LLC) and will get a contract to Attorney Gale to review. Letisha plans to contract through her LLC with Terry Lawhon and Tom Furman to help her with the appraisals such as oil and gas, dairies and feed lots. Letisha also informed that she uses satellite imagery to look for newly constructed buildings in the County that needs to be added to the tax roll.

GOLF COURSE BOARD: The Golf Course Board did not attend the meeting.

KERSTIN MITCHELL: Kerstin informed that the Solid Waste Committee met this morning to review the County’s solid waste management plan. There were no changes to the plan, just new members to the Committee. Commissioner Schwerdfeger moved to approve the annual review of the County’s Solid Waste Management Plan as presented. Commissioner Plunkett seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

5-YEAR PLAN: The 5-year plan was reviewed.

ABATEMENT: After review, Commissioner Lewis moved to approve Abatement No. 240032 as presented. Commissioner Grilliot seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

ROW PERMITS: Reviewed two right of way permits. The first permit was received from Pioneer Communications to place a buried cable running parallel to County Road E and County Road 32 due to improvements. Commissioner Plunkett moved to approve the Right Of Way Permit submitted by Pioneer Communications for County Roads E & 32 as presented. Commissioner Coleman seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved. The second permit was received from 5G Irrigation LLC to place an electric line across River Road to install three #2 and #1 wires cased in two-inch poly. Commissioner Coleman moved to approve the Right Of Way Permit submitted by 5G Electric LLC on the River Road as presented. Commissioner Schwerdfeger seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT: The Library Board reported that Daliz Oquendo has fulfilled her two 4-year terms as Trustee for the Hamilton County Library Board and recommend Rae Lynn Phillips be appointed to that position. Commissioner Lewis moved to appoint Rae Lynn Phillips as Trustee for the Hamilton County Library Board for a four year term beginning on May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2029. Commissioner Plunkett seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: The 25th Judicial District emailed the Community Correction’s Comprehensive Plans and available grant funds for the juvenile program for fiscal year 2026. Commissioner Coleman moved to approve the 2026 Comprehensive Signatory Approval Form for Community Corrections Juvenile Program as presented. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved. Also presented the 25th Judicial District’s Community Correction’s 2026 fiscal year Comprehensive Plan and Budget for signatory approval. Commissioner Coleman moved to approve the 2026 Comprehensive Signatory Approval Form for Community Corrections Adult Program as presented. Commissioner Grilliot seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

OFFICE RENTAL AGREEMENT: Commissioner Coleman had someone contact him about renting the office area beside the County Health Office that was previously used as an optometrist office. Discussed a contract and rent amount and who pays the utilities. Commissioner Lewis moved to charge \$800.00 per month rent, an \$800.00 deposit, and the tenant will be responsible for the utilities. Commissioner Coleman seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS: Commissioner Schwerdfeger discussed a Compass Behavioral Health meeting that will be held in our County.

WARRANTS: Commissioner Plunkett moved to approve the Warrants in the amount of \$120,337.18 and Quarterly Appropriations in the amount of \$397,445.25. Commissioner Lewis seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Lewis reported on the Juvenile Justice Board meeting he attended.

ROAD DEPARTMENT WAGES: : Commissioner Lewis moved for a 10-minute executive session for matters pertaining to non-elected personnel with the Commissioners, the County Attorney, and Frank Burns present. Commissioner Coleman seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved. The executive session began at 10:51 a.m. and the regular meeting resumed at 11:01 a.m. Commissioner Lewis moved for an additional 10-minute executive session for matters pertaining to non-elected personnel with the Commissioners, the County Attorney, and Frank Burns present. Commissioner Plunkett seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved. The executive session began at 11:02 a.m. and the regular meeting resumed at 11:12 a.m. Commissioner Coleman moved to adjust the rural operation employees pay to reflect a full 4% cost of living raise. Commissioner Plunkett seconded the Motion and it was approved with three “ayes” and two “nays”.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No additional session needed.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no more business to come before the meeting, Commissioner Coleman moved for adjournment. Commissioner Lewis seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.