

Doniphan County meeting minutes

**Unofficial minutes
By Clerk Peggy Franken**

On June 9, 2025 he 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, Third District County Commissioner Bobby Hall and County Clerk Peggy Franken present. County Attorney Charles D. Baskins was absent.

The Kansas Chief Reporter Melanie Davis, Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris, Health Department Administrator/Home Health Director Chantal Wilburn, LPN, Sheriff Mark Allen, Undersheriff Brendan Wolvington and Custodian Laura Winkel were present for a portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve the County Commission meeting agenda as presented. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the County Commission meeting minutes of the June 2, 2025 regular meeting as written. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve warrants for the period of May 30, 2025 as presented. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Fee report for the month of May 2025 was presented to the County Commission on behalf of the Registrar of Deeds.

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

Chairman Grable, on behalf of the Board, said "I'd like to thank Representative Reavis for coming in telling us what was going on in the legislation last year and what's coming up in the coming year, and also thank him for looking into the issues that we have as a county. I know he went out and looked at the bridge west of Highland (RS380 on 240th Road) and was going try to find out why it takes so long to get bridge projects through KDOT. And even though some people like to put it on social media that the Commissioners have done a disservice to the community for not getting this bridge replaced, I want to point out that we've saved the taxpayers \$900,000 over the course of the last three years. You all are waiting, and our hands were tied waiting on KDOT. I think it's a little self-serving when they have a detour of Highway 36, you know, to get around and then blame the Commissioners for disservice to the community. I know Tim has taken lot of heat over this and as a board we did everything that we could to get this bridge put in. So I want to thank Dr. Reavis for coming and addressing those concerns for us."

Hall made a motion to approve Mo-Kan Regional Council dues in the amount of \$1,059.45 and appoint Joyce Simpson, Wathena, Kansas, to the Mo-Kan Regional Council Board for the 2025-2026 year. Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

County Clerk Peggy Franken presented the Commission with the departmental budget and cash summary report for May 2025, for their review.

The annual Chamber of Commerce business appreciation breakfast will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 beginning at 7:30 A.M. at Highland Community College Walters Wellness Center.

The Board of County Commissioners were in receipt of an invitation from Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska to attend their "Speed of Sovereignty" event June 25, 2025 from 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. at 3313 Thrasher Road, White Cloud, Kansas. The "Speed of Sovereignty" event celebrates the completion of a

\$1.3 million fiber optic project bringing high-speed internet to the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and surrounding communities.

The County Commission approved dust control permit waiver for 1459 Runnymede Road, Wathena, Kansas. Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris presented the final billing statement from Herzog Contracting Corporation for 3" asphalt overlay and shoulder rock on Mesquito Creek Road in the amount of \$640,208.00.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve budgeted transfer from New Sales Tax fund to Road and Bridge in the amount of \$150,000.00 for hard surfaced roads. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris told the County Commissioners her office is taking calls over the condition of roads in Burr Oak; the area received a heavier band of rain over the weekend. The Road Department will work on getting the roads bladed and rocked.

Commissioner Grable asked if inspectors or engineers with Schwab-Eaton, PA have viewed Oxide Road, near 884 Oxide Road, to make recommendations for repair. Grable said a silted in pond on a nearby dam may be causing the issue with drainage in the area. The Road Department will blade and rock the road and work to address the drainage problem.

Health Department Administrator/Home Health Director Chantal Wilburn, LPN, requested permission to hire Christine Blakley in a part-time Homemaker's position at the Doniphan County Health Department/Home Health Agency. Commissioner Grable made a motion to hire Christine Blakley in a part-time Homemaker's position at the Doniphan County Health Department/Home Health Agency at a rate of \$16.00 per hour, for less than 20 hours per week. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Mark Allen told the County Commissioners 911 Dispatcher Ryan Vasquez terminated her employment with the Doniphan County Sheriff's Department due to relocation. Jailer Noah Murphy has also resigned due to not being offered a deputy sheriff's position. The Department is currently taking applications for 911 Dispatch and Jailers.

Custodian Laura Winkel met with the County Commissioners to discuss replacement of handrails around the courthouse square, as per bid specifications with Diamond Fab, LLC. Custodian Winkel told the County Commissioners that the west street level handrail will need to be shortened to set it in the steps rather than in the bricks on the sidewalk. CJ Heinrich with Diamond Fab, LLC told Custodian Winkel there will be an additional cost, above the bid amount, to modify the handrail. The Commissioners asked Custodian Winkel to obtain a cost estimate for their consideration prior to approving.

Commissioner Collins asked County Clerk Peggy Franken to check into liability requirements with Doniphan County's insurance carrier to hire contracted labor to assist with blading and maintenance of county roadways.

At 9:24 A.M. Grable made a motion to recess for a break with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:29 A.M. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

County Clerk Peggy Franken presented the County Commission with draft copies of the 2026 proposed budget. The 2025 valuation decreased \$2.2 million due to reduced agricultural land values. Each of the budget drafts call for a mill levy rate below the revenue neutral rate and ad valorem tax collections at or below the current budget. The Board of County Commissioners took no action pending review.

Commissioner Collins told the County Commissioners rip rap is needed for bank stabilization on bridge T-314-1 on Elgin Road, north of 125th Road, Section 24, Township 4, Range 19E. Rip rap will be hauled from Independence Township stockpile at Servaes Quarries. Commissioner Collins asked about contracting out the hauling. No action was taken.

There being no further business before the Board, Commissioner Grable made a motion to adjourn at 10:21 A.M. Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Wathena City meeting minutes

**Unofficial minutes
By Clerk Tammy Bembrick**

The Wathena City Council met in session Monday, June 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Wathena City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Hontz. Prayer was offered by Bob Halter. Mayor John Hontz and Council members Bob Halter, Bob Ryser, Jarod Jackson and Cory Shue all answered roll call. Council member Aaron Cluck was absent. Also present were City Clerk Tammy Bembrick, City Superintendent Tim Smith, Police Chief Dennis Thompson, City Attorney Alan Boeh, Teresa McAnerney, Kay Hewins, Tim Wilcoxson and April Swartz.

Motion was made by Jarod Jackson, second by Bob Halter to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2025 council meeting. Vote – 2 Ayes (Halter, Ryser) 2-Abstain (Shue, Jackson) Mayor broke the tie with an Aye vote. Motion carried.

Council reviewed the bills presented for approval by the City Clerk.

Motion was made by Jarod Jackson, second by Cory Shue to approve the bills as listed. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

There were two building permits submitted for approval. Matthew and Hanna Ernst – 608 N. 6th to construct a retaining wall, and Jerri Michaels – 405 Jessie to demolish and construct a 24' x 24' detached garage.

Motion was made by Jarod Jackson, second by Bob Halter to approve both building permits as submitted. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

April Swartz, with Varney & Associates, reviewed the financial statement and external audit as presented to Council members. The review resulted in a clean audit opinion, with no issues or violations. Discussion followed.

Tim Wilcoxson, with Altec Industries, at the request of the City Superintendent, spoke with Council about options for purchasing a new bucket truck to replace the current older trucks. Mr. Wilcoxson spoke of pricing, lease-purchase option, new versus used and lengthy delivery time frames after ordering. Discussion followed.

Kay Hewins approached Council regarding damage being done to the east and west sides of her property due to the drainage ditches filling up with debris. She would like for the ditches to be cleared in the area from 1st and Seward to around the corner to Benton and 2nd, as well as, the west side on 3rd Street in order to prevent anymore erosion of her property. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Hewins also spoke with Council regarding 169th Road and it's condition. The City currently maintains the road with grading and rock. She requested that the City consider placing a hard surface on the road such as oil and chat. Discussion followed. The City Attorney and Superintendent were to check the length of the road in order to make a more informed decision on how to proceed.

Police Chief Dennis Thompson presented the police department activity report to Council and discussed the following items: the activity report, Click It & Ticket event, highway 36 traffic with the new sidewalk construction beginning, update on the thefts that occurred at K-R Storage units and nuisance property at Sherman and Toulon Streets. Discussion followed.

City Superintendent Tim Smith presented the maintenance department activity report to Council and discussed the following items: Activity report, Willis Park electric upgrade project and asphalt street resurfacing bids received. Three bids were received from Herzog at \$137,960.00, Approved Paving at \$128,943.00 and from Midwest Sealing & Construction in the amount of \$131,258.00. Discussion followed. Superintendent and City Clerk are to follow-up with references, and bring to the June 16th meeting.

Council discussed the following with the City Attorney: Ordinance 677 to increase municipal court costs was presented to council for approval and a resolution to adopt the portion of 36 Highway that runs through Wathena as a Pony Express Historic Byway. The City Attorney reviewed state statute in regards to the restrictions on the highway as it

pertains to the resolution. Discussion followed. Teresa McAnerney was asked to provide the width of the corridor as well as a possible aerial view of the byway as it goes through Wathena. Council was asked to review the resolution and statute. Item was tabled until the June 16th meeting.

Motion was made by Cory Shue, second by Jarod Jackson to approve Ordinance 677 for court costs as written. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

Council discussed the following with the City Clerk. The City Clerk was asked to schedule a meeting with the Elwood City Clerk and Mayor to discuss water rates.

The Council discussed the following items: Grant funding for the ballfield lighting and placing the funds in next year's budget for the entire estimate, Highway 36 sidewalk construction and signage, water service on the west side of town regarding pressure and the need for an upgrade, letters to the State Traffic Committees concerning Highway 36 traffic, status of the scope of work to be done on City Hall renovations, Legion installation of a large community flagpole to be located on the east side of 36 Highway at East St. Joseph Street and hiring Bobby Hall as part time labor to install new water meters. Discussion followed.

Council member Jarod Jackson thanked the Police and Fire Departments for supporting the high school softball team in the send off to the state tournament.

Motion was made by Cory Shue, second by Bob Ryser to provide the bricks, light and electricity for the community flag pole being placed by the Legion. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bob Ryser, second by Bob Halter to hire Bobby Hall at \$20/hr in an amount not to exceed 1,000 hours and no benefits to install new water meters. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

There being no further business, motion was made by Bob Ryser, second by Cory Shue to adjourn the meeting. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Elwood City meeting

**Unofficial minutes
By Clerk Pam King**

On June 2, 2025 at 7:00pm Mayor Timmy Kieser, Sr. called the regularly scheduled to order. Those attending: council members Megan Shackelford, Dustin Robinson, Travis Holcomb, Sam Meers and C.J. Garner. Also attending: Brandon Whetstine, Joel Euler, Wayne Hall, Melvin Beach, Greg Filardo and Pam King.

INVOCATION

Joel Euler gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Travis Holcomb moved, Megan Shackelford seconded, to approve as written the May 19, 2025 regular council meeting minutes. Sam Meers, C.J. Garner and Dustin Robinson, yea.

VISITORS

Melvin Beach requested a hearing before the governing body regarding a nuisance violation he was served. Beach informed the governing body he had spoken to the Chief of Police and resolved the matter.

Greg Filardo appeared before the governing body asking if the City held any festivals. The governing body said the City doesn't put on any festivals, but if we need his services we will contact him (took his phone number).

ATTORNEYS

Joel Euler said he is working with an engineer on getting an aerator for the sewer lagoons. Euler will get more than one bid for the service. The City is continuing to work with the State and the EPA.

Dustin Robinson moved, Megan Shackelford seconded, to enter into an agreement with Snyder and Associates to engineer the aerator for the sewer lagoons. Sam Meers, Travis Holcomb and C.J. Garner, yea.

Joel Euler is continuing work on the rate studies.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Whetstine gave an update on the storage units break ins. Arrests have been made, and 21 cases have been solved.

Whetstine said his department is continuing to work on code enforcements.

CITY SUPERVISOR

Wayne Hall said he had Meers Tree Service cut down a tree at Tim Witt's property. The tree was ready

to fall on power lines.

Hall said residents complained they couldn't hear our tornado sirens, Hall said we did not set our sirens off. Hall gave the governing body bids for another siren.

Mayor Kieser asked if Hall could fill holes in Roseport Road by Herzog. Hall said they were filled today.

Hall said the summer help started today.

Megan Shackelford moved, Sam Meers seconded, to purchase a new tornado siren in the amount of \$12,000. Dustin Robinson. C.J. Garner and Travis Holcomb, yea.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS

Travis Holcomb moved, Sam Meers seconded, to approve checks numbered 68290-68231. Motion carried.

GOVERNING BODY

C.J. Garner said the crew was out early this morning.

Garner asked Hall if he could tamper the asphalt, smoothing it out.

Dustin Robinson requested an executive session for economic development.

Travis Holcomb asked if Joel Euler has heard from Mo Kan Regional Council. Euler has not heard from them.

Holcomb suggested hiring a code enforcement officer. Mayor Kieser said he wanted to think that suggestion over.

Dustin Robinson asked if the nuisance ordinance could be amended to handle habitual offenders. Euler will check on the issue.

Travis Holcomb said semi trucks are still driving down Oak Street.

Holcomb requested an executive session with the Chief of Police.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:40 Dustin Robinson moved, C.J. Garner seconded, to go into executive session for economic development and personnel for fifteen minutes. Sam Meers, Megan Shackelford and Travis Holcomb, yea. It was extended for ten minutes.

REGULAR SESSION

At 8:10 regular session resumed. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 Megan Shackelford moved, C.J. Garner seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.



THE BOTTLE YARD

★ GRAND OPENING WEEK ★

The Bottle Yard is delighted to announce its **GRAND OPENING WEEK**.

Our doors are now currently open. We're thrilled and eager to serve the community of Doniphan County and all patrons far and wide.

The store is located on the West side of the Doniphan County Courthouse. Its rustic appeal is highlighted by Troy's ubiquitous brick-paved streets surrounding the town's square,

TBY is adorned with its original tin ceilings, oak flooring and exposed brick walls. We invite you to join our week of celebration with give-a-ways,

koozies, T-shirts, swag items and store-wide specials.

As a small business, it's our policy to ensure you have a great experience. If you do not see your favorite brand or beverage, we will do our best to locate and stock it for you. Let the twins at the counter know what you'd like to see on the shelf. Hopefully, we can have it in stock the following week.

Please feel free to stop in the store, even if you do not imbibe spirits. Enter our free drawings, enjoy the cherubs on the ceiling, grab a nonalcoholic beverage or a cheap bag of ice. We're looking forward to meet and greet you with a smile and a chat.



★ THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS ★

FREE 10-lb. bag of ICE With any purchase of 30-pack cans or 24-pack bottles.

If you purchase more than the above, haul in your cooler, stack in your favorite beverages and we'll top off your entire cooler with ice at no additional charge!

STORE HOURS:

Monday – Wednesday..... 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Thursday – Friday 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Saturday..... 10 a.m. – Midnight
Sunday CLOSED

125 S. Main St., Troy, Kan.
Phone: (816) 728-7789



ATTENTION: Kansas State Law prohibits all open mixed-drink alcoholic beverages or containers inside the store. Customers must be 21 years of age to purchase alcohol and please don't be offended if we ask for proof of age. Please drink responsibly.

Catholic Radio

**KEXS AM 1090
and FM 106.7 or 106.1**
Sonrise show 6:00 a.m.

EWTN Television

Rainbow Channel 69
Direct TV Channel 370
or DISH Channel 261
“Journey Home” stories of conversion/faith Mondays 7 p.m.
KNZA 103.9 Sunday mornings
Msgr Don Fisher 8:30 a.m.