

# Doniphan County meeting minutes

## Unofficial minutes By Clerk Peggy Franken

On July 28, 2025 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, 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. The Kansas Chief Reporter Melanie Davis observed the meeting. Aging Director Diana Crouse-Johnson, Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris, Sheriff Mark Allen, Karla Duncan and Keith Courtin were present for a portion of the meeting. Pat Urban (Urban Construction, Inc.) appeared via telephone.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the amended County Commission meeting agenda to include non-elect personnel executive session and motor grader repair. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve the County Commission meeting minutes of July 21, 2025 regular meeting as written. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve payroll and warrants for the period of July 31, 2025 as presented. Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

Aging Director Diana Crouse-Johnson informed the County Commission that the 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan was taken to Reed Dodge on July 16, 2025. They found a leak in the rear evaporator and lines, which both need replaced. Due to modifications on the van for ADA accessibility, the vehicle has been taken to Master's Transportation in Kansas City, Kansas, to have the work completed.

Director Crouse-Johnson told the County Board Neumann Services repaired the wiring harness on the 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan.

Karla Duncan, Troy, asked the Commissioners to mow and maintain county property around the Second District road shop at 302 W. Robertson Street. Commissioner Grable said he would take care of having the grass mowed and property maintained.

Keith Courtin, Wathena, appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to ask if there was any resolution to his concerns the previous week with the County Treasurer and County Appraisers' offices. He asked that the Commissioners perform training sessions on how to not be rude and disrespectful. Commissioner Grable said he talked to both heads of the departments and both felt Mr. Courtin was dissatisfied with the answers he was given. Mr. Courtin will schedule an appointment on the Commissioners August 4, 2025 meeting agenda to meet with both Treasurer Diveley and Appraiser Kiefer, who were out of the office today.

Clerk Peggy Franken informed the County Commission of surprise inspection at the Doniphan County Transfer Station on July 22, 2025 by Lillian Schroeder with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Several violations to State regulations and statutes were found. Clerk Franken said she, along with Northeast Kansas Environmental Services Health Specialist and Solid Waste Coordinator Martha Smith are working to correct the violations.

1. KAR 28-29-23a(c)(4) Failure to have permanent sign. Clerk Franken has ordered a sign for the gate from Jack Horner.

2. KAR 28-29-23a(c)(20)(B) – Failure to have contingency plan onsite at all time. Martha Smith, Solid Waste Coordinator, has a meeting set up with KDHE on August 5, 2025 to formulate and train employees on the contingency plan.

3. KAR 28-29-23a(c)(21)(A) – Failure to train employees on contingency plan and facility operating plan. To be performed August 5, 2025.

4. Comment: Ensure fire protection equipment is available. Clerk Franken contacted Marmic Fire & Safety to install fire extinguishers at the Transfer Station building.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve the purchase of two fire extinguishers, plus maintenance,

from Marmic Fire & Safety for the Doniphan County Transfer Station in the amount of \$627.98. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Grable told the County Commission he was contacted by Grant Foley, Grant's Repair, regarding complaints by adjoining landowner that Mr. Foley is testing farm equipment on Peck Road, during repair. The adjoining landowner relayed to Mr. Foley that commercial vehicles couldn't be driven on county roads. The Board of County Commissioners agreed there is no ban on commercial vehicle use on county roadways, including farm machinery.

On November 12, 2013, the Board of County Commissioners took formal action to install drain tile under 190th and Peck Roads to correct water drainage issues. Grant Foley fixed the drainage on his side of the road and sowed the road bank with grass and has been mowing and maintaining since. It was reported recently adjoining property owners are driving over the grass portion of the road right-of-way

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris said Jeremy Manning with Road Builders recently called on her office to see if the County would be interested in demonstrating a skid steer. The County Commission took no action.

Discussion was held in regard to future repairs on Peck Road, south of 245th Road, Section 23, Township 2, Range 21E. The creek channel is cutting back into the roadbed causing bank destabilization and cracking. The Board of County Commissioners agreed to move forward with having engineers with Schwab-Eaton, PA prepare updated repair plan options, including holding discussions with the US Army Corp of Engineers and Kansas Department of Water Resources on re-establishing the creek channel.

Commissioner Grable asked Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris to check with engineers with Schwab-Eaton, PA on the status of repair options for culvert replacement on 110th Road in Section 34, Township 4, Range 21E near 1679 110th Road. And also the status of culvert replacement and corrective action for drainage issues on Oxide Road, near 884 Oxide Road, Section 2, Township 4, Range 21E.

Lindsay Norris, Road Office Manager, told the County Commission a representative with Hamm Quarry contacted her office about the purchase of AB3 rock from the Troy quarry site. Currently Hamm's has 10,000 tons of the material on the ground and more to crush. Norris asked the County Commission to put some numbers together on the amount of rock that might be needed in order to get a better rate per ton.

The Second and Third Road Districts will work together on hauling rock from stockpile at the Third District road shop on roads within Burr Oak Township.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve the following Road Department expenses:

Grant's Repair \$1,860.00 (six drive tires for Second Road District)  
Hewin's Sawmill \$4,000.00 (removal of trees on Mineral Point Road)

Anderson Ford \$879.34 (repair 2015 Ford Second Road District)

Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris reported 20.45 tons of crusher run rock totaling \$316.98 and 265.35 tons of rip rap totaling \$5,307.00 were paid from Independence Township Road Improvement Fund stockpile balances and hauled to shore up bridge T-314-1 on Elgin Road, north of 125th Road, Section 24, Township 4, Range 19E.

Hall told the County Commission the wiring harness on the 2017 John Deere 672G Motor Grader #155 is broke. The machine is currently non-operable on the side of a county road. Murphy Tractor has been contacted about a cost estimate and timeframe for repair, prior to the Board of County Commissioners taking any action on towing the equipment to the county shop.

Sheriff Mark Allen presented the County Commissioners with a certified controls maintenance agreement from P1Service, LLC for HVAC, freezers and refrigerators located at the Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center and Kitchen (located in the basement of the Law Enforcement Center). The proposal would be to remotely monitor all controls at a rate of \$6,444.00 annually. The Board of County Commission-

ers agreed not to enter into said contract due to the Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center being staffed 24/7 and having someone on site if issues arise.

At 9:12 A.M. Commissioner Hall made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interest of non-elect Sheriff's Department personnel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:17 A.M. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Clerk and Sheriff remained.

Sheriff Mark Allen also presented the County Commissioners with bids to replace carpeting in the office area of the Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center.

Carpet Plus, Hiawatha, Kansas \$4,220.75

Eckard's Flooring, St. Joseph, Mo. \$4,942.00

Hall made a motion to accept the best bid of Carpet Plus, of Hiawatha, Kansas, to replace the carpet in the office area of the Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center at a cost of \$4,220.75 with payment to be made from New Sales Tax fund. Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Mark Allen reported to the County Commission he backed his patrol car into another vehicle on July 24, 2025. A report has been compiled and will be submitted to the County's liability insurance carrier to cover damage to the other driver's vehicle.

Hall asked that the official record of the Board of County Commissioners reflect the Commissioners are working to address concerns with the Meals on Wheels program.

At 9:25 A.M. the Board recessed for a break with the meeting being called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:30 A.M.

At 9:31 A.M. Commissioner Grable made a motion to recess into executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interests of non-elect Road Department personnel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:41 A.M. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Clerk and Road Office Manager remained.

At 9:41 A.M. Commissioner Hall made a motion to extend the executive session for the purpose of discussing and protecting the interests of non-elect Road Department personnel, with the meeting to be called back to order in the office of the Doniphan County Commission at 9:46 A.M. Commissioner Grable sec-

onded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Clerk and Road Office Manager remained.

Hall made a motion to pay Third District Road Employee Dan Whetstine \$500.00 per month for three-months as acting Road Foreman and beginning August 1, 2025 set his hourly wage at that of Road Foremen until the return of Road Foreman Christopher Schultz from medical leave. Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Peggy Franken presented Commissioners Collins and Hall a letter from Commissioner Grable regarding roadwork completed on Old Kiowa Road in October 2023 by Engemann Dozing Company, Inc. The letter reads:

"Peggy, Enclosed you will find a check for \$9,352.50 for the reimbursement of the Old Kiowa Road project. Engemann Construction (Roger Engemann) sent this bill for additional work done over his estimate to complete this project. The original estimate was \$16,000.00.

I offered to pay the additional bill when it first came before the board but the other two commissioners both agreed this wasn't necessary and the county would pay this bill. However, since that time it has been brought up to me several times that, "since we paid Roger"...

Would you please present this to Commissioners Hall and Collins and let them decide whether to accept this payment or the bill has been and is considered Paid in Full. The decision is in their hands and I will accept their decision either way.

As of now I no longer expect this bill to be referred to again and expect this matter to be finished. I will not allow anyone to use my personal or professional relationship with any contractor to try to bully me. Wayne"

Commissioners Collins and Hall both denied acceptance of payment in the amount of \$9,352.50 for work completed on Old Kiowa Road over the original cost estimate, saying the matter was closed and they were moving forward. Commissioner Grable explained his reason for presenting the letter and payment was because it continues to be brought up. Once the Board decides to move on he doesn't want the Board to keep bringing it up. Commissioner Collins said, "what is done is done and the Board is moving forward."

Grable presented the County Commission with recommended changes to Doniphan County's Procurement Policy and suggested policies he would like to see implemented when bidding out a job to general contractors doing county work. The Board of

County Commissioners took no action pending review.

Grable told the County Commission the low bidder on the 275th Road culvert replacement project, Wade Joyce, of Joyce Dozing, contacted him to introduce himself. During the course of the conversation it was said that Keenan Baird, previous contractor on the 275th Road project, would probably be assisting Joyce Dozing if awarded the bid.

Grable said he has no intention of not allowing a contractor to bid on projects as long as they do a good job and get the work done, recognizing not all contractors are equal when it comes to job performance and he (Commissioner Grable) has to look out for the best interest of the county.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris recommended the Board of County Commissioners contract with engineers from Schwab-Eaton, PA to draw up plans, project bid specifications, review bids and oversee large road projects. Beginning with the 5'x110' culvert replacement project on 275th Road, Section 1, Township 2, Range 19E, prior to them taking any action on bids presented at the July 21, 2025 meeting. She stated this would take pressure off the Board of Commissioners to oversee road projects. Discussion continued on placing an employment advertisement to hire a Road Supervisor to oversee the Road Department. The Board of County Commissioners took no action pending review of the Road Supervisor job description.

Collins asked County Attorney Charles D. Baskins for a legal opinion on conflict of interest, stating it should be known whether or not Commissioner Grable can act on bids presented by Roger Engemann, as they are brothers-in-law. County Attorney Charles D. Baskins will review the law to determine the degree of separation pertaining to conflicts of interest and get an answer to the Board of County Commissioners.

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, County Clerk Peggy Franken held a telephone call with Contractor Pat Urban of Urban Construction, Inc. regarding bid submitted for 5'x110' culvert replacement project on 275th Road, Section 1, Township 2, Range 19E. Mr. Urban said his bid stands at \$89,394.00 with no changes. If awarded the project, it will be a work in progress drying out the area prior to installation of road tube and completing the project.

Clerk Franken also asked Mr. Urban the status of culvert replacement on Coronado Road, north of Highland, Kansas, Section 22-23, Township 2, Range 19E. The Board of County Commissioners acted at their

May 27, 2025 meeting to accept the proposal of Urban Construction, Inc. to complete the project at a cost of \$71,895.00. Mr. Urban told Clerk Franken he was waiting for an official contract from Doniphan County to begin the project.

Hall made a motion to accept the best bid of Urban Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$89,394.00 for 5'x110' culvert replacement project on 275th Road, Section 1, Township 2, Range 19E. Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

County Attorney Charles D. Baskins will work with Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris to draft contracts and road work agreements for both the Coronado Road culvert replacement project, north of Highland, Kansas, Section 22-23, Township 2, Range 19E. And the 5'x110' culvert replacement project on 275th Road, Section 1, Township 2, Range 19E.

Hall recommended no new road projects begin until Coronado Road and 275th Road culvert projects are completed.

Grable told the County Commission road banks need to be taken down and the road widened on Monument Road, Section 12, Township 4, Range 21E, near 783 Monument Road. The Board of County Commissioners agreed to seek competitive bids for the project.

There being no further business before the Board, Commissioner Hall made a motion to adjourn at 10:57 A.M. Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## July 29, 2025 Special meeting

The Board of County Commissioners met in special session at 9:30 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 and acting on repairs to the 2017 John Deere 672G Motor Grader (#155). First District County Commissioner Timothy D. Collins and Third District County Commissioner Bobby Hall appeared via telephone. County Attorney Charles D. Baskins, County Clerk Peggy Franken and Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris were present.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve repair work to the wiring harness on the 2017 John Deere 672G Motor Grader (#155) by Murphy Tractor in the amount of \$5,565.51. Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business before the Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Grable made a motion to adjourn at 9:33 A.M. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

(First published in the Kansas Chief July 31, 2025)

## NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING 2025-2026 BUDGET

The governing body of Highland Community College in Doniphan will meet on August 20th, 2025 at 6:30 PM at 606 W Main St, Highland, KS 66035, Admin Conference Room for the purpose of answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds, and the amount of tax to be levied, the revenue neutral rate, and to consider amendments. Detailed budget information is available at Highland Communtiy College and will be available at this hearing.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

The Expenditures and the Amount of 2025 Tax to be Levied (as shown below) establish the maximum limits of the 2025-2026 budget. The "Est. Tax Rate" in the far right column, shown for comparative purposes, is subject to change depending on final assessed valuation.

	2023-2024		2024-2025		Proposed Budget 2025-2026		
	Actual Expend. & Transfers	Actual Tax Rate*	Actual Expend. & Transfers	Actual Tax Rate*	Budgeted Expend. & Transfers	Amount of 2025 Tax to be Levied	Est. Tax Rate*
Current Funds Unrestricted							
General Fund	14,812,665		15,807,069		17,253,318	2,834,393	18.447
Postsecondary Tech Ed	4,785,046		4,242,581		4,528,081	xxxxxxx	xxx
Adult Education	181,798		164,918		132,306	0	0.000
Adult Supp Education	0	xxx	0	xxx	0	xxxxxxx	xxx
Motorcycle Driver	0	xxx	0	xxx	0	xxxxxxx	xxx
Truck Driver Training	0	xxx	0	xxx	0	xxxxxxx	xxx
Auxiliary Enterprise	2,976,694	xxx	2,832,282	xxx	3,183,363	xxxxxxx	xxx
Plant Funds		xxx		xxx		xxxxxxx	xxx
Capital Outlay	0		146,428		105,500	158,250	1.030
Bond and Interest	0		0		0	0	0.000
Special Assessment	0		0		0	0	0.000
No Fund Warrants	0		0		0	0	0.000
Revenue Bonds	0	xxx	0	xxx	0	xxxxxxx	xxx
Total All Funds	22,756,203	0.000	23,193,278	0.000	25,202,567	xxxxxxx	19.477
Revenue Neutral Rate**							16.477
Total Tax Levied	2,139,659		2,531,619		xxxxxxx	2,992,644	
Assessed Valuation	158,223,711		155,868,703		153,648,977		

## Outstanding Indebtedness, July 1

	2023	2024	2025
G.O. Bonds			
Capital Outlay Bonds			
Revenue Bonds			
No-Fund Warrants			
Temporary Notes			
Lease Purchase Principal	3,843,608	3,824,728	3,291,271
Total	3,843,608	3,824,728	3,291,271

\* Tax Rates are expressed in mills.

\*\*Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988