

## Kingman County Commission Minutes

Chairwoman Lyon called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. March 2, 2026, in the County Commissioners room at the Kingman County Courthouse. Present: Julie Lyon, Chairwoman; Jack Thimesch, Commissioner; Jeff Young, Commissioner; Carol Noblit, County Clerk Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor

Visitors: Dale Enyart; Bob Morris, Kingman Leader-Courier; Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief; Ira Hart; Catherine Rohrer, South Central Kansas Community Corrections

Online Visitors: Caller 01; Lucy; AS; DH  
Staff: Amanda Stucky, Zoning Director; Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse; Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director

Chairwoman Lyon asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Commissioner Young let the Board know that a township officer may be in and would like some time with the Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the agenda with the change. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ira Hart read some changes that should be addressed for the proposed zoning solar regulations.

David Young was in to request a road vacancy in Rago.

Commissioners let Mr. Young know that there is a process and they will get in touch with him for the process.

Shae Brooks, Kingman Fire Chief discussed the fire.

Catherine Rohrer, South Central Kansas Community Corrections was in to update the Commissioners on the services provided. Ms. Rohrer discussed a Repath App that will help with monitoring and reporting.

Ms. Rohrer submitted the Adult Comprehensive plan and Juvenile Comprehensive plans for FY 2027 Grant applications for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the Comprehensive Plan FY 2027 for Adult Supervision. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Chairman Lyon moved to approve the FY 2027 Juvenile Grant application. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

9:02 a.m. Amanda Stucky, Zoning Director was in with the following building permits:

Riley Rosenhagen for a storage building in Section 3, Township 29, Range 05W.

William & Shoshana Nash for a new home in Section 11, Township 29, Range 06W.

Roy Vulgamore for a new home in Section 1, Township 30, Range 06W.

Paul Smith for a greenhouse in Section 33, Township 27, Range 08W.

Brandy Nulik for a small home, Garage, Carport in Section 11, Township 30, Range 08W.

Todd Wenzel for a storage in Section 9, Township 30, Range 06W.

Dylan Flickinger for a new home in Section 36, Township 27, Range 05W.

Nick Kostner for a garage in Section 12, Township

28, Range 06W.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to end the Neighborhood Revitalization Program for Residential and Commercial for 10 years. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 2-1 vote.

Commissioner Thimesch discussed some concerns he had from the town hall event held this past weekend.

Commissioner Young asked about culverts being placed for new properties.

Ms. Stucky let the Commissioners know that the next Planning/Zoning meeting will be March 23, 2026 and a Verizon Cell Tower will be discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Young go into Executive Session with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor at 9:31 a.m. to discuss pending administrative proceedings pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act for discussion of matters which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship, and they will return to open session in the board meeting room at 9:46 a.m. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 9:46 a.m. with no action taken.

Tracy Barton, Shawn Tafta, Ford County Commissioner, Kansas Natural Resource Coalition were in to let the Commissioners know that the KNRC is a coalition of counties, led by Commissioners, who monitors and when appropriate intervenes to reduce the impact of the federal government's overreach on member counties and their citizens in the areas of human environment, natural resources, and land use.

Ms. Barton discussed the core services that KNRC provides are the following:

Land Use Policy Development  
Federal Register Monitoring  
Strategic Advocacy for Counties & Landowners  
Training & quarterly newsletters or webinars

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 10:05 a.m. with Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:15 a.m. with no action taken.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026, Commission meeting. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners discussed the information received from OSE Orazem & Scalora Engineering, P.A.

Commissioners would like to have a special meeting on March 16, 2026, with Department Heads about the Courthouse remodel at 1:00 p.m.

Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse was in with a department update for February for the County Commissioners.

Ms. Schwartz submitted three grant applications she is applying for that need a signature of approval from the County Commissioners.

MOTION: Chairwoman Lyon moved to approve Ms. Schwartz to apply for 2027 grants. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Ms. Schwartz let the Commissioners know that she

attended a Public Health Leadership Series.

Ms. Schwartz discussed the Capital Expense Plan and that there is currently \$52,661.11. Ms. Schwartz discussed possible replacement of vaccine refrigerator, van and a server.

Ms. Schwartz submitted bids for painting at the Health Department.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve Sanchez painting not to exceed \$10,000.00 for the Health Department building to be paid with grant funds. Commissioner Thimesch seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to go into executive session at 10:51 a.m. with Mary Schwartz, Health Nurse; LaDawn Stegman, Financial Officer and Brandon Ritcha, County Counselor to discuss an individual employee's evaluation pursuant to the exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and they will return to open session in the Board meeting room at 10:56 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners returned to regular session at 10:56 a.m. with no action taken.

Chairwoman Lyon opened the meeting for public comment.

Weston Winter with Allen Township was in to ask how many acres are required to be developed and water systems rules.

Commissioners let Mr. Winter know that he could talk with Ms. Stucky in the Appraiser's office about the building rules.

Charles Arensdorf, Public Works Director was in with Asphalt quotes from the following:

ERGON	COASTAL	VANCE BROTHER
MC800 per gallon		
3.01	2.48	280
CMS-1		
2.86	2.64	265
CRS-1H		
2.31	2.37	245

Mr. Arensdorf let the Commissioners know that he would review the quotes and be back next week with a recommendation for the Commissioners.

Mr. Arensdorf submitted the following permit for approval:

Messenger Petroleum-Road Crossing-3" natural gas line-south side of Section 32, Township 30, Range 07 (Valley).

Mr. Arensdorf submitted the department financials for January 2026 for the Commissioners review.

Mr. Arensdorf reminded the County Commissioners of the Township Board Meeting to be held March 9, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Public Works Building.

Mr. Arensdorf asked the Commissioners if they want to do any more Hot Mix overlay this year.

Commissioners received correspondence for a service agreement for engineering from OSE.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to approve the purchase of a server for the County Courthouse 22985.00 out of the Capital Equipment Fund. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

Commissioners signed abatements and escaped taxes.

MOTION: Commissioner Thimesch moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:43 a.m. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

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Motion to adopt the findings, factors, and recommendation of the Planning Board for Case No SU- 2026-1 and approve Resolution No 03-02-26 authorizing the special use permit made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

### Health Department Building Use Request & Affiliation Agreement

Darcie Van Der Vyver, Pratt County Health Department requested permission to use the Public Safety Building for a Pratt County Community Baby Shower event. This will be a community outreach and educational even focused on supporting expecting families, families with infants and caregivers. The event will include education and resources related to safe sleep practices, car seat safety, breastfeeding support, maternal mental health and social service resources. Participating

partners are expected to include KanCare, DCF, Horizons Mental Health, and additional community health partners. Through a grant the Health Department will distribute pack and plays and infant sleep items. The event is proposed for April 30, 2026 and is intended to become an annual outreach initiative. Commissioners expressed support. Darice also presented an affiliation agreement with Rockhurst University to allow a nursing student gain internship/shadowing experience. County Counselor, Tyson Eisenhauer reviewed the agreement and negotiated revisions. Darcie reminded the Commissioners of an upcoming webinar series offered by KDHE geared toward County Commissioners.

Motion to approve the affiliation agreement between Rockhurst University and the Pratt County Health Department for one student to complete 80 hours of shadowing made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

### NextEra Energy Project Update

Cody Akers and Sam

Nisbett with NextEra Energy reported that activity related to the project has been relatively quiet in recent weeks and indicated there are no specific issues to report at this time. Commissioners confirmed they have not received any complaints or reports. Cody reported the documentation for the battery storage application is still being finalized. March 10 is the target date for submission.

### Community Correction Budget and Program Update

Catherine Rohrer provided an update regarding Community Corrections funding, program operations and the FY2027 Comprehensive Plans for Adult and Juvenile Services. The projected FY2027 levels are \$535,862.06 for Adult Community Corrections and \$312,517.57 for Juvenile Services.

Motion to approve both the FY2027 Juvenile Services and the FY 2027 Adult Community Corrections Comprehensive Plans made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

### Discussion of Agenda Changes

The Commissioners discussed potential updates to the agenda format, focusing on department updates and public comment periods. It was proposed to include a designate time at the end of the scheduled agenda for department updates. Commissioners encouraged departments to submit items for next week's agenda when possible, maintaining structured timing. It was also proposed to place a designated time for public comment. Commissioners noted a time limit of three minutes per speaker which can be extended if needed and emphasized the importance of encouraging individuals with complex issues to schedule a future agenda slot. Commissioners approved the proposed changes for trial implementation.

### Digital Directory Proposal

A proposal was submitted by County Clerk, Cescha Hoffman to replace the existing courthouse directory with a modern digital display (tv-based) to provide clear guidance to visitors regarding office locations, services provided, upcoming events and

job openings with QR codes that would link to online applications. It would also be used to display real time updates for events such as tax deadlines, voter information and County meetings. The initial cost should be under \$1,000. Commissioners expressed support for modernization, increased accessibility and public engagement. Courthouse Budget will cover the cost. Commissioners agreed to proceed with the implementation of the digital director as presented.

### Road Department Personnel Request

Motion to hire Brent Schmidt, Road Department for \$17/hour made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

### Executive Session - Attorney-Client

MOTION - To move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Conversations with outside council for PRMC leases for 10 minutes at 2:58 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came

out of executive session at 3:09 p.m. with no action taken

Motion to move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Conversations with outside council for PRMC leases for 10 minutes at 3:10 p.m. made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners came out of executive session at 3:20 pm with no action taken.

### Authorization for Testimony

Motion to authorize Tyson Eisenhauer to testify on behalf of Pratt County regarding House Bill 2470 in the Senate on Thursday made by Commissioner Shriver; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes of February 23, 2026.

Commissioners unanimously approved the vouchers for March 2, 2026.

Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m.