

Regular County Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 15, 2025

The Board of County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm. Those present were Chairman Wayne Wilt, Vice Chairman Jim Maxwell, Commissioner Alan Groom, Lucas Goff, County Administrator, Mark Krusor, County Counselor and Karen Madison, County Clerk. Also present were Susan Slothower-Gober, Jon Jordan, Kayla Cartlidge, Amber Sekavec, Walter Crane and Rebecca McCutcheon.

- Vice Chairman Jim Maxwell delivered the invocation.
- Items on the consent agenda:
 - July 1, 2025 Regular Commission Minutes
 - Payment Register for period ending July 15, 2025
 - Abatement corrections for July 15, 2025

Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Chairman Wilt seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote 2-0 Commissioner Groom abstained since he is on the claims register.

- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding coordination between County and Township Representatives for road maintenance. Lucas attended the budget meetings in the County Clerk's Office. While speaking with township officers, the majority of them were opposed to a County Unit Road System. They are in favor of enhanced support from the County. Possible collaborations include grader training, cemetery training, FEMA response support, tree and brush management and signage standards and installation assistance. Possible projects include equipment loan program, public communication and education campaign. Educating the public on which roads are maintained by the State, County and Township including a GIS project listing roads and who is in charge of them along with contact information can be started. Commissioners agreed they are not interested in loaning county equipment but are in favor of any public education.
- Susan Slothower-Gober, Director CDDO, addressed Commissioners regarding the contract for FY26 with KDADS. The negotiations with the contract presented, leaves CDDO short approximately \$24,500 for budget year 2026 from State of Kansas. Several CDDO Offices have chosen not to sign the agreement in hopes there will be full funding with further negotiations. If the contract is not signed, there will be no money from the State until a contract is signed. After some discussion, Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve the KDADS/CDDO Contract for FY26 as presented. Vote 3-0
- Jon Jordan, Public Works Superintendent, addressed Commissioners regarding a contract for the Bridge Investment Program for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) with Kirkham Michael to assist in the application process. The contract is based on the

number of projects to include in the application. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve the contract with Kirkham Michael for application services for the Bridge Investment Program for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Vote 3-0

- Jon Jordan, Public Works Superintendent, added to the discussion with Commissioners a current Off System Bridge Application that includes OS 97 and OS 52. There are major problems with OS101 which lead Jon to ask the Commissioners if they would be willing to swap bridges in the application prior to selection. Currently, OS 97 is the “better” of the two bridges. Jon’s recommendation is to swap OS97 for OS 101. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to swap OS 97 for OS 101 in the current Off System Bridge Grant Application. Vote 3-0
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding County engagement for road repair on 192nd Road in Liberty Township. Commissioners agree they cannot tell the township to fix the road. Amber Sekavec, property owner, addressed Commissioners regarding her and her husband’s interactions and lack of communication from the township board. At township board meetings, the board has admitted several people have gotten stuck on the road. They refuse to communicate with the Sekavec’s on the status of the road. Commissioners asked Lucas to attend the next township board meeting to request the township to respond to the Sekavec Family.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding the FY26 Budget and the revenue neutral rate. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve the Revenue Neutral Rate Intent to Exceed Notice to County Clerk for Rural Fire Districts and the County as presented. Vote 3-0
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding Fire District 5, 6 and 7 contracts for fire service in the County. Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to approve the Fire District Contracts for fire service with the City of Winfield and the City of Arkansas City for Fire District 6, the City of Winfield for Fire District 7 and the City of Arkansas City for Fire District 5 as presented. Vote 3-0
- Walter Crane, resident of Cowley County, addressed Commissioners regarding the property leased by Scott Branine and the lack of maintenance on the property. Lucas Goff, County Administrator, stated a notice has been sent to Scott giving him notice of the lease termination since he has not maintained the property. Legal obligations for lease termination should be fulfilled by August 2025. At that time, a new lease can be established with another party.

- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding a public statement honoring the life and service of former County Commissioner Richard D. “Dick” Bonfy.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding a potential nuisance property located at 6722 306th Road, Arkansas City. The property complaint has been forwarded to Tom Langer, Director City-County Health Department, for further review.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, updated Commissioners on a drainage issue in the Creswell Township area, specifically near Lakewynds Drainage District.
- Commissioner Groom addressed Jon Jordan, Public Works Superintendent, regarding the lack of mowing ditches on county roads. Jon stated there are two tractors that have had mechanical issues. Until the issues are fixed, it is difficult to get two people out mowing. Current practice is to send two mowers out together for safety reasons. Vice Chairman Maxwell asked if they could get at least two people out mowing to get a start on it instead of waiting completely for the other two tractors to get fixed. Jon said he would get them out.
- Chairman Wilt signed the 2nd Quarter Financial Statement for publication.
- There being no further business, Chairman Wilt moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to adjourn at 6:54 pm. Vote 3-0

Karen Madison
Cowley County Clerk