

Regular County Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 19, 2025

The Board of County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, August 19, 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 Jon Jordan, Susan Slothower-Gober, Walter Crane, Michael Sekavec, Kayla Cartledge and Rebecca McCutcheon.

- Chairman Wayne Wilt delivered the invocation.
- Items on the consent agenda:
 - August 5, 2025 Regular Commission Minutes
 - Payment Register for period ending August 18, 2025
 - Abatement corrections for August 18, 2025

Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Chairman Wilt seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote 2-0 Commissioner Groom abstained.

- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding the minimum maintenance section of 192nd Road in Liberty Township. Chairman Wilt and Lucas attended the Liberty Township meeting. Lucas presented to Commissioners', a letter signed by all three township board members in favor of keeping the road as minimum maintenance. Commissioners agree they are unsure of any action to take as Commissioners since it is a township road. Lucas stated it appears the township has not said they will never do anything, just they are unable to at this time. Michael Sekavec, owner of the property that the road is minimum maintenance to, addressed Commissioners regarding the request for the road. Mr. Sekavec continued his plea with Commissioners to have the county be a unit system instead of the current township road system Cowley County utilizes. Vice Chairman Maxwell and Commissioner Groom will drive out to look at the area. Lucas will compile some additional information and place it on a future agenda.
- Susan Slothower-Gober, CDDO Director, addressed Commissioners regarding a request for affiliation from Our Cozy Corner, LLC. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve the request for affiliation from Our Cozy Corner, LLC as presented. Vote 3-0
- Jon Jordan, Public Works Superintendent, addressed Commissioners regarding repair of the landfill backhoe. The boom lock on the backhoe has failed and needs repaired. The previous repair did not last 30 days due to technician failure to identify other issues besides what was repaired. Foley Equipment has offered to credit \$1,200, the cost of the previous repair, toward the corrected repair of the boom lock. The second technician has identified several more components that need fixed. The current price is

a worst-case scenario price at \$16,011.64 after the \$1,200 credit has been applied. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve the repair of the landfill backhoe not to exceed \$16,011.64 as presented. Vote 3-0

- Walter Crane, Arkansas City resident, addressed Commissioners regarding the flood buyout property previously leased to Branine's. Walter is interested in the property clean up and possible lease.
- Ralph Brankel, Rock resident, has presented concerns to Lucas Goff, County Administrator, regarding drainage ditches under US 77 that have caused flooding on his property. County Staff has looked at the area and it looks like the flooding was due to the large amounts of rain. Jon Jordan, Public Works Superintendent, is having staff clean the edges of the box and also cleaning out the vegetation to help with drainage.
- Tamen Eis, Arkansas City resident, raised a concern regarding the budget hearing scheduled for a morning meeting instead of an evening meeting. Commissioners agreed they wanted it at the earlier meeting in the month in case there are adjustments to be made to the budget.
- Michael Secavek, property owner in Liberty Township, addressed Commissioners regarding changing to a County Unit Road System. He spoke to the Democratic Committee who was in favor of unit road system to be more efficient as a county. Commissioner Groom agreed with the unit road system that it would be more efficient use of resources for the whole county.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, provided Commissioners with a public notice addressing a proposed water pollution control permit applied for by the City of Winfield.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, provided Commissioners with the 2025 substantial compliance results report from PVD.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding a lease agreement for county land on 71st Road. The concern is to lease it to someone who will continue with the clean-up efforts that have been done by Lucas up to this point. Chairman Groom wants the county to clean up the property since it is county property and was our responsibility to not let it get in the condition it is in. Commissioners all agreed to use county resources to get the property cleaned up. Once it is cleaned up, there will be a conversation on leasing it again.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding the bundle of bridges to finish with the GO Bond project. As a part of that bundle, OS 67 on Cowley 18 was slated for deck repair. Once engineers began looking at the damage to the deck, they discovered it has deteriorated to a level that will require deck replacement instead

of an overlay. To repair the bridge versus overlaying it will add an additional \$1 million to the project. After some discussion, Commissioners agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting after staff gathers additional information.

- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, was notified by Liberty Township that Pebble Creek Low Water Passage was heavily damaged in a previous flood. Liberty Township is asking the County to fix the bridge because they do not have the funds to repair the passage. There was more discussion on how the county can attempt to help townships as they continue to have issues with no funds to fix them.
- There being no further business, Chairman Wilt moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to adjourn at 7:00 pm. Vote 3-0

Karen Madison
Cowley County Clerk