

Regular County Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 2, 2025

The Board of County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 9:00 am. 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 Lloyd Colston, Ralph Brankel, Jean Campbell, Deb Gillespie, Carol Coon, Boyd Barkus, Bill McPherson, Penny McPherson, Thomas Langer, Monie Donlay, Bryan Donlay, Lacy Shields, Michael Secavek and Rebecca McCutcheon.

- Vice Chairman Jim Maxwell delivered the invocation.
- Items on the consent agenda:
 - August 19, 2025 Regular Commission Minutes
 - Payment Register for period ending September 2, 2025
 - Abatement corrections for September 2, 2025

Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote 3-0

- Ralph Brankel, Rock resident, addressed Commissioners regarding flooding in the unincorporated area of Rock. He is also concerned with trees covering stop signs.
- Michael Secavek, Liberty township landowner, addressed Commissioners regarding the road to his property in Liberty Township. Michael has rented equipment to put a crown on the road to have it in good condition to get to his property. His concern was if the Commissioners were going to be able to do anything for the road. Commissioners agreed it is between Michael and Liberty Township Officers.
- Penny McPherson, New Salem resident, addressed Commissioners regarding a large chicken operation in the area. She is concerned with the possible size of the operation, the excrement from the chickens, the smell, area dogs and the well water. She is also concerned about the nearness of the Winfield City Lake. Tom Langer, City-Cowley County Health Department Director, addressed several of the concerns raised regarding the chicken farm. The owners have reached out to him to be sure they are following health standards. Tom has researched the effects of the chicken farm and how it will affect the floodplain area. Tom offered to check the well water now and as time moves on with the operation of the farm. Tom stated the waste can be sold as a subproduct and that seems to be the intention of the owners. Bill McPherson, 112th Road resident, asked what will happen during the day with the chickens roaming around. Chairman Wilt stated, while he understands the concerns, there is no zoning in the County, so the Commissioners have no authority to regulate the business. Tom stated he will continue to monitor the business and the waste that is excreted from the chicken farm. Lacey Shields, owner of the chicken farm, spoke to the reasons she has decided to raise chickens.

- Chairman Wilt moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to table the discussion on FAS 67. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for the County exceeding the revenue neutral rate open to the public. Lloyd Colston, Arkansas City resident, addressed Commissioners regarding the disengagement of the voters in Cowley County. He is also not in favor of exceeding the revenue neutral rate. Debbie Gillespie, Winfield resident, addressed Commissioners regarding her disappointment in citizen engagement. She attends yearly to express her concerns over rising property taxes. She is also upset at the amount of property taxes she pays and does not live on a paved street with gutters and struggles to get street lights fixed. Monie Donlay, Winfield resident, was upset the meeting was during the day and also upset at township roads not getting graded while she continues to pay property taxes. She is also upset with the money going to the college. Larry Alley, Winfield resident and Kansas State Senator, addressed Commissioners to begin a conversation of what can actually be done for rising property taxes. He suggested statewide sales tax helping to offset the college mill levy and the school general fund. He is also disappointed at the lack of turnout. Michael Secavek, likes the idea of sales tax helping to cover things that property tax funds. Chairman Wilt moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to approve Resolution No. 2025-11 County Exceeding the revenue neutral rate as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for the County FY26 Budget open to the public. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve the Cowley County FY2026 Budget as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 1 exceeding the revenue neutral rate open to the public. Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to approve Resolution No. 2025-12 Fire District 1 Exceeding the revenue neutral rate as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 1 FY26 Budget open to the public. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve the Fire District 1 FY2026 Budget as presented. Vote 3-0

- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 2 exceeding the revenue neutral rate open to the public. Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to approve Resolution No. 2025-13 Fire District 2 Exceeding the revenue neutral rate as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 2 FY26 Budget open to the public. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to approve the Fire District 2 FY2026 Budget as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 3 exceeding the revenue neutral rate open to the public. Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve Resolution No. 2025-14 Fire District 3 Exceeding the revenue neutral rate as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 3 FY26 Budget open to the public. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Commissioner Groom moved, Chairman Wilt seconded to approve the Fire District 3 FY2026 Budget as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 4 exceeding the revenue neutral rate open to the public. Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to approve Resolution No. 2025-15 Fire District 4 Exceeding the revenue neutral rate as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 4 FY26 Budget open to the public. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve the Fire District 4 FY2026 Budget as presented. Vote 3-0

- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 5 exceeding the revenue neutral rate open to the public. Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to approve Resolution No. 2025-16 Fire District 5 Exceeding the revenue neutral rate as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 5 FY26 Budget open to the public. Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Chairman Wilt seconded to approve the Fire District 5 FY2026 Budget as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 6 exceeding the revenue neutral rate open to the public. Commissioner Groom moved, Chairman Wilt seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Commissioner Groom moved, Chairman Wilt seconded to approve Resolution No. 2025-17 Fire District 6 Exceeding the revenue neutral rate as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 6 FY26 Budget open to the public. Commissioner Groom moved, Chairman Wilt seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve the Fire District 6 FY2026 Budget as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 7 exceeding the revenue neutral rate open to the public. Chairman Wilt moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to approve Resolution No. 2025-18 Fire District 7 Exceeding the revenue neutral rate as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 7 FY26 Budget open to the public. Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Commissioner Groom moved, Chairman Wilt seconded to approve the Fire District 7 FY2026 Budget as presented. Vote 3-0

- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 8 exceeding the revenue neutral rate open to the public. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Commissioner Groom moved, Chairman Wilt seconded to approve Resolution No. 2025-19 Fire District 8 Exceeding the revenue neutral rate as presented. Vote 3-0
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing for Fire District 8 FY26 Budget open to the public. Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to approve the Fire District 8 FY2026 Budget as presented. Vote 3-0
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding a request for information and comments in regard to the routing study for Garden Plain, KS Buffalo Flats Substation to Delaware, OK 345kV Transmission Line.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding a request for information and comments in regard to the Depth of Cover Survey for Phillips 66 Pipeline LLC.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, presented the Road and Bridge Report for September 2025.
- Karen Madison, County Clerk, addressed Commissioners regarding a vacancy in the Rock Creek Township Treasurer Position. Casey Woner resigned the treasurer position. The remaining two officers have suggested David Johnson to fill the unexpired position. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to appoint David Johnson to fill the Rock Creek Treasurer Township position through January 8, 2029. Vote 3-0
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding a federal funded project for bridge replacements. A partnership between Butler County and Cowley County is forming to apply for the federal funds. With possible State matches, the project would be a 30 bridge project, 15 in each county. If awarded, the approximate county investment would be a total of \$1 million.
- There being no further business, Chairman Wilt moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to adjourn at 10:21 am. Vote 3-0

Karen Madison
Cowley County