

Regular County Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 16, 2025

The Board of County Commission met in regular session Tuesday, September 16, 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, Tim Marr, Michael Sekavec, Cory Walls, Ventzen Marr, Kayla Cartlidge and Rebecca McCutcheon.

- Commissioner Alan Groom delivered the invocation.
- Items on the consent agenda:
 - September 2, 2025 Regular Commission Minutes
 - Payment Register for period ending September 16, 2025
 - Abatement corrections for September 16, 2025

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

- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding a request to vacate the portion of 192nd Road between 131st Road and 151st Road. Lucas has concerns that vacating the road will landlock properties. Commissioners are ok with waiting until information is gathered regarding
- Chairman Wilt declared the public hearing to make a portion of 302nd Road in Creswell Township minimum maintenance open for public comment. Cory Walls, 99th Drive, Arkansas City resident, addressed Commissioners regarding his concerns over rumors he has heard that there is a possibility of gating the road. Commissioners stated they are not looking to gate the road. The hearing and impending resolution is strictly to make the road officially minimum maintenance. Tim Marr, W 5th St, Arkansas City resident, addressed Commissioners regarding concerns over a gate that is currently on 77th Road. His limited research shows no gating order. The person who gated it is the same person saying they are going to gate 302nd Road. Lucas Goff, County Administrator, will investigate the gating issue on 77th Road. Chairman Wilt moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0
- Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to approve Resolution No. 2025-20 making a portion of 302nd Road in Creswell Township minimum maintenance. Vote 3-0
- Jon Jordan, Public Works Superintendent, addressed Commissioners regarding the bridge bundle to spend the remaining GO Bond money with FAS 67, FAS 71 and FAS 5. Two of the three bridges have more significant deterioration than originally thought. Deck repair of Bridge FAS 67 is not possible because of the percentage delamination.

Two of the bridges could be added to the Bridge Improvement Project to help with the cost of the bridges. After much discussion over the options for the bridges, Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to table the bridge discussion until the Bridge Improvement Project is awarded. Vote 3-0

- Susan Slothower-Gober, CDDO Director, addressed Commissioners regarding updates to the office Functional Assessment Processes. Vice Chairman Maxwell moved, Commissioner Groom seconded to approve CDDO Functional Assessment Processes as presented. Vote 3-0
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding an award letter from Kansas Department of Transportation for replacement of LPA Bridge 1C-3-34-5 located on 155th Road over Silver Creek (Brown Bridge). The maximum amount of funding for the project is \$2,000,000 provided by the State. The County will be responsible for the engineering services. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to accept the Kansas Department of Transportation award letter for replacement of LPA Bridge 1C-3-34-5 selected for FFY 2027 Off-System Bridge Program funding of up to \$2,000,000. Vote 3-0
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding bids received for the South Annex HVAC replacement project. Bids were opened from Five Star Mechanical Inc and American Mechanical Inc. American Mechanical Inc bid was \$1,841,042 with 365 days for completion of the project. Five Star Mechanical Inc bid was for \$1,336,366 with 180 days for completion of the project. Funding will come from the 2013 Surplus Fund, Capital Improvement and Special Reserve Fund. Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to approve the bid from Five Star Mechanical Inc for mechanical controls for a total cost of \$1,336,366 as presented. Vote 3-0
- Commissioner Groom moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to authorize Chairman Wilt to sign a Certificate of Ownership to Prewitt Putman for a space in Memorial Lawn Cemetery. Vote 3-0
- Michael Sekavec, Holloway Lane, Winfield resident, addressed Commissioners regarding the proposed road vacation. While he would see a benefit to closing the road so he would not have to deal with the township, he believes it seems unfair to landlock the remaining owners of the property on that road. Michael voice his frustration over what he perceives as a lack of the township working with him to get his house built and have a solid road to drive to it.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding a notice that First Presbyterian Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 12, 2025.

- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding the annual report to accompany the audit.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, presented Commissioners with the 2025 Mid-Year Ratio Study from the State of Kansas Property Valuation Division for Cowley County.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, presented Commissioners with Moody's September 2, 2025 Draft Issuer Comment on Cowley County.
- Chairman Wilt signed the budget approval for District Court.
- Lucas Goff, County Administrator, addressed Commissioners regarding the Bridge Improvement Project from the federal government. The bridges must break ground within 18 months after awarding of the project. In order to have that quick of a turnaround on the project, the county must begin the investment of preliminary engineering plans for the bridges. In the next few weeks, Lucas will be working with Mark Krusor, County Counselor, on a contract with Kirkham Michael to bring to the Commissioners to get that project started. The county will need to begin the investment prior to the awarding of the contract. If the county does not receive the award, the contract will be drawn up so the continuation of the bridge designs can be stopped. Since this is a partnership with Butler County, there will also be an interlocal agreement brought to the Commissioners in the next few weeks. This will be a significant investment by the Commission. Lucas wanted the Commissioners to have time to think on the investment.
- There being no further business, Chairman Wilt moved, Vice Chairman Maxwell seconded to adjourn at 6:57 pm. Vote 3-0

Karen Madison
Cowley County Clerk