Office of the County Clerk
Journal of Proceedings for the Smith County Commissioners
June 29, 2026

The County Commissioners met in a regular session on June 29, 2026, in the County Commissioners' room. Present were Commissioners Kurt Ifland, Brady Peterson and Jim Gwennap. Also present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Travis Story, Road and Bridge Supervisor and Karl Erickson.

At 8:30 a.m. Ifland called the meeting to order and Gwennap opened with prayer.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Gwennap to approve the 6/22/2026 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to approve the 6/29/2026 agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners approved voucher #16658-voucher#16661 and wires for the following accounts:

Employee Benefits	$ 30,535.69
Payroll Clearing	$ 41,844.57
TOTAL	**$ 72,380.26**

Commissioners approved payroll #13 for $166,880.12.

Commissioners initialed 1 voided check.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Gwennap to convene in executive session at 8:31 a.m. for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, potential employee. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell left the meeting. Also in the session was Travis Story and Karl Erickson. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 8:46 a.m.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Gwennap to convene in executive session at 8:47 a.m. for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, potential employee. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell left the meeting. Also in the session was Travis Story and Karl Erickson. Erickson left the meeting at 8:56 a.m. Erickson rejoined the meeting at 8:57 a.m. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 9:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to extend an offer of employment to Erickson with the discussed wages and benefits. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners and Story discussed the following:

1. Ifland discussed flags to mark a requested tube on 140 Rd between M Rd and L Rd.
2. Ifland shared compliments on C Rd.
3. Gwennap discussed the potholes in P Rd and O Rd.
4. Gwennap asked about the dirt roads. Story stated now that the South part of C Rd is complete, the blade men will be returning to their districts.
5. Gwennap discussed timesheets and clock in times.
6. The commissioners and Story discussed the 2027 budget.

7. Story stated there is a bridge crew vehicle in need of a transmission.
8. Story shared Jeremy's blade will be back in operation today. JR's blade will go to Concordia for repairs.
9. Story shared the rotation schedule for the new blade men.
10. Story discussed aggregate for bridge approaches.

Gary Arment joined the meeting and discussed culverts on E Rd and 160 Rd and also another on F Rd between 130 Rd and 140 Rd and 180 Rd, East of E Rd.
Arment left the meeting.

11. Story shared USDA has grants available for machinery. Story is awaiting a call back.
12. Story discussed the assistant road supervisor position.

Story left the meeting.

The commissioners discussed the upcoming 2027 budget preparation meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to accept the resignation of Phyllis Breese as Banner Township Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

Travis Story rejoined the meeting and discussed the concrete rip rap that is available.
Keith Wangerin joined the meeting.
Story left the meeting.

Wangerin discussed the IamResponding contract that was previously discussed at the Communications board meeting. The price for a 5-year contract is $2241.00. The commissioners are in favor of the increase. Wangerin shared he has hired 2 part time employees and 1 full time.
Wangerin left the meeting.

Trenton Ringle joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Gwennap to convene in executive session at 10:26 a.m. for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, employee transfer. Motion carried unanimously. Also in the session was Trenton Ringle, Joell Wagenblast and Ashley Maxwell. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 10:44 a.m.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Gwennap to convene in executive session at 10:44 a.m. for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, potential employee. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell and Wagenblast left the meeting. Also in the session was Trenton Ringle. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 10:49 a.m.
Ringle left the meeting.

Stephanie Arment joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Arment discussed the closure of the alleyways in Bellaire.
2. Arment also discussed the stickers in the courthouse yard.

Arment left the meeting.

Tom Chapman joined the meeting and discussed the following:

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1. Updates with High Plains Mental Health.
2. Chapman discussed the Recovery Plan for Smith County.
3. Chapman shared bids for setting up the emergency management vehicle. Platte Valley Communications for $9,902.85 and Specialty Vehicle Source for $15,234.11. Chapman stated he is not wanting to install the bed drawers at this time, which is a savings of $1,686.10.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Gwennap to accept the bid from Specialty Vehicle Source for $13,548.01. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Chapman gave an update of Homeland Security Council plans.

Chapman left the meeting.

At 11:53 a.m. a motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson as there was no further business. Motion carried unanimously.

Kurt Ifland, Chairman

James Gwennap, Member

Brady J. Peterson, Member

Attest:

Ashley Maxwell, County Clerk

These minutes are not official until signed by the county commissioners and attested to by the County Clerk.

Initials KI JG BP