Office of the County Clerk
Journal of Proceedings for the Smith County Commissioners
June 1, 2026

The County Commissioners met in a special session on June 1, 2026, at the road and bridge shop. Present were Commissioners Kurt Ifland, Brady Peterson and Jim Gwennap. Also present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Travis Story, Road Supervisor, Jeremy Presbrey, Ethan White, Josh Long, Lester Clapp, Chris Erickson, Dominic Long, Isaac Skidmore, Jolan Richardson, Bill Brooks, Aaron Gibble, Larry Krouse, Cole Morgan, John Kautz, Shawn Craig, Dustin Kendall, Jon Beck, Dave Tucker, Cole Conaway, Tom Story, Mitch Favinger and Owen Wagner, Assistant Road Supervisor.

At 7:01 a.m. Ifland called the meeting to order.

Topics discussed were:
Commended the crew for the work throughout the county
C Rd Project
250 Rd
Adhering to the plans prepared for each project
JR Rice joined the meeting
Bridge crew making progress on the project list
Social media
Bridge on L Rd
Pros and Cons of working with the Gana Company
Overtime and family time
Cons of John Deere blades
Blading rock road when there is moisture

At 7:18 a.m. a motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to adjourn as there was no further business. Motion carried unanimously.

The County Commissioners met in a regular session on June 1, 2026, in the County Commissioners' room. Present were Commissioners Kurt Ifland, Brady Peterson and Jim Gwennap. Also present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Owen Wagner, Assistant Road Supervisor. Anthony Haas and Holden Martin.

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 5/26/2026 minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to approve the 6/1/2026 agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 8:34 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, Owen Wagner and Anthony Haas. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 8:50 a.m.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 8:50 a.m. for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, potential employee. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell left the meeting. Also in the session was Travis Story, Owen Wagner and Anthony Haas. Haas left the meeting at 8:51 a.m. and returned at 8:55 a.m. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 8:55 a.m.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 9:00 a.m. for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, potential employee. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell left the meeting. Also in the session was Travis Story, Owen Wagner and Holden Martin. Martin left the meeting at 9:13 a.m. and returned at 9:16 a.m. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 9:20 a.m.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Ifland to extend an offer of employment to both Anthony Haas and Holden Martin at the agreed discussed starting wage. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners approved voucher #16518-voucher#16524 and wires for the following accounts:

Employee Benefits	$ 71,234.99
Payroll Clearing	$ 49,457.37
Special Machinery	$ 10,000.00
TOTAL	**$130,692.36**

The commissioners approved 1 tax abatement.

The commissioners approved payroll #11 for $167,988.49.

The commissioners initialed 1 voided check.

The commissioners, Story and Wagner discussed the following:

1. The commissioners discussed the possibility of sponsoring a student and paying for tuition and fees.
2. Ifland discussed having the blade men work the dirt roads when time/weather permits.
3. Peterson asked Story and Wagner about the East South City Limits road.
4. Gwennap discussed 50 Rd and DD Rd.
5. Gwennap asked about the 50 ft tube for AA Rd. Story stated he spoke to Ace Irrigation last week and the tube is still on the lot.
6. Gwennap discussed hiring a previous employee. At this time Story is not interested in rehiring.
7. Story submitted the grid roller voucher for $10,000.00.

Ryan Allen joined the meeting.

8. Story verified PTO pay-out policy.
9. Story asked the board if they want to add aggregate on top of the rock on C Rd. The commissioners are not in favor of adding any additional materials.
10. Ifland asked if gravel can be added on 100 Rd between K Rd and Hwy 8. Story stated he was unaware of adding gravel. The board stated they discussed that at a previous meeting when Story was absent.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 9:52 a.m. for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, employee performance. Motion carried unanimously. Maxwell and Allen left the meeting. Also in the session was Owen Wagner and Travis Story. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 9:57 a.m.

Maxwell and Allen rejoined the meeting.

A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to accept the resignation of Owen

Wagner, effective May 12, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Gwennap visited with Wagner about logistics of the assistant supervisor positions.
12. Gwennap asked for an update on C Rd. Story stated with Gana Company productivity is good. With the additional trucks on the roadways, it has created blow outs elsewhere. Story stated the weather is a definite factor.

Story and Wagner left the meeting.

Allen discussed the following:

1. Allen shared the Smith Center city wide clean up went fantastically well.
2. Allen discussed the future pit at the landfill. The commissioners asked Allen to make contact with Penco Engineering about specifications.

Keith Wangerin joined the meeting.
Allen left the meeting.

Wangerin discussed the following:

1. Wangerin shared he will be holding 3 interviews this week.
2. Wangerin stated Medic 4 was sold on Purple Wave.
3. The MIH Grant was not awarded to Smith County.
4. Wangerin discussed the Zoll Monitors. Wangerin stated he will be purchasing supplies for them.
5. Wangerin stated Medic 6 had an aftermarket turbo actuator installed to get it back in service.

Wangerin left the meeting.

The commissioners reviewed the proposal from Orazem & Scarlora for electrical work.
A motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to approve the proposal for $30,330.00 for electrical upgrades at the courthouse and sheriff's office. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners reviewed 1 application for the courthouse janitor position.

Don Rivera with the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center joined the meeting and shared the services offered by the center. Rivera shared that every child leaves the center/mobile unit with a backpack with the following items inside: pillow, blanket, pillowcase, toiletries, education supplies, books and gently used stuffed animals. Rivera shared in Smith County there were 15 children served and 67 services provided. The services to the children and families are therapy, forensic interview, advocacy, art facilitation and medical examination. Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center has a 2027 budget request of $5,000.00.
Rivera left the meeting.

The commissioners discussed the possibility of zoning in Smith County. Gwennap will reach out to some other counties for different ideas.

Rick Hileman joined the meeting and discussed East South City Limits road. Hileman shared the road splits down the middle and is half city responsibility and half county responsibility. Hileman asked the board for ideas to fix it properly with the amount a heavy traffic utilizing it. The commissioners agreed to partner with the city and engage an engineer. The commissioners agreed to pay half the engineering fees. Gwennap also agreed to contact Shannon Preate with the Kansas Infrastructure Hub for grant opportunities. Hileman stated Brittany Niles will also research grant opportunities.
Hileman left the meeting.

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At 11:22 a.m. a motion was made by Gwennap and seconded by Peterson to adjourn 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