

Office of the County Clerk
Journal of Proceedings for the Smith County Commissioners
February 3, 2025

The County Commissioners met in a special session on February 3, 2025, in the County Commissioners' room. Present were Commissioners Brady Peterson, Kurt Ifland and Jim Gwennap. Also, present was Ashley Maxwell, Clerk, Mitch Fritz, Road Supervisor, Amber Davis, Joell Wagenblast, and Shawn Conaway.

Conaway discussed the operations of the Gardner Wellness Center. Conaway stated he is waiting on a quote for an additional security camera. Conaway shared that the door controller is out of contract and Conaway has requested a quote for an updated door controller. The clerk's office will be assisting patrons of the Wellness Center with memberships, access, and payments moving forward. Also the clerk's office will assist the volunteers with scheduling and cleaning.

Travis Story joined the meeting.

Conaway asked about the interest in an exterior camera. The commissioners are in favor of moving forward with a quote.

Conaway left the meeting.

At 8:33 a.m. Gwennap called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Ifland to approve the 1/27/2025 minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ifland and seconded by Peterson to approve the 2/3/2025 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners approve voucher #14211 for the following accounts:

Road & Bridge	\$116,327.40
Special Machinery	\$ 70,163.67
TOTAL	\$186,491.07

The commissioners, Fritz and Story discussed the following:

1. Ifland discussed areas of concern in his district.
2. Gwennap shared a text he received from an individual complimenting the blade man who did some blade work.
3. Gwennap discussed the dirt at the rock pit. It needs to stay at a pickup length away from the fence.
4. Fritz stated they are attempting to haul the asphalt from the airport this week.
5. Story discussed the post driver. Currently it works on and off and isn't consistent. Story has researched an update through Stanley for \$8,033.40.

A motion was made by Ifland and seconded by Peterson to purchase the Stanly Hydraulic Power Unit from Amron International for \$8,033.40. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Fritz and Story shared the meeting flyer for the meeting they will be attending on Wednesday (2/5/2025) regarding shelters.
7. Story shared he has an employee who has received his CDL permit. Story will be sending him on to the CDL course at Fort Hays Tech.
8. Story shared he has 3 employees in Wichita for CAT training.
9. Story stated he attended the Homeland Security meeting last week.

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10. Fritz shared the road department had 2 heaters installed and there will be 2 more installed soon.

11. Gwennap asked about the generator. Story stated Jones Electrical has been working on it. Fritz and Story left the meeting.

A motion was made by Ifland and seconded by Peterson to approve the KDOT contract to treat Noxious Weeds at \$60.00/hr for the equipment and \$50.00/hr for the man power. Motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners approved 1 solid waste abatement.

A motion was made by Ifland and seconded by Peterson to approve the 2025 funding of \$28,495.00 for Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas . Motion carried unanimously.

Maxwell discussed the refrigerator in the courthouse kitchenette. The ice machine has completely quit working. The refrigerator is a 2007 Roper model and the repairman stated he most likely couldn't get parts for it. The commissioners advised Maxwell to get quotes for a replacement.

The commissioners discussed the employee quarterly evaluations vs. semi-annual evaluation. The commissioners would like to change the evaluations to semi-annually with due dates of June 16 and December 12.

Ryan Allen joined the meeting and discussed the following:

1. Allen discussed the annual solid waste meeting that was scheduled for Jan. 30. Allen stated only 2 people showed up, so it was rescheduled for February 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Allen shared the landfill inspection report. There were no discrepancies found.
3. Allen shared the compactor transmission case is in Topeka and the rest of the compactor is in Concordia for repairs.

Allen left the meeting.

Tabitha Owen joined the meeting and discussed the grant of right of way agreement between the county and Kansas Gas Service, a Division of ONE Gas, Inc. The commissioners signed the grant of right of way.

Keith Wangerin joined the meeting.

Owen left the meeting.

Wangerin discussed the following:

1. Wangerin discussed the extra emergency coverage when the bridge is down South of Portis. Wangerin shared the patient has the right to be transferred to the Osborne County Hospital. Several entities from Smith County will be represented at a meeting with the Osborne County Commissioners today (2/3/2025) at 1:00 p.m.

Wangerin left the meeting.

Travis Conaway joined the meeting. The commissioners and Conaway discussed the following:

1. Gwennap asked Conaway if he has obtained his required bond. Currently Sheriff Conaway does not have a bond, but is working with Fouts Insurance. Gwennap asked whether Conaway was aware of the bond requirement. Conaway stated he was aware of the bond

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requirement but wasn't aware of how the process worked.

2. Gwennap asked if an Undersheriff has been named. Conaway stated he would like to have further discussion in executive session. So, at this time, no one has been named.
3. Gwennap asked if the sheriff's office is National Incident Management System certified. Currently, there isn't any training completed in the department. Smith County passed a resolution in 2005 to follow incident command.

Owen rejoined the meeting.

4. Gwennap discussed the numerous cases that haven't been completed and submitted to the county attorney. The county attorney has requested numerous times for information and nothing has been submitted. Conaway refused to discuss this with the board and stated he will have a meeting with Owen to discuss the cases.
5. Gwennap discussed the need for background checks and discussions with previous employers in regard to hiring.
6. Gwennap discussed the timely submission of timesheets. The commissioners shared from this day forward employees will not be paid until the next pay period if the timesheets are late.

A motion was made by Ifland and seconded by Peterson to convene in executive session at 11:14 a.m. for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, employee performance. Motion carried unanimously. Also in the session was Travis Conaway, Tabitha Owen and Ashley Maxwell. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 11:19 a.m.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Ifland to convene in executive session at 11:21 a.m. for 5 minutes to discuss attorney-client privilege, employee performance. Motion carried unanimously. Also in the session was Travis Conaway, Tabitha Owen and Ashley Maxwell. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 11:27 a.m.

Owen and Conaway left the meeting.

Tiffany Wiseman and Aleecia Day joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Ifland to convene in executive session at 11:30 a.m. for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel, potential employee. Motion carried unanimously. Also in the session was Tiffany Wiseman and Aleecia Day. No action was taken. Regular session reconvened at 11:47 a.m.

Wiseman and Day left the meeting.

Tracey Barton and Larry Townsend joined the meeting. Tracey Barton is with Kansas Natural Resource Coalition (KNRC). Larry is a commissioner in Wallace County and supports KNRC. Barton shared that KNRC monitors and appropriately intervenes to reduce the impact of the federal government's overreach on member counties and their citizens in the areas of human environment, natural resources, and land use. Currently KNRC has 32 member counties in Kansas. Barton shared the membership dues are \$5,000.00 annually.

Gwennap left the meeting.

KNRC also does a newsletter along with emails and they are also going to be offering training for their member counties. The commissioners will further discuss the membership at a later date.

At 12:13 p.m. a motion was made by Ifland and seconded by Peterson to adjourn as there was no further business. Motion carried unanimously.

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James Gwennap, Chairman



Kurt Ifland, Member

Attest:



Ashley Maxwell, Clerk



Brady Peterson, Member

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

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