DONIPHAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TROY, KANSAS, JULY 13, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the office of the Doniphan County Commission, Troy, Kansas, at 8:30 A.M. with Second District County Commissioner Wayne Grable, Chairman, calling the meeting to order. First District County Commissioner Timothy D. Collins, Third District County Commissioner Bobby Hall and County Clerk Peggy Franken present. County Attorney Charles D. Baskins was present for a portion of the meeting.

Roger Hopkins and Ben Leatherman observed. Presenters and visitors included Tony Studer, Shelley Studer, Dennis Bembrick, Dennis Handke, Ken McCauley, Gerald E. Pierce, Jr., Ron Schneider, Chris Schneider, Zoning Administrator Scott B. Morris, Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris and Sheriff Mark Allen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the beginning of the meeting.

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve County Commission meeting agenda as presented. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve County Commission minutes of the July 6, 2026 regular meeting as written. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve payroll and warrants for the period of July 15, 2026 as presented. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center currently houses 11 local inmates.

Tony Studer, Shelley Studer and Dennis Bembrick asked the Board of County Commissioners to consider chip seal on Runnymede Road, north of 190th Road, in Blair, Kansas. Tony Studer asked the justification for black topping 175th Road when the County can't chip seal other roads. Dennis Bembrick said Runnymede Road has 10 houses it services, Saratoga (recently chip sealed) has six. Commissioner Grable said Runnymede Road is ½ mile east of Randolph Road and ½ mile west of Saratoga Road and directly connects to 190th Road, which are all hard surfaced. Grable continued that the County can't chip seal every road but can try to provide a short distance on a gravel road to a good hard surfaced road. Discussion was held regarding chip seal on Saratoga Road, north of US Highway 36, in 2026. Commissioner Hall said the road was on the previous chip seal list, explaining that only roads on the pre-existing list are subject to chip seal. Commissioner Grable said the County voted on a three-year chip seal plan consisting of main roads that run through the entire county, adjoining gravel roads. He said he wasn't going to promise something that he can't guarantee will happen (chip sealing Runnymede Road). Commissioner Collins said he didn't know how the county could do additional chip seal roads and afford to provide for continual upkeep and maintenance.

Dennis Bembrick told the County Commission there is a large ditch at 1217 Runnymede Road and another near 1302 Runnymede Road, which is entering the driving lane of the road, causing dangerous driving conditions. The Road Department was notified and put rock in the ditches; however recent rains have washed out the rock. Shelley Studer asked if the Road Department could address the dangerous road issues this week it would be appreciated. Commissioner Grable said the Second Road District would get the road fixed as soon as possible.

Dennis Handke owns property located in the southwest quarter of Section 30, Township 4, Range 19E, south of Purcell, Kansas, on what is commonly known as Appleton Road. Mr. Handke is working with the Conservation District Office in Effingham, Kansas, on conservation work needed on his property and inquired about road work on the minimal maintenance road in order to access his property. He said the Conservation District Office is drawing up work plans this fall, with work to begin in the summer of 2027. Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris will contact the Effingham Conservation District Office to determine the extend of work needed, with Commissioner Collins and Road Foreman Joey Collins to view the road.

Kenneth McCauley presented the Board of County Commissioners with petition for road vacation by adjoining landowners Mary McCauley, Inc. and MKM LLC, on 260th Road, Section 8, Township 2, Range 19E. The petition calls for vacation of ½ mile of 260th Road, west of Blackjack Road. The Board of County Commissioners took the request under consideration.

Gerald E. Pierce, Jr., appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to get a completion date for the development of 130th Road, east of Kansas Highway 7, Section 13, Township 4, Range 20E. Mr. Pierce told the County Commission he has an issue with getting to his ground, asking for an alternative route from Larkinburg Road. He said he has retained legal counsel in the event he is unable to access his property to maintain the CRP land. Commissioner Grable said he talked with Pat Urban of Urban Construction, project contractor, who told Commissioner Grable tubes have been ordered and should be delivered this week. Once tubes are on site, the project should move along quickly.

Mr. Pierce also discussed with the County Board heavy rainfall the first week of June 2026 caused water to run over 30" tube installed by Urban Construction in August 2024 on Castleton Road, south of 755 Castleton Road, Sections 9-10 Township 4 Range 19E. Mr. Pierce said the tube was installed correctly, however due to the amount of water the spicket end of the tube is washed out exposing 8' of tube with a 4' vertical drop. He said he is clearing out a pond and has dirt to provide to the project to cover and repair the damage. Commissioner Collins said the Road Department would fix the tube as soon as they can get to it.

Scott B. Morris, Doniphan County Zoning Administrator, presented the County Commission with notice of recommendation from the Doniphan County Planning Commission for request in zoning change, on behalf of Buffalo Hollow Farms/Schneider Quarries, from A-1 Agricultural to A-1 Agricultural with Conditional Use to operate a limestone quarry located at 1754 Friendship Road, Highland, Kansas, and adjacent property moreover described as follows: Comm @ NW/C NE4 E 2,308', S 1,324.04', W 504.36', S 385.48', NW 643.38', SW 421.27', SE 788.93', W 908.37' to Friendship Road, N to Section Line, all in Section 21, Township 2, Range 20E. And also, W ½ NW4 SE4 and the SW4 SE4 in Section 16, Township 2, Range 20E. Ron Schneider (owner) and Chris Schneider were present. The Doniphan County Planning Commission recommends the zoning amendment be approved. Zoning Administrator Morris told the County Commission all adjoining property owners were contacted, with there being no objections. Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve zoning change from A-1 Agriculture to A-1 Agriculture with Conditional Use for operations of limestone rock quarry on property located at 1754 Friendship Road, Highland, Kansas, and adjacent property. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron Schnieder asked the County Commission to fix 250th Road, Section 22, Township 2, Range 20E, saying there is a ditch on both sides of the road not leaving much room if you meet someone and with rock trucks and upcoming harvest it makes for a dangerous situation. Commissioner Collins will ask Road Foreman Joey Collins to address road concerns.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris asked the County Commission if action has been taken on if a utility permit would be required by the Zayo Group to place fiber optic cable through already installed conduit along County rights-of-way. Commissioner Hall said he would like a utility permit signed stating the Zayo Group will repair any damage caused to county roadways to pre-existing condition within a certain period of time, to be determined by the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Collins said in addition the utility permit should include prohibition of fiber optic cable to run on top of and in road tubes. Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris will work with County Attorney Baskins on proper terminology of the utility permit.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed to submit for bid the following road projects on 175th Road, Section 27, Township 3, Range 21E, to prepare for chip seal:

- Project Site 1 60'x 30" culvert 175th Road west of Oxide Road
- Project Site 2 Rebuild 175th Road west of Oxide Road, rebuilding the roadway both east and west of 1669 175th Road.
- Project Site 3 install 60'-80' x 30" crossroad culvert west of Oxide Road

Sealed bids are due in the office of the Doniphan County Clerk by 5:00 P.M. July 31, 2026 with bid letting to be held Monday, August 3, 2026.

Representatives with engineering firm Schwab-Eaton, PA will meet with First District Road Foreman Joey Collins to view and give repair recommendations for bridges RS140 on Ash Point Road, north of 270th Road, Sections 5-6, Township 2, Range 19E. And T-15-3 on 280th Road, east of Ash Point Road, Section 32, Township 1, Range 19E and Section 5, Township 2, Range 19E.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris told the County Commission Union Township Treasurer Audrey Boos, on behalf of Union Township, called to see if action has been taken on their request for permission to place traffic mirrors in the right-of-way along Elgin Road, north of 110th Road, where it is visually dangerous. The Board took the request under advisement.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve the following Road Department invoices:

Rural Water District #5	$1,702.78 (water for roads to prepare chip seal)
Zamzow	$1,130.14 (tarp motor for 2026 Ranco Trailer)

Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris told the County Commissioners she received email correspondence from Hugh Bogle, Kansas Department of Transportation Representative, following field check for replacement of LPA Bridge T-831-2, south of US Highway 36 on Oxide and 195th Road, Section 14, Township 3, Range 21E, project No. 22 C-5400-01 under the Federal-aid Off-System Bridge Program. Mr. Bogle told Commissioner Grable KDOT is not allowed to swap bridges since it was a competitively selected project. Bid letting for the bridge replacement will take place on February 17, 2027.

Lindsay Norris, Road Office Manager, presented the County Commissioners with pictures of Larkinburg Road conditions, north of US Highway 36, to 215th Road, then west to Keystone Road. The Road Office received a call and pictures the prior week, asking that Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris make the Board aware of road conditions. Commissioner Grable said Second District Road Department addressed the concerns.

Commissioner Hall made the Board aware that roads in Burr Oak bottoms and road known as Happy Hollow are going to be fixed. The motor grader operator has been reprimanded.

Discussion was held regarding contracting out road maintenance. No action was taken.

Commissioner Grable told the County Commission the Second Road District is beginning work on Oxide Road, near 884 Oxide Road, Section 2, Township 4, Range 21E. He asked Commissioner Collins for assistance this week of one truck and truck driver to help haul dirt to build up the roadway. Commissioner Collins said the First Road District is short on manpower and has a lot of issues in the First District as well.

Commissioner Hall asked Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris to determine who maintains areas on Monument Road, south of Wathena, Kansas, where potholes exist and have them fixed.

Commissioner Grable requested a "Children at Play" sign for 150th Road near 1569 150th Road.

Commissioner Hall asked when striping of asphalt roads would be done. Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris said IBC Traffic is waiting for 240th Road west of Highland, Kansas, to be asphalted by Herzog then will stripe all roads at the same time. Commissioner Hall asked that they be completed prior to the start of the school year. He also asked that the emergency flashing light on 170th Road be replaced.

Sheriff Mark Allen informed the Board of County Commissioners of recent resignations in the 911 Dispatch center, saying the department will be down to two full-time dispatchers to cover 24 hour seven days per week shifts. Sheriff Allen requested permission to increase the pay of part-time dispatchers on a temporary basis, two days per week consisting of four shifts, until full time positions are fully staffed. Commissioner Hall made a motion to increase the pay of part-time 911 Dispatchers to $25.00 per hour on a temporary basis, subject to less than 20 hours per week with no benefits, until 911 Dispatch is fully staffed. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Mark Allen addressed concerns with gate being put across County property located in East Troy subdivision, Section 17, Township 3, Range 21E, Block 22 lots 1-2, Block 22 lots 16-20, Block 35 lots 2-9 and Block 35 lots 11-18. Commissioner Grable and Sheriff Allen viewed the property following up on City of Troy complaint. Commissioner Grable said a dumpsite exists on the property, asking that Northeast Kansas Environmental Services be contacted about cleanup.

County Clerk Peggy Franken presented the County Commission with the June 2026 department budget and cash summary report. And Household hazardous waste collections for June 24, 2026.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve cost of appraisal computer installation by Lockit Technologies in the amount of $1,932.50. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners gave notice to the Doniphan County Clerk of intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate for 2027 budget, setting the hearing date for September 28, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

At 10:13 A.M. Commissioner Grable made a motion to recess into executive session pursuant to attorney-client privilege exception regarding zoning, with open session to reconvene at 10:28 A.M. in the office of the Doniphan County Commission. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney, County Clerk and Zoning Administrator remained. No action was taken.

Discussion was held on hiring employees for the Road Department, CDL reimbursement program and hire of employees to only operate motor graders. County Attorney Baskins will look into drafting policies for operation of motor graders without CDL and a CDL reimbursement program.

Commissioner Collins said Herzog Contracting Corporation, Inc. will rent Doniphan County a machine to place shoulder rock on asphalt roads at a cost of $500.00 per day. A formal proposal will be forthcoming to the Road Office.

Commissioner Hall asked that property located at 2426 170th Road, Wathena, Kansas, be maintained and special assessment for cleanup be attached to the property.

There being no further business before the Board, at 10:47 A.M. Commissioner Hall made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

DATED THIS 13th DAY OF JULY 2026.

DONIPHAN COUNTY CLERK SEAL KANSAS

Attest: Peggy Franken, County Clerk

Wayne Grable, Chairman