DONIPHAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, TROY, KANSAS, AUGUST 24, 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.

The Kansas Chief Reporter Melanie Davis and Roger Hopkins observed. Others present for a portion of the meeting included Aging Director Diana Crouse Johnson, Robert Ryser, John Hontz, Tim Hontz, Fred Smith, Steve Kerns, Chris Walters, Appraiser Danielle Kiefer, Norman Meng, Professional Insurance Consultant Rhonda Fernandez, Sheriff Mark Allen, Undersheriff Jeremy Peak, Reece Construction President Marynell Popst, Reece Construction Executive Vice President Colby Wetter, Road Office Manager Lindsay Norris, Matt Cluck, Colby Meyer, Kelly Franken and John Gladhart. Harrison Lambert, Senior Sales Consultant with the Difference Card, joined by telephone.

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

Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve the 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 August 17, 2026 regular meeting as written. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Fee report for the month of July 2026 was presented to the Board for review on behalf of the Sheriff.

The Jerry K. Dubach Doniphan County Law Enforcement Center currently houses 16 local inmates.

Aging Director Diana Crouse Johnson presented bids for brake repair on the 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan:

Triple L	$1,450.68
Neumann Services	$1,062.70
Redneck Diesel	$1,949.81

Commissioner Hall made a motion to accept the low bid of Neumann Services for brake repair on the 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan in the amount of $1,062.70. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Commissioner Grable cast a nay vote citing Redneck Diesel's assessment the previous week indicating the brakes still had 50% life left and they could find nothing wrong with it. Motion carried 2-1.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to appoint James Powell First Road District Deputy Foreman effective September 1, 2026. Commissioner Grable seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

County Clerk Peggy Franken informed the County Commission she received concerns about weeds and Johnson Grass at the County farm. She will notify Tenant Rodger Groves to treat weeds on the County farm grounds.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed to pay Urban Construction, LLC $69,170.00 for 130th Road rebuild project, east of Kansas Highway 7, Section 13, Township 4, Range 20E, per contractual agreement.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to participate in the Federal Funds Exchange Program for 2026, exchanging $94,223.57 in Federal dollars to State funds in the amount of $84,801.22. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to approve the following Road Department invoices:
Engemann Drainage Co., Inc. $1,926.00 (2nd District road tubes)
Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The County Commission was in receipt of amended contract work agreements between Doniphan County and Engemann Drainage Co., Inc. for three project sites on 175th Road, west of Oxide Road, involving two culvert replacements and rebuilding 175th Road, west of Oxide Road to the west boundary line of the 118.98 acre tract owned by Thad and Bobette Geiger (1669 175th Road). The County Commissioners agreed to the amended changes. No action was taken on approving the contractual agreements pending County Attorney review.

At 9:00 A.M. budget hearings were held for adoption of 2027 township, cemetery and fire districts. There being no public comment, Chairman Grable closed the hearing.

At 9:15 A.M. budget hearing was held for adoption of the 2027 Doniphan County Ambulance District No. 1 budget. The budget reduces the mill rate from the current 1.000 mill to .500 mills due to being financed in part by a 1% sales tax for emergency services. There being no public comment, Chairman Grable closed the hearing at 9:16 A.M. Commissioner Grable made a motion to adopt the 2027 Doniphan County Ambulance District No. 1 budget. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

At 9:30 A.M. revenue neutral rate hearing was held for financing the 2027 Doniphan County budget. The revenue neutral rate is 37.678 mills, the Board of County Commissioners propose a mill levy rate of 40.250 mills. Those present in addition to the Board of County Commissioners and County Clerk included Wathena City Mayor John Hontz, Tim Hontz, Robert Ryser, Fred Smith, Chris Walters, Steve Kerns, Norman Meng and Doniphan County Appraiser Danielle Kiefer. Chairman Grable explained the increase in tax revenue due to holding revenue neutral since 2019 thereby needing to replace cash reserves or reduce services. Reducing the countywide ambulance service mill levy by .500 mills to help offset the county tax increase. Reduction in departmental budgets. And levying funds for Solid Waste to prepare for future operations of the Doniphan County Transfer Station. Wathena City Mayor John Hontz addressed the Board with concerns about increased assessed valuations, the need to build the economy to spread out the tax base and questioned values for Summit Truck Bodies who qualified for Industrial Revenue Bonds and therefore will have exempt property values for 10 years. Tim Hontz and Fred Smith voiced concerns over their property values. Appraiser Danielle Kiefer explained the appraisal process. Chris Walters asked about the levying authority for USD 114 (formerly USD 406) Recreation

Commission and Highland Community College. The Commissioners explained both are separate units of government with their own taxing authority. There being no further comment, Commissioner Grable made a motion to adopt Doniphan County Resolution 2026-03, a resolution exceeding the revenue neutral rate of 37.678 mills to finance the 2027 Doniphan County budget. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Said Resolution was recorded and is on file in the County Clerk's office Resolution book 4 page 36.

At 9:45 A.M. budget hearing was held for adoption of the 2027 Doniphan County budget. There being no public comment, Commissioner Grable made a motion to adopt the 2027 Doniphan County budget at a rate of 40.250 mills generating $6,556,022 in ad valorem tax to finance the $15,511,000 budget. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Grable made a motion to allow the Doniphan County Fair Association use of the County's grader, packer and operator Chris Schultz for the annual tractor pull to be held, August 29, 2026. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Rhonda Fernandez, Professional Insurance Consultants, met with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss health insurance options for Doniphan County employees beginning January 1, 2027. She reviewed 2027 State Employee Health Plan insurance premium costs. And presented a high deductible Blue Cross/Blue Sheild health insurance option outside of the State Employee Health Plan with a first pay Difference Card and lower premium costs for employees. Harrison Lambert, Senior Sales Consultant with the Difference Card, joined by telephone. 2027 is Doniphan County's three-year renewal period with the State Employee Health Plan. Should Doniphan County not renew their contract, the County would not be allowed to join the State Employee Health Plan for a period of 3-years. Following discussion and citing apprehension with going outside of the State Employee Health Plan for coverage, Commissioner Collins made a motion to renew the State Employee Health Plan insurance contract for a period of three-years beginning January 1, 2027. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

At 11:09 A.M. Commissioner Collins made a motion to recess into executive session pursuant to attorney-client privilege with open session to reconvene at 11:24 A.M. in the office of the Doniphan County Commission. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. County Attorney, County Clerk, Sheriff and Undersheriff remained. No action was taken.

Sheriff Mark Allen addressed the Board of County Commissioners in response to letter from City of Elwood Mayor Travis Holcomb regarding concerns for 911 system and emergency dispatch. Sheriff Allen concluded saying that in the future if Mr. Holcomb or anyone with concerns would speak with the Sheriff first, the issues could be resolved.

Marynell Popst, President of Reece Construction, and Reece Construction Executive Vice President Colby Wetter, met with County Attorney Charles D. Baskins and the Board of County Commissioners to discuss completion of bridge RS380 replacement on 240th Road, west of Highland, Kansas, Sections 20-29, Township 2, Range 19E. Beginning September 1, 2026, when Reece Construction is allowed back in the creek channel, after minnow spawning season, and once engineers with Schwab-Eaton PA approve specifications for and provide redesign drawings of channel depth, rip rap and elevation, Reece Construction estimates a period of two weeks to complete the bridge project. Reece Construction will remove rebar and existing structure from the creek bed. Doniphan County will pay the cost of flowable fill material after rip rap is placed. Reece Construction to do final grass seeding once the project is complete. Following the meeting Mr. Wetter said he and President Popst would evaluate and address settling of the bridge approaches. County Attorney Baskins reiterated the structure most likely will not be open prior to fall harvest.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve pay request number three to Reece Construction for progressive work completed for bridge RS380 replacement on 240th Road, west of Highland, Kansas, Sections 20-29, Township 2, Range 19E, in the amount of $315,036.97. County Clerk to hold check until Reece Construction recommences work. Doniphan County will retain 10% of the total project costs and reserves the right to call on Reece Construction's bond if the project is not completed to specifications. The liquidated damages will be stayed until engineers with Schwab-Eaton, PA approve redesigned plans in order for Reece Construction to move forward with completing the bridge replacement project. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Matt Cluck, owner of Triple L, Kelly Franken, John Gladhart and Triple L mechanic Colby Meyer appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to address concerns about comments made by Commissioner Wayne Grable the previous week about the County not doing business with Triple L, road projects on Coronado Road, 275th Road and 175th Road, along with County bidding practices.

There being no further business before the Board, at 12:38 P.M. Commissioner Grable made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

DATED THIS 24th DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

Attest: _____
Peggy Franken, County Clerk

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Wayne Grable, Chairman