



PRATT COUNTY, KANSAS  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES  
MARCH 02, 2026

The Pratt County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, March 02, 2026 at 2:00 pm in the Commissioner Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Courthouse. The following members were present: Thomas W Jones III, Rick Shriver, Morgan Trinkle, Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor, Cescha Hoffman, County Clerk and Mark Graber, IT Director. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

**Tyson Eisenhauer, County Counselor**, please state your name and title when speaking. Public comment will be allowed to the extent that it is on topic. Persons participating via ZOOM are currently muted. If you have a comment, please let Mark know via the chat function. Mark will then inform Chairman Trinkle, who can take up the comment in a manner that does not disrupt the agenda. In the event an executive session is needed, it will be muted when recessed and turned back on when they return from executive session.

**Economic Development Update – Heather Morgan**

**Sawyer Kansas Gas Project Update**

Heather reported the City of Sawyer has been moved ahead of the City of Sharon for project start dates. KGS may contact the County, if not already done regarding installation along the right of way. Construction could begin as early as next week, starting with placement of gas line underground. The City of Sawyer is required to make a lump sum payment to KGS for the project cost totaling just under \$1,000,000. The KCC, will handle regulatory compliance on the back end. Approximately \$100,000 will remain in the Sawyer project account for contingencies in case of unforeseen circumstances.

**Neighborhood Revitalization Bill**

Heather provided an update on the NRP Bill. The bill is scheduled to be heard in the Kansas Senate on Thursday. Tyson Eisenhauer will submit testimony. The city of Pratt will have its attorney, Cody Smith, provide testimony as well.

**House Tax Bill**

Heather reviewed changes to the House tax bill. The \$60 million fund was removed that would have allowed local governments to receive state reimbursements under the house plan. The threshold for the protest petition was reduced from 10% of voters from the last presidential election to 5% of voters from the last Secretary of State election.

**ARPA Close Out**

Heather stated that both she and Cescha received official communication from the federal government regarding ARPA closeout. Heather will complete and return the required materials. Upon submission, the County will be officially closed out of the ARPA funding process.

**Special Use Permit Hearing & Resolution 03-02-26 - Thrive Ag Services LLC**

Chairman, Morgan Trinkle, called to order the public hearing for Case No. SU-2026-1, a request for approval of a special use permit to allow a seed sales business, Thrive Ag Services LLC, with offices in the A- Agricultural District. The item was listed as Item No. 4 on the County Agenda. No members disqualified themselves or temporarily disassociated from the Board and a quorum was present. The

County Clerk confirmed that no protest petitions had been received regarding the case. Property Description and Location is near US Hwy 54 and SW 70<sup>th</sup> Ave, Pratt County, Kansas. Legal Description is the SW corner of the NW Quarter of Section 4-28-14 with a parcel size of 9.591 acres. Zoning Administrator BJ Hayes presented the Commissioners with the report and Planning Board recommendations. BJ confirmed written notice was mailed to all property owners within 1,000 feet and a notice was published in the official County newspaper. Resolution No 03-02-26 was read in full. No public comments were received and no members of the public spoke during the hearing. Applicants were present and indicated they had no additional information beyond what was presented during the Planning Board Hearing. It was noted that any person aggrieved by the final decision of the Board has thirty (30) days after publication of the resolution to file an appeal with the District Court.

MOTION – To adopt the findings, factors, and recommendation of the Planning Board for Case No SU- 2026-1 and approve Resolution No 03-02-26 authorizing the special use permit.

MOTION BY – Commissioner Shriver

SECONDED BY- Commissioner Jones

MOTION PASSED 3-0.

#### **Health Department Building Use Request & Affiliation Agreement**

Darcie Van Der Vyver, Pratt County Health Department requested permission to use the Public Safety Building for a Pratt County Community Baby Shower event. This will be a community outreach and educational even focused on supporting expecting families, families with infants and caregivers. The event will include education and resources related to safe sleep practices, car seat safety, breastfeeding support, maternal mental health and social service resources. Participating partners are expected to include KanCare, DCF, Horizons Mental Health, and additional community health partners. Through a grant the Health Department will distribute pack and plays and infant sleep items. The event is proposed for April 30, 2026 and is intended to become an annual outreach initiative. Commissioners expressed support. Darice also presented an affiliation agreement with Rockhurst University to allow a nursing student gain internship/shadowing experience. County Counselor, Tyson Eisenhauer reviewed the agreement and negotiated revisions. Darcie reminded the Commissioners of an upcoming webinar series offered by KDHE geared toward County Commissioners.

MOTION –To approve the affiliation agreement between Rockhurst University and the Pratt County Health Department for one student to complete 80 hours of shadowing.

MOTION BY – Commissioner Shriver

SECONDED BY- Commissioner Jones

MOTION PASSED 3-0.

#### **NextEra Energy Project Update**

Cody Akers and Sam Nisbett with NextEra Energy reported that activity related to the project has been relatively quiet in recent weeks and indicated there are no specific issues to report at this time. Commissioners confirmed they have not received any complaints or reports. Cody reported the documentation for the battery storage application is still being finalized. March 10 is the target date for submission.

### **Community Correction Budget and Program Update**

Catherine Rohrer provided an update regarding Community Corrections funding, program operations and the FY2027 Comprehensive Plans for Adult and Juvenile Services. The projected FY2027 levels are \$535,862.06 for Adult Community Corrections and \$312,517.57 for Juvenile Services.

MOTION – to approve both the FY2027 Juvenile Services and the FY 2027 Adult Community Corrections Comprehensive Plans

MOTION BY – Commissioner Shriver

SECONDED BY- Commissioner Jones

MOTION PASSED 3-0.

### **Discussion of Agenda Changes**

The Commissioners discussed potential updates to the agenda format, focusing on department updates and public comment periods. It was proposed to include a designate time at the end of the scheduled agenda for department updates. Commissioners encouraged departments to submit items for next week's agenda when possible, maintaining structured timing. It was also proposed to place a designated time for public comment. Commissioners noted a time limit of three minutes per speaker which can be extended if needed and emphasized the importance of encouraging individuals with complex issues to schedule a future agenda slot. Commissioners approved the proposed changes for trial implementation.

### **Digital Directory Proposal**

A proposal was submitted by County Clerk, Cescha Hoffman to replace the existing courthouse directory with a modern digital display (tv-based) to provide clear guidance to visitors regarding office locations, services provided, upcoming events and job openings with QR codes that would link to online applications. It would also be used to display real time updates for events such as tax deadlines, voter information and County meetings. The initial cost should be under \$1,000. Commissioners expressed support for modernization, increased accessibility and public engagement. Courthouse Budget will cover the cost. Commissioners agreed to proceed with the implementation of the digital director as presented.

### **Road Department Personnel Request**

MOTION – to hire Brent Schmidt, Road Department for \$17/hour.

MOTION BY – Commissioner Shriver

SECONDED BY- Commissioner Jones

MOTION PASSED 3-0.

### **Executive Session – Attorney-Client**

MOTION – To move to executive session under the Attorney-Client exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Conversations with outside council for PRMC leases for 10 minutes at 2:58 pm.

MOTION BY – Commissioner Shriver

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Jones

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To move to come out of executive session at 3:09 pm with no action taken

MOTION BY – Commissioner Shriver

SECONDED BY- Commissioner Jones

MOTION PASSED 3-0.

