

**FORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2026**  
**MEETING NUMBER 2026-06**  
**COMMISSION CHAMBERS**  
**3:30 P.M.**



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The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in the Commission Chambers at the Ford County Government Center.

Those present were:

Gary Thomas, Chairman  
Chris Boys, Commissioner  
Shawn Tasset, Commissioner

Tanda Bartlett, Assistant County Administrator  
Debbie Cox, County Clerk

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order.  
Commissioner Boys, led the group in prayer followed by Chairman Thomas leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Consent Agenda**

County Clerk, Debbie Cox asked to amend the agenda, to add CMB Application for Outlaw Production d/b/a Dodge City Raceway Park.

Commissioner Boys moved to amend the agenda to add the CMB application for Outlaw Production. Commissioner Tasset seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Approval of Meeting Minutes: 2026-05,  
Adds & Abatements: Adds & Abatements: 2025 RP \$-11,955,046.69; 2024 PP \$-215.64;  
2025 16/20m \$-32.26  
Credit Card Statement  
Cereal Malt Beverage Application: Noe Ochoa d/b/a Rancho El Nopalito  
Cereal Malt Beverage Application: Outlaw Production d/b/a Dodge City Raceway Park

Commissioner Tasset moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Commissioner Boys seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Approval of Claims for Payment: \$1,089,850.22**

Commissioner Boys motioned to approve the claims for payment as presented. Chairman Thomas seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Open Public Comment**

Brenda Frey, lives west of Ford, asked about a notice in the paper on salt water being pumped into the ground next to her land. Wanted to know who has control of that, if the County, is there a Road Maintenance Agreement with the company to take care of the roads as they haul. If there is severance tax being distributed to the townships or road and bridge. Commissioner Boys stated there is an office on Frontview, it is Kansas Oil and Gas. County does not have a Road Maintenance Agreements with them. County Clerk Debbie Cox said would be a Treasurer question on the distribution of tax.

**Unfinished Business -None**

**Legal Counsel - None**

**County Administrator's Report**

**Ford County Historical Society: Letter of Support, Fort Dodge Junior Officers' Quarters**

Ford County Historical Society President, Kent Stehlik, ask the commission for a letter of support for HB 2781, providing for the state's historical society acquisition of the junior officer's quarters at Fort Dodge.

Commissioner Boys moved to approve signing the letter of support for HB 2781 as presented. Commissioner Tasset seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Landfill: Tractor Repair**

Landfill Director Michael Brown presented for approval a service quote from Murphy Tractor for \$43,625.20 to repair a John Deere bulldozer.

Commissioner Tasset moved to approve the Murphy Tractor quote in the amount of \$43,626.20 to repair a John Deere bulldozer. Chairman Thomas seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Landfill: Equipment Rental**

Landfill Director Michael Brown presented for approval a quote for the rental of a bulldozer from Foley in the amount of \$14,716.00.

Chairman Thomas moved to approve the quote for rental of a bulldozer for \$14,716.00 from Foley. Commissioner Boys seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Sheriff: Interdepartmental Transfer of Vehicle to GIS/Survey Department**

Undersheriff Dale Colman stated this was to go to the Noxious Weed Department not the GIS/Survey Department.

Chairman Thomas moved to amend the agenda to go from GIS/Survey Department to the Noxious Weed Department. Commissioner Boys seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Undersheriff Dale Colman request permission to transfer a 2021 Chevy Silverado 1500 pickup from the Sheriff Department to the Noxious Weed Department.

Commissioner Tasset moved to approve the transfer of the 2021 Chevy Silverado 1500 pickup as requested. Commissioner Boys seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0**

**Building & Grounds: Bid Request**

Building & Ground Director Manny Fernandez is requesting to go out for rebidding on 75 fan heating/cooling units for the Ford County Government Center.

Commissioner Tasset moved to approve the Building and Grounds Director to go out for bids on 75 fan heating/cooling units as requested. Chairman Thomas seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 3-0.**

**Ford County Engineer: Report**

Ford County Engineer Jon Halbgewachs presented his monthly report.

Garnett Road from 100 to 113 Road (13.6 miles) - APAC's bid of \$3,763,744.75 for the Base Bid and both Add Alternates was approved at the January 20 Commission meeting. Anticipating construction to start April or May. Asking to have the Chairman sign the aware notice.

113 Road from US-50 north to Garnett Road (3.2 miles) – Have solicited a Geotechnical Consultant for a proposal to drill soil samples, perform laboratory testing on the samples, and to provide us a pavement design for the reclamation.

Bridge OS 50 (on 120 Road 3.1 miles north and 6.0 miles west of Spearville) – Have submitted this bridge for KDOT funding again in February. KDOT intends to make selections in June.

OS Bridge 31 Reconstruction and Roadway Re-Alignment (Duck Creek on 114 Road north of Garnett) -SMH has met with the landowners and presented offer. There is potential for one or both landowners to make counteroffers. Once the land acquisition is complete, Kirkham Michael will present and engineering change order request to complete the final design and bid the projects to construction. Kirkham Michael we originally contracted to design this project in 2017.

Stellar Forge RUMA- The Road Use and Maintenance Agreement has been approved. Have requested an anticipated schedule of construction. Kirkham Michael has performed the pre-construction road condition documentation and pavement cores were scheduled to be collected the week of Feb 23.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) – Ford County partnered with Gray, Meade, Clark, and Hodgeman Counties and was awarded grant funds from the Federal Highway Administration and the State of Kansas to develop a Safety Action Plan. Gray County has taken the lead for this project

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which will be funded 100% by FHWA and the State. Kirkham Michael, along with two subconsultants, have been contracted by Gray County to complete the plan.

New Business: Working with Legal Counsel on a Road Use Maintenance Agreement for a Boot Hill Battery Storage (BESS) facility which is proposed to be constructed on the same property as the Boot Hill Solar Generation Facility.

Plan to attend the annual Township meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> and the April 6 BoCC meeting.

### **Ford County Engineer: Bridge OS 101 Bid Results**

Ford County Engineer Jon Halbgewachs present the bid results for Bridge OS 101 replacement. Two bids were received.

**Reece Construction - total bid \$428,732.39**

L & M Contractors, Inc. – total bid \$438,714.50

Recommendation is Reece Construction.

Commissioner Tasset moved to approve the low bid from Reece Construction for \$428,732.39 as the contractor for the Bridge OS 101 project. Chairman Thomas seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

**Next Regular Board of County Commissioners**-meeting will be on March 16, 2026 Commission Chambers

**County Day at the Capitol**- Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., Kansas Statehouse, Topeka.

### **Executive Session: Attorney-Client Privilege exception to the Ks. Open Meetings Act**

Chairman Thomas moved the Board recess into executive session to discuss legal issues related to the Ford County Zoning Regulations pursuant to the attorney-client privilege exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2). The open meeting to resume in this location at 4:40 p.m.

In addition to the Commissioners, The County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, County Counselor, Assistant County Counselor Samantha Sweley, Planning and Zoning Director Melissa Drake should be included in the executive session. Commissioner Boys seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commission returned to regular session at 4:43

Chairman Thomas moved the Board recess into executive session to discuss legal issues related to the Ford County Zoning Regulations pursuant to the attorney-client privilege exception to the

Kansas Open Meetings Act, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2). The open meeting to resume in this location at 5:05 p.m.

In addition to the Commissioners, The County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, County Counselor, Assistant County Counselor Samantha Sweley, Planning and Zoning Director

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Melissa Drake should be included in the executive session. Commissioner Boys seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commission returned to regular session at 5:05 p.m.

Chairman Thomas motioned to adjourn, at 5:05 p.m. Commissioner Tasset seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FORD COUNTY, KANSAS**

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**Gary Thomas, Chairman**

**Attested:**

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**Debbie Cox, County Clerk**