

# Bourbon County Commission Meeting

Meeting minutes April 06, 2026, 5:30 PM

210 S National Avenue, Fort Scott, KS 66701

## Citizen Attendance

Clint Walker, Rachel Walker, Mike Wunderly, Tim Emerson, Micheal Bryant, Jason Silvers, Marlon Merida, Teri Hulsey, Lesley Herrin, Lora Holdridge, Michael Hoyt, Kevin Davidson, James Crux

## Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Samuel Tran called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

## Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## Prayer

Commissioner Beerbower led the invocation.

## Introductions

- Commissioner Samuel Tran (District 1)
- Commissioner David Beerbower (District 2)
- Commissioner Joe Allen (District 3)
- Commissioner Greg Motley (District 4)
- Commissioner Mika Milburn-Kee (District 5)
- County Clerk, Susan Walker

## Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Tran questioned the addition of the courthouse space and destruction of property items under Department Updates. Commissioner Allen took responsibility for adding the item during previous auction discussions. Tran emphasized that commissioners control the meeting agenda and wanted clarification on who requested the elected officials to speak.

Motion: Commissioner Tran moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Beerbower seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## Approval of Accounts Payable \$104,217.64

Commissioner Milburn-Kee questioned two items under the IT budget: a charge from TEC and electrical work. Discussion revealed that the electrical work was from several years ago (2024) for drilling a hole in Brian's office for internet connectivity, which had been miscategorized as emergency management but belonged under IT. The TEC charge was identified as a phone system update requested by Angel Wilson for the clerk of court's vacant office to update phone extensions.

Commissioner Milburn-Kee suggested reviewing whether such charges should go to individual department budgets rather than the general IT budget, noting that courts use their own IT company from Iola.

Motion: Commissioner Tran moved to approve accounts payable in the amount of \$104,217.64.  
Commissioner Beerbower seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## Approval of Minutes 03.30.26 & 03.31.26

Commissioner Milburn-Kee indicated she had not seen the minutes from March 31st in her packet and requested time to review them before voting.

Motion: Commissioner Tran moved to approve minutes from March 30, 2026, and table the minutes from March 31, 2026, until Commissioner Milburn-Kee has a chance to review them. Commissioner Beerbower seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## Public Comments

Susan Walker - Elections: Walker informed the public about upcoming elections, including commissioner districts 1, 3, and 4, all township clerks, and precinct committee positions for both parties. The filing deadline is June 1st at noon, with the primary election on August 4th. She will follow up on the deadline for ballot questions, noting that any ballot question must be approved by county counsel and the county attorney.

Susan Walker - Accounts Payable Process: Walker presented a detailed accounts payable process document outlining internal controls currently followed by her office. She requested commissioners sign vouchers they have reviewed to add another check and balance. The process includes various control points marked with orange diamonds. Walker indicated they will be stricter in the process going forward and suggested that if commissioners have expenses requiring coding, they could have their administrative assistant handle the coding rather than the clerk's office doing it with all the questions about coding of invoices. Commissioner Milburn-Kee stated they may need another assistant. Mr. Tran directed a statement to the county clerk that he asked one question and not to open Pandora's box.

Michael Bryant - Sheriff's Department Audit: Bryant stated he had requested a copy of an external audit on the sheriff's department mentioned in the previous meeting, but the clerk responded that no audit was completed. He was then provided with a document during the meeting by Commissioner Milburn-Kee. Bryant referenced the 2021 audit completed in 2022, which noted three instances of discrepancies in the sheriff's accounting that violated K.S.A. 28-1004. He argued that excluding the sheriff's department from audits, given this history, didn't make sense. Bryant suggested that if commissioners are confident fraud exists, it should be reported to the sheriff as a criminal matter rather than spending additional money on audits. He challenged the commission to reconsider the audit scope to include the sheriff's department and questioned how citizens can get responses from commissioners on questions or if he must be a part of the neighborhood club.

## Sewer Discussion with County Attorney Milburn-Kee

County Attorney Crux indicated this was added to the agenda for public benefit since work sessions aren't broadcast online. Commissioner Tran explained they had extensive discussions about sewer codes being difficult to enforce due to how they're written. A new, more stringent code was reviewed that addresses updated technology including three-chamber leach fields and includes a Class E misdemeanor for noncompliance. However, enforcement remains challenging as current staff lacks training for investigation and enforcement. The commission will continue working through multiple sessions and may involve the planning committee. Civil suits have been filed and are being handled by county counsel.

Commissioner Milburn-Kee mentioned finding potential solutions in existing rules that would allow assessments on properties for motivation to fix violations, but procedures need to be established to implement enforcement from start to finish.

## Executive Session K.S.A. 75-4319 (b)(1) Subject: Employee Performance - Motley

After some discussion about the proper wording of the motion, Commissioner Motley made a complete motion for executive session.

Motion: Commissioner Motley moved pursuant to KSA 75-4319(b)(1) to discuss personal matters of individual non-elected personnel to protect their privacy for Employee Performance, including the five commissioners, Teri Hulsey, Lesley Herrin, and Jennifer Hawkins, for 30 minutes, returning to the commission room at 6:25PM. Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Milburn-Kee voting no.

The commission returned from executive session after 30 minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Tran moved to return to regular session with no action at 6:25PM. Commissioner Motley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A second executive session was called.

Motion: Commissioner Motley moved pursuant to KSA 75-4319(b)(1) to discuss personal matters of individual non-elected personnel to protect their privacy, with attendees being the five commissioners, Teri Hulsey, Lesley Herrin, and Jennifer Hawkins, for 5 minutes to return at 6:31 PM, subject being employee performance. Commissioner Beerbower seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Tran moved to return to regular session with no action at 6:31PM. Commissioner Milburn-Kee seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a three-minute recess at 6:32PM – Beerbower exits the room and returns at 6:34 PM

## Department Updates

### a. Clerk, Treasurer, ROD, County Attorney - Courthouse Space and Destruction of Property

County Attorney Crux sought clarification about basement cleanup plans, specifically whether it included files or just furniture and equipment. Commissioner Beerbower confirmed files, historical books, and maps were not the concern - the focus was on unused desks, chairs, and clutter that's been collecting dust.

Commissioner Allen presented photos showing significant clutter in one basement room and items at the EMS facility. The aluminum and rails previously at EMS had been removed by their original owners from KRI. Discussion centered on the most efficient way to handle the surplus property, including whether to move everything to one location for departments to review before disposal.

The commission discussed having department heads mark desired items before moving everything, rather than moving items multiple times. Commissioner Tran suggested sending an email to all supervisors to allow them to claim items during a designated timeframe.

Questions arose about ownership of items at the EMS facility, with Commissioner Allen indicating he had verbal confirmation from KRI that they had taken what they needed. County Attorney Crux advised consulting with County Counsel Bob Johnson about ownership issues before employees remove any items.

Commissioner Allen requested a week to follow up on ownership questions and finalize the process.

## Old Business

### a. Auction Update - J Allen

This item was combined with the department updates discussion above regarding surplus property disposal.

## b. SEK Juvenile Detention Contract

Commissioner Milburn-Kee reminded the commission that last year's commission wanted to terminate this contract, but it was too late. A termination letter had been drafted, but with new board members, a decision needed to be made about whether to send the letter or continue owning a piece of the juvenile detention center. The annual cost is approximately \$130,000, but the county has equity of approximately \$450,000 as partial owners with other counties.

Commissioner Tran read the termination letter aloud, which provides notice to withdraw from the interlocal cooperation agreement by July 1, 2026, with an effective withdrawal date of January 1, 2027.

Commissioner Milburn-Kee indicated she would reach out to the SEK Juvenile Detention as a courtesy. Commissioner Tran ask the County Clerk to provide an updated letter for the commission as the next meeting.

## New Business

No new business was presented.

## Commission Comments

Commissioner Milburn-Kee: No comments

Commissioner Motley: Announced he will attend the SEK RPC board meeting on Thursday, April 10th.

Commissioner Allen: Encouraged everyone to stay positive after Easter weekend and remember the meaning of the season.

Commissioner Beerbower: No comments.

Commissioner Tran: Asked if any commissioners planned to attend a funeral the following day, noting that if more than two attended it would constitute a meeting under open meetings law. Only Commissioner Tran indicated he would attend.

## Future Agenda Topics

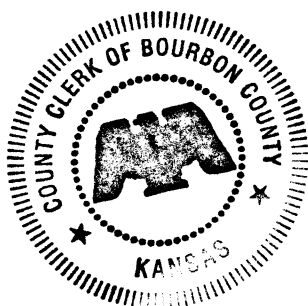
Items identified for future agendas include:

- Juvenile detention contract (April 13th)
- Auction updates (April 13<sup>th</sup>)
- Hospital building - Citizens Advisory Committee (Charles Gentry will attend)
- Work session on April 30th for FOB cards
- Noise resolution
- Stronghold projects debrief (April 13th)

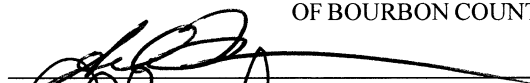
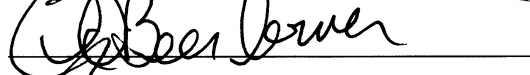
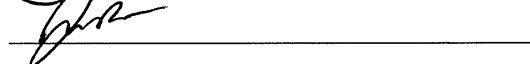
## Adjournment

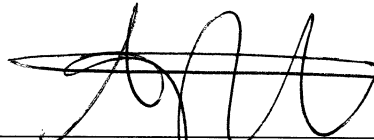
Motion: Commissioner Milburn-Kee moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM. Commissioner Tran seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

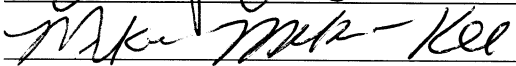
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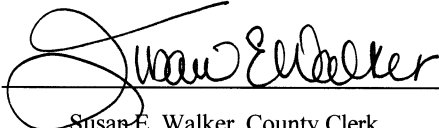


THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF BOURBON COUNTY, KANSAS

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Susan E. Walker, County Clerk

4/13/26  
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Date Approved