

October 26, 2026
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

The Muskogee Board of County Commissioners met in session at 8:15 a.m. Members present were: Chairman, Keith Hyslop; Vice-Chairman, Kenny Payne; Member Ken Doke; and Muskogee County Clerk, Polly Irving.

1: Motion

Commissioner Payne made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Doke, approved to Open the meeting at 8:17 a.m. The motion was unanimous.

2: Motion

Commissioner Doke made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Payne, approved the Purchase Orders. The motion was unanimous.

3: Motion

Commissioner Doke made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Payne, approved the Monthly reports. The motion was unanimous.

4: Motion

Commissioner Payne made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Doke, approved Regular meeting minutes for October 19, 2026. The motion was unanimous.

5: Motion

Commissioner Payne made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Doke, approved FY26-27 Information Sheet for Buckhorn Volunteer Fire Department. The motion was unanimous.

6: Motion

Commissioner Doke made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Payne, approved the Community Care Renewal Confirmation for Muskogee County Retirees. The motion was unanimous.

7: No Action

No action was taken regarding the 2027 Muskogee County employee group insurance benefits renewal, including review of carrier proposals, plan selections, County contributions, and approval of related renewal agreements.

8: No Action

No action was taken regarding new 911 Address Road Name changes for Quail Creek housing addition.

9: Motion

Commissioner Doke made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Payne, approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Muskogee Board of County Commissioners and Green Country Behavioral Health Services, Inc. The motion was unanimous.

10: Motion

Commissioner Payne made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Doke, approved the Letters of Support for the 781 Jail Diversion Initiative. The motion was unanimous.

11: Motion

Commissioner Payne made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Doke, approved the Utility Application #2026-34 from Vero Fiber Networks for District 3. The motion was unanimous.

12: No Action

No action was taken regarding quotes for AC Repair for the Treasurer's office Unit #22 HVAC.

13: No Action

No action was taken regarding Resolution for Transfer and Sale of Inventory #26-134 from Pioneer Skeleton Fire Department to Braggs Fire Department.

14: No Action

No action was taken regarding Resolution for Transfer and Sale of Inventory #26-135 from Pioneer Skeleton Fire Department to Braggs Fire Department.

15: Motion

Commissioner Doke made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Payne, approved an Amended 2027 Holiday Schedule. **Commissioner Payne:** *"Just to be clear, that wasn't Polly's fault. That was my fault. But she had it correct, and I questioned it, and we changed it, and it shouldn't have been changed. I thought we were going by ODOT standard, and we weren't. So that's what happened."* The motion was unanimous.

16: Motion

Commissioner Payne made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Doke, approved the use of the Deductible Fund for ACCO Claim #VAALAC079709 for the Muskogee County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$36,354. The motion was unanimous.

17: Motion

Commissioner Payne made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Doke, approved a Letter of Resignation from Tim Thompson as the current Board Member of the Eastern Oklahoma Library System and a Letter of Appointment appointing Logan Lambert to fulfill the remainder of Tim Thompson's term ending June 30, 2028. The motion was unanimous.

18: Motion

Commissioner Doke made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Payne, approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between United States Immigration Custom Enforcement (ICE), component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Muskogee County Sheriff's Office. **Undersheriff, Greg Martin:** *"What this is, is an enhancement on what we have at the jail. It's the 287, which is really popular across the United States. The 287W is to allow our deputies to investigate immigration. It consists of training the officers in delegated federal administration and enforcement authority under ICE's vision of 287 plus one. It trains our officers in completion. Plus, we have stipend issues. The stipend that we get, they pay us for equipment and so forth and so on. It's really important at this point that I explain what happens here. Do we want to have our deputies going out running them up? No, we don't want to do that. It's the issues that we have is that we want to be able to enforce local, state, and federal laws, and we're not going to go out to restaurants. We're not going to go out to companies, roofing companies. Basically, what this happens is we get a call or a call to service or a traffic stop, which usually happens is we pull over an individual, and they don't have any driver's license, they don't speak English, et cetera, et cetera. There is an issue there. We have no way of confirming who that person is. What this does is we get finished with our local work as writing citations or writing reports of the domestic, et cetera. As soon as that obligation has been satisfied, we turn around and then we get a hold of ICE. At that point, we will contact ICE. We have a direct line with the training that they have, and they will contact ICE and by facial recognition and with the information they receive during their investigative stop or their investigation of the service, they will find out who and what that person is, and if they need any immigration, hold upon that person. So, it just gives us another tool to find out who that person is."* **Commissioner Payne:** *"A couple questions. One of them I don't know if you can answer, but given the scenario you just described, say it's a traffic stop and they end up in your jail, and you have to go through this process with ICE, do you have an approximate average of how long you might hold that person in jail?"* **Greg Martin:** *"It's two days. We may have other charges, but the 287 is what we're looking at, and that's for 48 hours, I believe, and they're really quick picking them up."* **Payne:** *"That's good to know. I like that. Second question. Is there a financial aspect of this that we aren't already realizing? Is there any money to be made or lost in it?"* **Greg:** *"There is*

a lot of money that's out there that's waiting for this big, beautiful bill that our president put out there. It's pretty lucrative. We have no bulldoze, no anything like that. It's a good training module. It's also very well equipped, and OHP is now doing it themselves. They do their thing in enforcing that with the truck drivers and there's things that they do. We have no skin in the game other than investigating purposes and finding out who is going down on roads and what they're doing here and if they're legally here or not. We're not going to find that going to restaurants and companies. We want to make sure that the sheriff and I have discussed this a great deal, and the sheriff really wanted to make sure that we are on that side of it." **Payne:** *"Just to reiterate, you won't be going out on any raids that were instigated by the Muskogee Sheriff's Office?"* **Greg:** *"No, we don't want to do any raids. We may go out and find A, B, and C. A lot of people think the Hispanic community is also Chinese, Russians, etc. It's actually in our communities conducting the weekly boot throws, etc. Human trafficking is really big in that area."* **Sheriff, Andy Simmons:** *"There's a little bit of protection for the county also because they have to be at least a deputy for two years and we will be selective on who we We'll enable this cross deputization if you will."* **Payne:** *"I was thinking about that. Would you do all of them or just certain ones?"* **Simmons:** *"As we all know, it is a touchy matter. We certainly want to do the right thing to keep the community safe."* **Commissioner Doke:** *"We have 100% faith in you guys."* The motion was unanimous.

19: Motion

Commissioner Payne made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Doke, approved the request for funding cover letter for Oklahoma Title 57781 jail diversion initiative. **Commissioner Payne:** *"Again, this is with the 781 monies that we talked about with Green Country and the Muskogee County Sheriff's Office and jail. This is just a MOU, I guess, between the two."* The motion was unanimous.

20: Motion

Commissioner Payne made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Doke, approved to Enter into an Executive Session at 8:18 a.m. to have confidential communications between the Muskogee Board of County Commissioners, county officials and their attorney, the Muskogee County District Attorney to discuss the possibility of acquiring the property belonging to Mitch and Kara Meredith pursuant to Title 17 O.S. Section 180.31 entitled remediation assistance. The motion was unanimous.

21: Motion

Commissioner Doke made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Hyslop, approved to adjourn the Executive Session and resume Regular meeting at 8:35 a.m. and move forward with the process of obtaining the property from the Meredith's. **DA, Janet Hutson:** *"For the record, commissioners, I would ask that the minutes reflect that the agreement is to start the process of acquiring deed to the property that belongs to Mitch and Kara Meredith, and then to complete the steps necessary to file application with the Corporation Commission for the remediation pursuant to title 17, section 180.31."* **Commissioner Doke:** *"And I'll make that motion."* **Commissioner Hyslop:** *"I'll second that."* The motion was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURN:

Motion was made by Commissioner Hyslop and seconded by Commissioner Doke, approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 a.m. The motion was unanimous.