

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

## January 29th, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in Suite 201 at the Ottawa County Courthouse.

### **Those present were:**

First District Commissioner Dawn Wolf,  
Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg

Heather Maddox, County Clerk  
DeMeral Eckert

Commissioner Wolf called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and Eckert led the group in opening prayer, followed by the flag salute.

### **County Departments:**

#### **Sheriff**

Prisoner count Saline County, 7 and Ottawa County 13. Total 20 inmates.

Karl Leech came in at 8:09

#### **Clerk**

Heather Maddox, Clerk asked the commission to go into executive session for nonelected personnel to discuss the employee suggestion box suggestions.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 5-minute executive session for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Malmberg, and Maddox. To return at 8:20 a.m.

Wolf would like the constituents to know that the State declared an emergency disaster for weather related damages. There may be funds available to townships for their roads if the dollar amount is met. Sara Hodges came into the meeting at 8:47 am.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved the January 22, 2024 minutes as corrected. Commissioner Mortimer came into the meeting at 8:58 am.

On motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved January payroll.

#### **Aging**

Sara Hodges, Aging updated the commission on the senior centers and gave them the balance summary. Hodges said they have multiple cooks, so meals won't always taste the same and the allocated money for food doesn't go as far as it used to. The meals are still inexpensive. Sheldon Daugherty and Brian Kindall came into the meeting at 9:11 am.

Hodges said they are getting a generator for the health department and are using the remaining of the Aging Departments Covid Funds for the generator and the installation. Hodges informed the commissioners that she will be taking all staff to the Kansas Governor's conference in Wichita and the Health Department will be closed those days. Hodges will publicize the closing.

Wolf asked if this would be good for all the staff. Hodges said there are classes on Maternal Child health, and drug endangered children. Hodges said that this would be an all-around great conference and benefit for all the staff.

Richard Buck, Attorney came into the meeting at 9:12 am.

#### **Fair Board**

Daugherty, Fair board President presented the commission with an updated policy for the fair. The policy restricts By-Bidding to happen and the 4-H Premium Auction. The commission accepted the policy. Kindall asked Malmberg if KCAMP had responded to her question if the Fair Board is covered under the county insurance. Malmberg said that KCamp said that the board wouldn't be covered. Daugherty said that when he talked to David Luke, he wasn't sure if it would be covered since it was no longer an association, and they are now a board. Malmberg said she will let the board know at the next meeting. Sheldon Daugherty and Brian Kindall left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Attorney**

Richard Buck, County Attorney discussed HB 2537 passed by the legislation. Malmberg said she received them but would like Buck to explain its entirety. Buck said this bill is essentially the states budgeting, it says that you agree to the terms of a contract. Every county will have to negotiate all contracts. Malmberg asked if there was any benefit to this. Buck said he doesn't think this will affect any small county in

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a positive way. Buck will send a letter to KAC in opposition the HB 2537. Wolf said she would contact Senator Elaine Bowers and Representative Susan Concannon.

### **Sheriff**

Russell Thornton, Sheriff and Under Sheriff Tyler VanCoevern came into the meeting at 9:43 am to update the commission about the INS contract. Undersheriff VanCoevern said INS is waiting on funding. INS cannot promise Ottawa County will be able to house deportees. INS will not know if the budget to include Ottawa County will be approved until March. Thornton said he is looking at other revenues to keep us staffed and going. Malmberg said if there are no other options for us to keep our jail open and running is it allowable to house our inmates somewhere else? Thornton said, "yes". Thornton and VanCoevern left at 9:52 a.m.

Richard Buck County Council asked for an executive session. On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 15-minute executive session for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and Richard Buck. To return at 10:08 am. Buck left at 10:09 a.m.

### **Road and Bridge**

Chris Smith, Road and Bridge Administrator, Joe Mullen, Road Supervisor, and Michelle Campbell, HR came into the meeting at 10:10 am. Smith told the commission that the roads are in bad shape due to the weather and the crew is hauling rock as fast as they can. Campbell requested an executive session.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 30-minute executive session for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Mullen, Smith, and Campbell. To return at 10:49 am.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to extend the executive session 10 minutes for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg Mullen, Smith, and Campbell. To return at 11:01 am.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to recess for 5-minutes to return at 11:11 a.m. Smith and Mullen left at 11:15 a.m.

Maddox asked to go into executive session to discuss the pay scale resolution for non-elected personnel.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 10-minute executive session for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Campbell, and Maddox. To return at 11:33 am.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to include the \$.50 pay raise for the County Counselor, during discussion it was said that will increase the county counselor pay \$1,040/ year as a salaried employee.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to raise the zoning pay \$100 a month for a total of an additional \$1200 a year. Campbell left the meeting at 11:34 am.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the claims as presented.

Maddox informed the commission of an issue her office is having with a local business. The business isn't adjusting the county account for returned items. Maddox said this has been an ongoing issue and would like to discontinue using the business. Mortimer said he would talk with the business.

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**Claims for Approval: Totaling \$109,558.72**

County General	\$6,067.15
Road & Bridge	\$25,405.34
Solid Waste	\$
Noxious Weed	\$25.05
Culver TWP Road	\$346.01
Law Enforcement Center	\$3,623.75
Concord TWP Road	\$3000.33
Historical	\$13,964.14
Employee Benefits	\$57,099.00
Election	\$27.95

With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am. on motion by Mortimer and seconded by Wolf. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 5th day of February 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Wolf, Chairman

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D.D. Malmberg, Member

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Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

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Heather Maddox, County Clerk