

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

December 11, 2023

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,

Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer

Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg

Heather Maddox, County Clerk

Stephanie Watkins, Deputy Clerk

Crystal VanCoevern, Karl Leech, and JoDee Cople, were present.

Commissioner Mortimer called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and Pastor Cynthia Smart

led the group in opening prayer, followed by the flag salute.

Truette McQueen came into the meeting at 8:02am.

Shaylen Ziolkowski came into the meeting at 8:04am

Officer Ziolkowski came into the meeting at 8:04 am

Appraiser McQueen requested an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved an executive session 5-minutes for Personnel Exception to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and Truette McQueen. To return at 8:15am.

Commissioners signed the Homeland Security council reappointment letter for 2023-2024

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved the November 27th, 2023 minutes as corrected.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved the December 4th, 2023 minutes as corrected.

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$91,085.60

County General	\$30,206.28
Employee Benefits	\$4,938.73
Road & Bridge	\$11,250.16
Solid Waste	\$32,380.52
Noxious Weed	\$25.05
Coronavirus Relief	\$416.00
Buckeye TWP Road	\$3,966.10
Culver TWP Road	\$182.70
Law Enforcement Center	\$748.19
Diversion	\$1,010.00
Appraiser	\$626.94
Historical	\$72.62
F.D #2 Minneapolis General	\$4,727.61
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$435.00
F.D #3 Delphos General	\$99.70

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

Public Comment:

Crystal VanCoevern came to talk with the commissioner about unfair wages that are happening with the Sheriff's department deputies.

County Departments:

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Malmberg asked the other commissioners if they had any changes to the proposals they came up with two weeks ago for 2024 pay raises. Mortimer said what is happening with raises does not reflect what needs to be more than what is being done right now Mortimer said he would like \$0.50 across the board. Wolf would like to see the amount of the raise given as a whole and then the department head can divvy it up to their discretion. Malmberg disagrees, she thinks there could be resentment with employees within the department. Copple said that in years past they gave departments a grand total and the department could give it out as what they want and department heads liked that.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg motioned to give pay raises of \$0.40 and to give longevity in 2024 the same as 2023 except split it up ½ in May and ½ in November instead of all in November. Motioned died for lack of second. On motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved a \$0.50 cent pay increase per employee per department to be distributed by department heads as determined by evaluation, and to be given on payroll after anniversary dates. And to have the departments distribute longevity once in November. Excluding Commissioners. During discussion, Malmberg said this is more of a pay raise than they have ever got, and we gave a larger raise last year. Mortimer Yay, Wolf Yay, Malmberg Nay.

Discussion about if pay raises are up to \$0.50 and on anniversary dates, who will keep track of these amounts for each department. After more discussion Michelle Campbell, Human Resources came into the meeting. Malmberg said we told Departments to budget for up to .50 cents. Malmberg said this is over .50 cents when you add in longevity pay. Malmberg thought the Arnold Group said that pay plan couldn't be implemented until 2025.

Mortimer and Wolf discussed implementation of the step raises according to what the Arnold Group came up with. They would like to see what 10- 15% of the total would be for 2024.

On motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to supersede the previous motion from just \$0.50 to up to \$0.50 cent per employee per department to be distributed by department heads as determined by evaluation, and to be given on payroll after anniversary date. Excluding Commissioners. Mortimer Yay, Wolf Yay, Malmberg Nay.

Jodee Copple discussed with the commission tax statements. The group discussed strategic planning retreat +including all department heads. It was decided that the meeting will be January 3 and 4 from 8-5 both days.

Sheriff

Prisoner count Saline County, 19 and Ottawa County 4. Total 23 inmates.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to accept the right of way crossroad utility permit for a water line under Windmill Rd.

Malmberg let the commission know that the county has received a \$1,000 reimbursement for having low claims with KCamp (County insurance). KCamp will bring the check when they come for a update.

Mortimer called Farm Bureau to discuss about insurance for the new Museum Building.

With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 11:12pm on motion by Malmberg and seconded by Wolf. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 18th day of December 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Vice-Chairman

D.D. Malmberg, Member

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Scott Mortimer, Chairman

ATTEST:

Heather Maddox, County Clerk

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