

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

April 22, 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

Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer

Heather Maddox, County Clerk

Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg

Stephanie Watkins, Deputy Clerk

Greg Vanhoster, Rick Shupe, Lee Ann Sparks, Carl Leech, and Brandon Copple.

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

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to allocate \$115,000 for Motorola.

Commission discussed things they learned at the KCCA conference last week, including Appraisers, LAVTR, foreign companies buying land, investments and higher interest rates for the county money. What Elected officials can, and cannot do. JoDee Copple and Russ Thornton came into the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

Public Comment:

Lee Ann Sparks discussed concerns with the commissioner's minutes and if the upcoming elections will be posted to the public.

Richard came into the meeting at 8:27 a.m.

Commission talked with Richard about the Community Corrections and if it was worth the money we pay.

Richard said that it is a good thing for Ottawa County, but it isn't worth the amount of money they are asking for.

Rick Shupe left the meeting at 8:36 a.m.

Michelle Callum with Community Corrections came into the meeting at 8:55 a.m. Callum discussed how they are incorporating the Mental Health Center into the Corrections program. Callum discussed a parole officer conference that they put on and have invited the commissioners to attend in September. Keith Coleman, Janna VanMeter, and Jim Kay came into the meeting at 9:28 a.m. Sparks left at 9:29 a.m. Callum left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

County Departments:

Museum

Janna VanMeter asked the commission to meet at the Blue Store next Monday at 1 p.m. to discuss everyone's roles in the move to the Blue Store. VanMeter asked about wages for an employee, commission said \$12.50 and she said they would like to hire another employee at \$10.50 for part time at 19 hours a week or less. VanMeter said they are still looking for a board member and they would like to find someone from the Delphos or Tescott area. Coleman wants to know how the budgets will work for 2025. The new museum expenses will come out of museum budget. VanMeter said she wants to get grants. Coleman said an engineer needs to sign off on what needs to be done. Coleman said that it would cost approximately \$1.5 million to update the Blue Store to Federal standards. VanMeter said this is the purpose of next Monday's meeting, to decide what needs to be done and who's paying for it. Wolf asked how we can get into the Historical Society to get federal funding. Kay said we can't apply for anything until we get actual figures.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved for the part time employee pay increase to \$12.50.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved new hire for part time at the museum at starting wage of \$10.50 to replace previous employee. Coleman discussed the museum and what he would like to discuss on Monday at the museum meeting at the Blue Store.

Coleman left the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Attorney

Richard Buck discussed with the commission about contracts.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved the request for action to accept the Lindburg, Vogal and Pierce audit contract.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to accept the dog pound agreement with the City of Minneapolis and the Sheriff's Office. Malmberg resends her motion, because it was decided the Sheriff's Office handles the agreement.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved hiring Attorney Montoya to represent Ottawa County on special needs.

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On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 10-minute executive session for Attorney client privilege to discuss ongoing litigation including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and Richard Buck. To return at 10:29 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to extend the executive session 10-minutes for attorney client privilege to discuss potential litigation including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and Richard Buck. To return at 10:40 a.m.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to accept Fisher, Patterson, Slayer and Smith to represent the Sheriff's Office in a lawsuit.

Sheriff

Prisoner count Ottawa County 7.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved the April 15th, 2024 minutes as corrected.

County Clerk, Heather Maddox asked the commission how they would like to move forward with the minutes. Malmberg suggested videoing.

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$40,638.61

County General	\$14,422.02
Road & Bridge	\$6,205.44
Solid Waste	\$139.05
Noxious Weed	\$880.65
County Health	\$99.61
Law Enforcement Center	\$9,326.99
Aging	\$66.41
Garfield TWP Road	\$4,510.00
Historical	\$154.35
Technology Fund/Reg of Deeds	\$150.00
Richland TWP Road	\$1,338.05
Election	\$12.80
Appraiser	\$488.24
FEMA	\$2,615.00
Employee Benefits	\$80.00
F.D. #2 MPLS General	\$150.00

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

Upcoming Meetings Commission will attend:

Wolf will attend the Commissioners area meeting in Geary County, in Junction City at 5:30 p.m.

Mortimer will attend the NCRP commission Thursday at noon in Beloit.

Commission discussed wages for employees and what they should let the departments know how much to put into their salaries lines for the 2025 budgets.

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With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m. on motion by Malmberg and seconded by Mortimer. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 29th day of April 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Chairman

D.D. Malmberg, Member

Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

Heather Maddox, County Clerk