

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

March 11, 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,

Karl Leech

Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer

Heather Maddox, County Clerk

Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg

Stephanie Watkins, Deputy Clerk

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

Jim Kay came into the meeting to see where the raise stood for the museum employee. Commission said they are waiting for results from the wage study. Kay left the meeting at 8:05 a.m.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved Resolution 24-04 of the Board of Ottawa County Commissioners authorizing participation in Rural Opportunity Zone student loan repayment program for the calendar year 2024.

County Departments:

Sheriff

Prisoner count for Ottawa County 6. Sara Hodges came into the meeting at 8:57 a.m.

Sanitarian

Saline/Ottawa County Sanitarian Seth Odette came into the Commissioners meeting at 9:01 a.m. Odette discussed updates in Ottawa County. Seth Odette and Hodges left the meeting at 9:14 am.

Human Resources

Michelle Campbell, HR; JoDee Copple, Treasurer; Heather Poorman and Phil Hayes with Arnold Group; and Brian Rose, with Gallagher and Co.

Rose provided the commission with a power point packet detailing how he could help the county in building health care reserves. It was also mentioned giving employees the option of two different plans to allow employees a choice of what they want, for example keeping a plan similar to what the county currently has now and one that will allow employees to have a health savings account. Phil Hayes provided the commission with power point slides detailing the regions that were studied as well as his recommendation to implement the wage study. Hayes stated that for 100% of implementation it would cost the county approximately \$549,000. Hayes stated that he felt this should be done in phases over the next 2 years with the first phase of 50% being implemented in 2024. His recommendation was to adopt the wage study as presented. Copple provided the commission with a spreadsheet detailing the amounts needed per department for the wage study implementation. She also provided the commission with documentation showing how much each department would have left in their 2024 budget with implementation of phase one being in 2024.

Heather Poorman and Phil Hayes, left at 11:10 a.m.

Copple informed the commission about the cash carry over and the mill levy.

Brian Rose, JoDee Copple and Michelle Campbell left the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Mortimer called Russ Thornton to come to the meeting.

Thornton came into the meeting at 11:24 a.m. Thornton talked to the commission about needing more time for an employee retention plan.

Thornton left the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Michelle Campbell came back in and talked with the commission about employee retention in the Sheriff's office and payroll. Malmberg asked to call Sheriff Thornton back up to the meeting and discuss further.

Thornton came into the meeting at 11:47

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 10-minute executive session for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Campbell and Thornton. To return at 12:00 p.m.

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, Campbell and Thornton. To return at 12:11 p.m.

Judge Jason Parks arrived at 12:29 p.p.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved an executive session for 10-minutes for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and Jason Parks. To return at 12:40 p.m. Parks left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

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On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved the March 4, 2024 minutes as corrected.

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$127,589.05

County General	\$51,901.83
Road & Bridge	\$24,140.02
Solid Waste	\$7,802.06
Noxious Weed	\$35.52
County Health	\$58.98
Law Enforcement Center	\$937.91
Appraiser	\$24.70
Garfield TWP Road	\$1,275.75
Buckeye TWP Road	\$7,897.01
Historical	\$244.51
Election	\$10,676.14
Richland TWP Road	\$4,331.23
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$435.00
F.D. #1 O&L General	\$5,192.74
F.D. #2 MPLS General	\$12,505.40
F.D. #3 DEL General	\$49.25
Jail Commissary	\$81.00

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

On March 9th the commissioners attended the Ottawa County Farm Bureau Legislative Coffee at Westside Ventures in Bennington.

With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. on motion by Mortimer and seconded by Malmberg. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 18th day of March 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Chairman

D.D. Malmberg, Member

Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

Heather Maddox, County Clerk