

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

March 18, 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

Jim Kay

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

## County Departments:

### Health Department

Sara Hodges gave the commission an Aid to Local Grant to sign off on. This grant will be in the amount of \$33,697.

### Emergency Management

Marie Ballou discussed that the state has met their threshold for qualifying for FEMA and the county met their threshold as well. Ballou said that there are a few townships that refused or haven't turned in papers for FEMA. Commission discussed and they will get a hold of townships to get them to turn things into Ballou.

### Museum

Jim Kay, Museum President, discussed with the commission about a current employee and raising their pay to \$14.00. Wolf said with the wage study, they could only bump the salary to \$12.50 but no more. Kay said they have money in their budget. Commission said that's all they can bump the employee up. Kay left the meeting at 8:18 am. Michelle Campbell came into the meeting at 8:18 and told the commission that if they decide on the \$12.50, that amount would be implementing 70% of the presented wage study that hasn't been decided on for a part time employee. Campbell left the meeting at 8:20 a.m.

### Public Works

Chris Smith brought up an invoice from Rich's Dirt Work for the River Project on Rifle Rd. The commission signed off on it to pay out of ARPA Funds in the amount of \$48,800.

### Sheriff

Prisoner count Ottawa County 7.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to pay the Kansas County Commissioner Association dues in the amount of \$365.16.

### Maintenance

Keith Coleman came into the commission meeting to discuss the old museum (Blue Store) utility bills. Commission asked him to pull it out of the Custodial budget. Commission talked about grants for the museum that North Central Regional Planning will help with writing them. Coleman said bids and costs need to be put together, and have a written plan on how the commission wants to move forward before grants can be written. Tyrel Owens came into the meeting at 8:49 a.m. Shannon Smith came into the meeting at 8:50a.m. Coleman left the meeting at 8:52 a.m.

### Conservation Board

Shannon Smith, District Manager for the Conservation District gave the commission handouts about what the district will be doing this year. Tyrel Owens, with the Conservation District gave an update on what the conservation district has done this last year. Owens discussed the budget as a whole and they are asking for \$27,500 for the 2025 budget. Owens said they will have a summer intern, the state will pay the intern position \$20 an hour, this position will be 40 hours per week. Smith and Owens left at 9:26 a.m.

### Appraiser

Truette McQueen came into the meeting at 9:26 a.m. and presented the commission with a recap of the valuations for property from 2023 to 2024. The average Ag valuation went down 8.9% overall. The Residential value went up 8-9% Over all no change. Truette left at 9:36 a.m.

Chris Vignery came into the meeting at 9:47 a.m. Sheldon Daugherty came into the meeting at 9:50 a.m. Duane Morris, John Heald and Doug Plumer came into the meeting at 9:53 a.m. Owen Kindall and Brian Kindall came into the meeting at 9:56 a.m. Tony Swetson came into the meeting at 9:57 a.m. Dave Sweat came into the meeting at 9:57 a.m. Dave Sweat gave an update that all the buildings at the fairgrounds are covered by insurance under the city

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or county policies. Discussion of the Rec and USD 239 settled on a price for the ball field maintenance and will have an annual conversation between the two parties for budget reasons. Sweat said the Rec Commission hasn't been paying city bills. Daugherty asked how they would like to make sure the fair board is getting charged for the water appropriately. The fair board could take a picture of the meter before and after. The fair board discussed adding a dump station. This will be on the North East corner of the T next to the carnival area. There will be a hydrant added as well. B. Kindall asked if they could file for a grant to help with this cost. Commission agreed this would be a good idea and encouraged the grant process. The group discussed the overhead wires near the carnival rides that need to be moved for insurance and security issues. Steve Haley came into the meeting at 10:22 a.m. Discussion between the group was to add the electricity project to the grant application. Morris, Plumer, O. Kindall, Heald, Sweat, B. Kindall, Daugherty, and Vignery left the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Bennington EMS director Tony Swetson discussed with the commission about the Bennington EMS service having staff to go full time. The Bennington EMS is applying for grants to help sustain the budget. Swetson asked if the commission had questions. Malmberg said she heard that the Bennington EMS could not pay EMS workers to keep it staffed. Swetson said that by no means can they pay what Cloud County or Saline County is paying but they are making it work. He said they could not afford insurance for them. Swetson said that Cloud County has insurance through the state and will look into this. He said there are 4 full time employees as of now, but he does rely on PRN's. Mortimer said there was a discussion about adding a sales tax in Bennington to afford the extra for the Bennington EMS. Swetson said that everyone pays taxes. Mortimer asked if they have figured anything out with the budget. Swetson said he has not been in his position long enough to fully understand the budget process.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the March 11th, 2024 minutes as corrected.

### Claims for Approval: Totaling \$145,116.73

County General	\$9845.10
Road & Bridge	\$69,100.15
Special Bridge	\$12994.08
Noxious Weed	\$228.02
Buckeye Twp Road	\$4,771.49
Fountain Twp Road	\$338.32
Aging	\$19.69
Richland TWP Road	\$1809.46
Stanton Twp Road	\$450.00
Diversion	\$140.18
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$330.32
Election	\$350.00
Historical	\$239.96
Appraiser	\$76.15
Tech Fund Clerk	\$160.21
Tech Fund Register of Deeds	\$3905.00
Fire Department #1 O&L General	\$65.55
Fire Dpt #2 Mlps General	\$35.17
Law Enforcement Center Capitol Outlay	\$30,875.00

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Attorney Training	\$36.40
Law Enforcement Cetner	\$9,316.96
County Health	\$29.52

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

Commission went to the Ottawa County Landfill to view and inspect during the afternoon. Dave Hardesty, Waylon Hardesty, Chris Smtih, and Joe Mullen were present as well.

It was decided once the \$2400 credit has been met for the museum city bill, the city bills will then be paid for by the county.

With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m. on motion by Malmberg and seconded by Mortimer. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 25th day of March 2024.

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