

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

May 15th, 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

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer/Payroll Clerk
Heather Maddox, County Clerk

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

Shelby Walker, Ottawa County Deputy Clerk, came into the meeting to take minutes for the Clerk.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved the May 8th, 2023 minutes as presented.

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$162,964.69

County General	\$66,567.12
ARPA	\$37,718.69
Road & Bridge	\$14,130.09
Solid Waste	\$1,30.00
Ottawa Co 911	\$1,237.03
Election	\$70.18
Noxious Weed	\$689.44
Aging	\$1,527.45
Grant TWP	\$3,033.30
Ottawa TWP	\$587.78
Historical	\$25.00
County Health	\$7,081.05
Appraiser	\$100.80
FD #1 O&L	\$52.69
FD #3 Delphos	\$431.54
Jail Commissary	\$1,000.00
Law Enforcement Center	\$15,658.90

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

Commissioner Wolf attending a fire meeting. Commissioner Wolf thinks we should make another agreement to get more fire coverage for the area around Bohemian Hall. Commissioners would like to figure out how to make an agreement with Cloud County Commissioners to make a new agreement because the current one has expired. They believe we would need property owners of Ottawa County to sign an agreement. Twenty people attended the fire meeting.

Public Comment:

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County Departments:

Sheriff

Prisoner count for Ottawa County 5, Saline County 29, for a total of 34.

Payroll Clerk

JoDee Copple, asked the commission to go into executive session.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss payroll including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and JoDee Copple. Return at 8:17. No Decision made.

Susan Hoge, Karl Leech, and Alex Colosimo came into the meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to move the Custodial position under the Facilities Maintenance Director.

Minneapolis EMS

Alex Colosimo presented a grant to the Commissioners for a scoop stretcher. Minneapolis EMS has applied for this grant for \$3,500. The City of Minneapolis will be contributing \$500. Commissioners agreed to sign for this grant.

Commissioners discussed what they should do with the rest of the ARPA funds.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to ear tag \$300,000 for Special Road projects, \$156,460 for courthouse building improvement funds, & \$150,000 for special department needs.

Steve Haley, and Cody Flax came into the meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 5- minute executive session for HR to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and Copple. Returning at 9:00. No decision was made.

Maddox came back to the meeting to take minutes.

Bennington Fire

Randy Gruber, Steve Haley, and Bob Boss came into the meeting to discuss the fire department budget with the commissioners.

Malmberg has gotten Minneapolis ambulance budget and would like to get an ambulance budget from Bennington. Gruber talked about radios they are purchasing for the Bennington fire department. Malmberg asked about other expenses that may come up. Gruber said they are looking at new SCVA fill system and bunker gear. They also discussed new JAWS.

Walker left the meeting.

Clerk

Heather Maddox, County Clerk discussed with the commission about the ARPA funds motion. Commission called Carlotta Sunderland with Loyd Group to discuss how to properly ear tag ARPA Funds so they can't be taken back by the US. Government.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to rescind previous motion to ear tag \$300,000 for Special Road projects, \$156,460 for courthouse building improvement funds, and \$150,000 for special department needs, because of new information the commission obtained during the meeting.

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Maddox discussed with the commission about closing the courthouse to utilize employees as poll workers. Commission was not sure if this would work out due to closing the courthouse for the day to the public, and paying overtime was a concern. Poll workers are required to put in 15–16-hour days. Maddox talked with the commission about the employee suggestion box. Employees asked if we could have a quarterly employee appreciation meal. The Commission would like to see this happen with the county providing the main dish and the employees bringing sides, maybe twice a year. The commission would like to set a date for the employee get together for the summer. Commission will discuss at the next meeting.

Attorney/County Counselor

Richard Buck, County Counselor came into the meeting to discuss a purchasing policy with the commission.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 20-minute executive session for non-elected to discuss employee including Wolf, Mortimer, and Malmberg to return at 11:00am

Kim Winsett, IT came into the meeting, and asked to go into executive session.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 10-minute executive session for non-elected to discuss IT including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and Kim Winsett, to return at 11:15am.

Commissioner Wolf called Marie Ballou, Emergency Management about reapportionment of fire districts. Ballou said that Richard Buck would be looking into the Statute side of things and discussion at a later date.

Commissioner Wolf asked about inventory, and what the process was moving forward.. Maddox said that Marie Ballou Emergency Management director and Shelby Walker, the Deputy Clerk went to Clay Center for a inventory class on Salamander. Maddox said Walker told her that the county could utilize this program for all county inventory. Maddox suggested that they get Ballou and Walker on the agenda to discuss what the process would be.

Buck brought in an employee evaluation for his employee. Commission approved.

Upcoming Meetings Commission will attend:

June 6th at 6:30 fire meeting.

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

ADOPTED this 22nd day of May 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Vice-Chairman

D.D. Malmberg, Member

Scott Mortimer, Chairman

ATTEST:

Heather Maddox, County Clerk