

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

May 1st, 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
Shelby Walker, Deputy Clerk

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

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved the April 24th, 2023 minutes as presented.

JoDee Copple, Payroll Clerk gave the commission payroll register to sign off on.

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$99,065.17

County General	\$11,940.29
ARPA	\$26,248.98
Road & Bridge	\$8,845.99
Solid Waste	\$24,600.00
Ottawa Co 911	\$13,723.85
Building Fund	\$2,600.01
Noxious Weed	\$443.34
Historical	\$751.02
FD #3 Delphos	\$94.92
Law Enforcement Center	\$9,816.77

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

County Departments:

Sheriff

Prisoner count for Ottawa County 5, Saline County 33 for a total of 38.

Russ Thornton, Ottawa County Sheriff, came into the meeting to present his budgets for the Law Enforcement Center fund, Jail Commissary fund, Ottawa County 911 fund, and the Sheriff fund. Thornton explained his request and thoughts for changes on the budgets he presented.

Treasurer/Payroll Clerk

JoDee Copple, Ottawa County Treasurer, came into the Meeting to present budgets for Treasurer, HR, and Employee Benefit funds. Copple explained her request and thoughts for changes in the budgets she presented.

Clerk

Heather Maddox, Ottawa County Clerk, came into the meeting to present budgets for the Clerk and Election funds. Maddox explained her changes to the budgets she presented. Maddox would like to make it known that Governor Kelly signed House Bill 2053 to have the Presidential Primary in March of 2024. This means there will be three elections we will be holding in 2024. The price of things has gone up, including all the paper we use for ballots, envelopes, and even postage.

Commissioner Wolf asked what accomplishments have you gained this year with last year's budgets? Maddox is excited that the office got new pollbooks. The poll workers will be able to check in voters quicker than looking

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through paper books.

Commissioner Wolf asked when you think about the future of Ottawa County what concerns do you have the most? Maddox is concerned that we do not have a 5-year plan in each department. Everyone should be looking at the future of Ottawa County not just right now.

Commissioner Wolf asked beyond your biggest concern what's your boldest aspirations for Ottawa County, if money weren't an option for your budget or the County and you could have anything, what would you like to have? Maddox would love all new election equipment.

Appraiser/Zoning

Truette McQueen, Ottawa County Appraiser, came into the meeting to present budgets for the Appraiser's and Zoning funds.

McQueen asked the commission if Deputy Appraiser, Kim Winsett could attend the NACRO class/convention in June. This appraiser's convention will be held in Iowa. The Commission agreed it would be great for her to attend and learn as much as possible.

IT

Kim Winsett, Ottawa County IT Administrator, came into the meeting to present the budget for the IT Department.

Commissioner Wolf asked what accomplishments they gained this year with last year's budgets? Winsett said we need to set up a better cushion for the server and other things that might arise. She said we need to plan for a new server in years to come. Malmberg agreed to get a quote to help budget for a new server in the future.

Wolf asked Winsett, when you think of the future of Ottawa County what concerns you the most? Winsett is worried about the longevity of all offices in the County. She wants the other office to be able to step up if there is another turnover. She thinks all employees need to be cross trained in all aspects of the courthouse. Malmberg wants to know if CIC is available as a view only setup so the commission can see the budget at anytime. Winsett says TAS (Tax Administration System) is currently available to see but CIC is currently working on a view only. Malmberg would like to know about video of the meetings. Winsett recommended they use YouTube to record the meetings. Winsett would provide a link for the YouTube site on our county website. The YouTube link would be available after all the meetings have finished. She just needs a go ahead from the commission. No decision was made.

Winsett thanked the Commissioners for the new furniture and said the offices look great.

Register of Deeds

Marilyn Heck, Ottawa County Register of Deeds Administrator, came into the meeting to present her budget for the Register of Deeds.

Commissioner Wolf asked what do you feel you have accomplished with your budget this year? Heck said the Register of Deeds State Association hosts a meeting every year and she helped host it in Salina this year. Heck said they do help other offices out when they are available to help or when someone is gone.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved an executive session ending at 11:51pm for non-elected personnel to discuss personnel matters including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and Heck.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 30-minute lunch break, resuming the meeting at 12:30pm.

The meeting resumed at 12:30pm with Commissioner Wolf, and Commissioner Mortimer.

Emergency Management

Marie Ballou, Ottawa County Emergency Management Director, came into the meeting to present her budget for the Emergency Management fund and Custodial fund.

Commissioner Wolf asked what accomplishments have you gained this year with last year's budgets? Ballou was very pleased she updated the 5-year emergency management plan. Commissioner Wolf asked when you think about the future of Ottawa County what scares you the most? Ballou said the number of volunteers has decreased drastically and a lot of our county activities rely on volunteers.

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Attorney

Richard Buck, Ottawa County Attorney, came into the meeting to present his budgets for the County

Attorney fund, and County Counselor fund. Buck explained his changes to each budget.

Commissioner Wolf asked what accomplishments have you gained this year with last year's budgets? Buck said the upgrades made to the courtroom made it look 100% better, it was a joint effort between the Attorney's office & District Court.

Commissioner Wolf asked when you think about the future of Ottawa County what concerns do you have the most? Buck is concerned about sales tax in Ottawa County. He thinks Ottawa County needs more businesses to make more tax revenue.

Commissioner Wolf asked beyond your biggest concern what's your biggest aspirations for Ottawa County? Buck would like to have a high security system for the courthouse/ his office. He would like people to be buzzed in and out of his office for extra security.

Commissioner Malmberg joined the reconvened meeting at 12:50pm.

District Court

Todd Heitschmidt with District Court Services came into the meeting to present the budget for the District Court.

Commissioner Wolf asked what accomplishments have you gained this year with last year's budgets? Heitschmidt is very excited about the improvements made to the courtroom and all the upgrades that were made.

Commissioner Wolf asked when you think about the future of Ottawa County what concerns do you have the most? Heitschmidt thinks everything is okay. He thinks as far as budget everything is running smoothly.

Commissioner Wolf asked beyond your biggest concern what's your boldest aspirations for Ottawa County?

Heitschmidt said he would like to see security increased by inside and outside cameras, one entrance for the court floor, with security on staff in the building. He doesn't believe we currently have any issues, but everything could always be improved.

Health Department

Sara Hodges, Health Department Administrator, came to the meeting to present the budgets for the Health Department, and Aging funds. Hodges explained her request and changes to the 2024 budget.

Commissioner Wolf asked what accomplishments have you gained this year with last year's budgets? Hodges said she didn't hire anyone, yet but she really wanted to expand her staff.

Commissioner Wolf asked when you think about the future of Ottawa County what concerns do you have the most? Hodges said she is concerned about tax value on farm ground specifically. Malmberg said to look ask her evaluations because most farm ground went down. She is worried about the balance of tax dollars. She understands that the balance is hard to figure since it's what we do for the community as well as ourselves.

Commissioner Wolf asked beyond your biggest concern what's your boldest aspirations for Ottawa County? Hodges Said she would like to figure out the best way to get people to move into our community and improve our county to entice people to come to Ottawa County. She would love to have a shed or garage to park all the department vehicles in to store and clean them.

Road and Bridge

Chris Smith, Ottawa County Road and Bridge Administrator, and Joe Mullen, Ottawa County Road and Bridge Supervisor, came into the meeting to present the budget for the Road and Bridge fund, the Special Bridge fund, and the Solid Waste fund. Smith explained changes Mullen and he made to each budget.

Commissioner Wolf asked what accomplishments have you gained this year with last year's budgets? Smith said he got a couple newer trucks bought and tried out new materials that are a little cheaper with some good reviews so far.

Commissioner Wolf asked when you think about the future of Ottawa County what concerns do you have the most? Smith said employment, keeping people employed. Smith said, so far, a lot of people are leaving due to lower wages here. Mullen said low wages are very concerning. Malmberg asked if he thought we were comparative with other agencies, he thought we are.

Commissioner Wolf asked beyond your biggest concern what's your boldest aspirations for Ottawa County? Smith said probably just updating all the equipment within the Road and Bridge. Smith said they would like newer equipment as well.

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Noxious Weed

Kenny Baccus, Ottawa County Noxious Weed Director, came into the meeting to present the Noxious Weed budget.

Commissioner Wolf asked what accomplishments have you gained this year with last year's budgets? Baccus said he was able to drop his budget a bit with chemical prices coming down.

Commissioner Wolf asked when you think about the future of Ottawa County what concerns do you have the most? Baccus said he is worried about the ability to get things done in a timely manner due to mother nature. He is concerned that the County relies on two guys to spray the whole county in a short time.

Commissioner Wolf asked beyond your biggest concern what's your boldest aspirations for Ottawa County? Baccus said he would love for Noxious Weed to take over the mowing in Ottawa County. Commissioner Wolf asked if Noxious Weed would need another employee to mow if they took it over. Baccus said yes, they would need at least a part time employee to cover mowing. Wolf asked what these three people would be doing in the winter. Baccus said they could do maintenance on equipment, signs for the county, building maintenance, and other things to fill the time.

The Commission discussed what Wolf and Malmberg heard about ARPA funds at the KAC conference.

Clerk

Heather Maddox came back into the meeting to present the Coroner budget and Miscellaneous budget. Maddox discussed with the commission how she plans on changing up the line items in the Miscellaneous fund so we can keep track of things being spent out of it. Maybe we can allocate some things to actual funds instead of taking it out of the miscellaneous fund. Maddox discussed her concerns with the coroner's budget. She said there have been a few cases with Fentanyl hitting our area. She requested the coroner budget go up.

Museum Board

John Carson, Jim Kay, Jerry Schmidt, and Neal Kindall came into the meeting to discuss the Museum budget. The board explained their changes to the budget.

The Museum Board would like a structural engineer to look at the Blue Store before making a final decision.

Mortimer said he would find out if Johnny Adams can sign off as a structural engineer for the building.

Malmberg asked why the Board thinks they need another part-time employee added to the budget. The board said that they will be expanding, and at that time they will need extra hands to help. Malmberg asked what would happen with the part time employee when the moving and expansion is done. The Board answered that they would still utilize the person to do window displays and rotate artifacts around along with researching. Malmberg confirmed that this position would be with no benefits.

The Commission will have a special meeting May 3rd at 6:30 pm to have a second interview for the open HR position.

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With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 3:31pm, on motion by Malmberg and seconded by Wolf. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 9th 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