

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 Wolf led the group in opening prayer, followed by the flag salute.

After the commission received an email about the Fire Relief Program reporting to the State, Malmberg talked with Kim Webb, Culver Fire Department to let her know she is late on reporting back to the State of Kansas.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved May 1st, 2023 minutes as presented.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved the special meeting May 3rd, 2023 minutes as presented.

**Upcoming Meetings Commission will attend:**

The Commission will attend a meeting with the fire chiefs, sheriff's department, EMS, and County Attorney for an update with all departments Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the courthouse basement.

**Claims for Approval: Totaling \$128,598.53**

County General	\$14,103.21
ARPA	\$14,096.39
Road & Bridge	\$59,287.46
Special Bridge	\$11,250.00
Solid Waste	\$9,646.52
Ottawa County 911	\$356.38
Election	\$3,093.60
Noxious Weed	\$867.08
Bennington TWP	\$9,878.76
Fountain TWP	\$9,878.76
Appraiser	\$144.90
FD #2 MPLS	\$601.61
FD #3 Delphos	\$1,129.33
Law Enforcement Center	\$2,221.77
Insurance Claim	\$871.52

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

Tyrell Owens, with the conservation district came into the meeting to present the conservation district budget.

Owens discussed hiring a new employee and gave an update on things the new hire will be doing in the future.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to fund the Ottawa County Conservation District in the amount of \$24,000.

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## County Departments:

Julie Yarmer, and Darren Booth, with Freedom Claims, discussed the quarterly review for the county insurance.

### Road and Bridge

Chris Smith, Road and Bridge Administrator, and Joe Mullen Road and Bridge Supervisor came to the commission meeting to present employee evaluations. Smith let the commission know that he had a meeting with engineers for the Doering Curve on Limestone Rd. Smith said they gave a start date of July 10<sup>th</sup> and the late start date is September 18<sup>th</sup>. Smith also said that the road would be closed for 2 months. Smith would like to hire a seasonal employee for mowing. The Commission approved this employee under 999 hours.

### Clerk

Heather Maddox, County Clerk asked the commissioners 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 custodial including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Maddox and Copple to return at 10:05am.

Commissioner Malmberg called Keith Coleman, Facilities Maintenance Manager to come up to the commissioners room.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss custodial including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Maddox, Copple, and Coleman to return at 10:15am.

### Treasurer/Payroll Clerk

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 10-minute executive session for confidential data to discuss payroll liabilities including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg Maddox, and Copple to return at 10:35am.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to pay late fees and interest to the IRS in the amount \$11,203.65. Due to previous staff not paying 2021 October, November, and December payroll liabilities on time.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to amend the motion above, to fund the Conservation district in the amount of \$25,000 instead of the \$24,000 that was asked by Tyrel Owens to be fully funded and matched by the State up to that \$25,000

Commissioner Malmberg called Owens to let him know about the motion and ask for an updated copy of the budget certification for the Clerk to sign.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss employee including Wolf, Mortimer, and Malmberg to return at 11:00am.

### Sheriff

Prisoner count for Ottawa County 3, Saline County 31 for a total of 34.

Russ Thornton, Ottawa County Sheriff, came into the commission meeting to talk about kitchen repairs. He has gotten with Keith about getting in touch with contractors. Sheriff Thornton would like to get a new K-9, late last month Narco was at training and broke a tooth. After taking Narco to the dentist, the Dentist told Sheriff Thornton that Narco shouldn't be used for biting purposes in the future. Thornton said he would be able to keep Narco on the force as a drug dog but wouldn't be able to use him to the full capacity as he was. The Commission asked what a new dog would cost. Thornton said he would like to get a pup to go around and train the pup himself. So, this would take the price down a lot instead of buying a new dog trained. Instead of spending \$10,000 to \$14,000 the cost would be \$3,000. Commission asked when do you expect Narco to retire? Thornton said by the time the pup is up and ready to

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be in service Narco would be ready to retire. He would like to see Narco train with the pup for a while before he retires. Commission approved moving forward with this purchase. Sheriff Thornton asked the commission what their involvement would be with the new security system by INAlert, when it is put in at the courthouse. Would the sheriff's office have access to the courthouse cameras, and would the new panic buttons be set up to notify them first unlike our current panic buttons which are routed to a company in Oklahoma. Maddox said she has a call into INAlert and will inquire about this and keep the Sheriff and the commission updated.

Maddox asked the commission if they would like to proceed with the wage study or if they have thought about it. The commission decided to wait until the new HR position is filled before deciding whether they would continue with the wage study or not.

Marie Ballou, Emergency Management/Custodial came into the meeting.

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 custodial including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and Ballou and to return at 12:00pm.

With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm on motion by Malmberg and seconded by Wolf. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

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Dawn Wolf, Vice-Chairman

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D.D. Malmberg, Member

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Scott Mortimer, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Heather Maddox, County Clerk