

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

April 29, 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

Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer

Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg

Brian Kindall, Brandon Copple

Heather Maddox, County Clerk

Stephanie Watkins, Deputy Clerk

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

Brian Kindall presented the Fair Board budget to the commissioners. Kindall also presented a proposal for patron usage at the fairgrounds. Kindall said they had students come up from the Minneapolis High School and help paint during the clean-up days. Kindall asked for the same budget as last year in the amount of \$22,500. Kindall left the meeting.

County Departments:

Sheriff

Prisoner count Ottawa County 5. Commission discussed the sheriff's budget being negative \$86,000 for the 2024 budget year.

Commissioners asked Chris Smith, Public Works Director to come into the meeting. The Commission talked about roads that need fixed or looked at. Glenna Phillis came into the meeting at 8:58 a.m. Commission discussed projects and budgets for the Road and Bridge department. Smith said the Ada Road will get chip sealed this year and Old 81 will get crack sealed this year. Smith left the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Glenna Phillips with Central Kansas Mental Health, presented to the commissioners the budget proposal for 2025. Phillips discussed with the commissioners about what the Central Kansas Mental Health Center has been doing for the communities in Ottawa County. Truette McQueen came into the meeting at 9:28 a.m. Phillips is asking for an annual total of \$36,180 for CKMHC's 2025 budget. Glenna Phillips left the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Zoning

Truette McQueen, Zoning Administrator, came into the meeting to propose a venue that will be built in the Niles/Solomon, Ottawa County area. The Commission called agenda item Special Use 001-2024 application for an event center in the A1 agriculture district. Wolf asked if any commissioner would like to excuse themselves from the order. No one excused themselves from the matter. The county Clerk did not receive any opposing letters. All commissioners have received the minutes from the zoning board. Zoning Administrator McQueen gave an update on the case, the venue is proposed to be at the address of 23 Solomon Rd, Solomon, Kansas. This will be on 10 acres.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to adopt the findings and factors and recommendations of the planning board in case number SU 001-2024 and approve the request of SU 001-2024.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved Resolution 24-05 for the special use 001-2024 to establish an event center in the A-1 Agriculture district. McQueen left the meeting.

Human Resources

Michelle Campbell, discussed with the commissioners about new policies that have been written for the Ottawa County employees.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the Ottawa County Personnel Policy Section 30 Policy 04 for the return of county property.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved Ottawa County section 20 policy 06 on requiring new employees of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office to live within the county.

FLSA policy will be enacted by the federal government on July 1st. Exempt salaried employees will be required to make \$43,888 a year. Campbell said this will not affect any un-elected salaried exempt employees but will affect one elected salaried exempt employee. As of January 2025, employees will be required to make \$58,656 a year. This will affect 4 non-elected and 3 elected employees at that point.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 5-minute executive session for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including

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Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and Heather Maddox. To return at 10:31 a.m.

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$220,946.24

County General	\$8,635.80
Road & Bridge	\$45,361.33
Appraiser	\$342.45
Coronavirus Relief	\$115,040.34
Vehicle	\$88.00
Center TWP Road	\$617.40
Culver TWP Road	\$390.08
Diversion	\$2,000.00
Noxious Weed	\$377.34
County Health	\$2,124.58
Law Enforcement Center	\$10,255.65
Aging	\$3,774.92
Buckeye TWP Road	\$685.62
F.D. #1 O&L General	\$1,089.00
Jail Commissary	\$12,886.70
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$17,216.67
Election	\$60.36

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

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

Clerk

Maddox gave the commission resolutions for transfers.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved Resolution 24-06 to transfer \$200,000 from the County General fund to the Law Enforcement fund.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved Resolution 24-07 to transfer \$95,437 from the General Fund to the Courthouse Improvement fund.

Public Works

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved an executive session for 5-minutes for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Chris Smith and Michelle Campbell. To return at 10:50 a.m.

Clerk

Heather Maddox presented the Solid waste budget with Chris Smith, Public Works and asked questions about line items. Smith built the solid waste budget for 2025 and had questions on what the budget should be. Maddox will talk with the League of Municipalities about what they offer and discuss with the commission next week.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved the April 22, 2024 minutes as corrected.

Upcoming Meetings Commission will attend:

Wolf attended the Commissioners area meeting in Geary County, in Junction City at 5:30 p.m. Monday April 22nd.

Mortimer attended the North Central Regional Planning Commission Thursday at noon in Beloit.

On motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to recess at 12:15 until 1:00pm to resume at the Blue Store.

Wolf called the meeting back to order at the Blue Store at 1:00 p.m.

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Those present were, Scott Mortimer, Dawn Wolf, DD Malmberg, Heather Maddox, Keith Coleman, Jerry Schmidt, Jana VanMeter, Jim Kay, Jeff Hodges, John Carson, Ray McGavran, Brandon Cople, and Betty Aloyo.

Schmidt talked about creating a list of what needs to be done in the Blue Store before the museum can officially move. Schmidt would like to create a timeline of when things can get done. Schmidt said the biggest struggles are financing and the facility that is over 100 years old. Margeret McGavran came into the meeting at 1:07 p.m. Schmidt and Coleman gave an update on what they have found out so far in the process. This includes doors and windows in the Blue Store. Coleman said the first thing they should do is get a structural engineer to look over the Blue Store. This way the structural engineer can get a list of everything that needs to be fixed to be up to code. There are specific rules and laws that have to be followed by public entities that don't necessarily have to be followed by a private owner. Malmberg left the meeting at 1:18 p.m. VanMeter said when the museum makes the move, they will only be using the main floors of the Blue Store. Schmidt said that he would like to get a feasibility assessment done before they move to see if it is even sustainable to move from the current Museum to the Blue Store. Commission and the Museum Board talked about the 2025 budget for the Museum and the Museums new inventory system. The commission would like to meet with the Museum Board again on May 21st at 5:00 p.m. at the Blue Store for updates from the engineer.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to make Jerry Schmidt and Keith Coleman the liaisons between the Commissioners and the Museum Board.

By the next meeting Keith will have found a structural engineer to come and look at the Blue Store.

With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m. on motion by Mortimer and seconded by Wolf. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 6th day of May 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Chairman

D.D. Malmberg, Member

Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

Heather Maddox, County Clerk