

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

April 15, 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

Heather Maddox, County Clerk

Stephanie Watkins, Deputy Clerk

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

## Public Comment:

Lee Ann Sparks and Bruce Srna came into the meeting at 8:01 am.

Carl Leech came into the meeting at 8:11am.

Commissioners opened bids for tire disposal for the free dump days. Wolf opened bids from Champlin Tire, it was \$155 a ton and Resource Management Co Inc. was \$175 a ton.

On motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved the bid from Champlin Tire for disposal of tires in the amount of \$155 a ton.

**Public comment:** Bruce Srna asked what the commission decided on letting immigrants come into the jail.

Malmberg said it's the Sheriff's decision about the jail but as of now it is not going to happen. Mortimer agreed and elaborated on what was discussed last week with the jail. Sparks discussed the \$93,000 that was spent on the new Durango's for the Sheriff's office, it was said in the paper that they were not approved. Malmberg said the Durango's were not approved because the purchasing policy was not followed. Wolf said the amount for the Durango's was in the budget, so the Sheriff can spend that money. Sparks said if we are downsizing why are we buying new vehicles? Malmberg said that according to outside resources and the Sheriff, they are needed because they only let vehicles reach 100,000 miles before they need to be updated. Russ Thornton came into the meeting at 8:24 a.m. Mortimer asked how many dispatchers are employed? Thornton said four. Mortimer asked if they help on the jail side. Sheriff Thornton said yes, all staff help where needed. Thornton said his door is always open if anyone wants to come talk about what is happening in the jail. Thornton left the meeting. Sparks asked if the commission ever decided if the county was going to pay employees biweekly or monthly and what have they decided on wages. The commission said employees get paid monthly. Malmberg said she will not approve the wage study presented because it is ridiculous. Malmberg would like to go to bi-weekly when she comes up with a pay scale. Malmberg said she called Jay Hall, Attorney with Kansas Association of Counties, and spoke with him about legalities of coming up with a pay scale, Hall said there is no reason why they can't do that. Malmberg said that they are going to come up with one that is fair for the taxpayers and the employees. Malmberg said the \$200,000 isn't do able. Sparks said they need to make sure just because people show up, but there should be a difference in merit and based off the skills they have. Malmberg said there still should be employee evaluations and the steps will implement the longevity as well and after they have been here for 15 years, they should be frozen. Malmberg stated that she worked for the state and as a KPERS job they don't get raises for longevity after they are topped out. Sparks said it's a benefit that people work in the community and don't have to commute to outside counties.

## County Departments:

### Human Resources

Michelle Campbell presented the commissioners with the Wellness Center business discount prices. Wolf asked if this goes through payroll. Campbell said yes, the balance will come out of the last check if an employee quits. Campbell said that there is a minimum of 5 employees to be able to start. Wolf would like to revisit this in December to see if there are still employees utilizing it. This would not cost the county anything.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to accept the Wellness Center membership for the employees.

Sara come into the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

### Health Department

Sara Hodges gave the commission an update on Aging, including 81-Connection transportaion, and the balance summary for insurance.

### Treasurer

JoDee Copple presented the commission new information on the wage study.

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## Sheriff

Prisoner count Ottawa County 6.

Mortimer said there was discussion between Minneapolis Mayor Dave Sweat about a \$1,800 monthly fee for utilizing Ottawa County dispatching. Mortimer would like to gain more clarity of what other county/city agreements are before moving forward.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the April 8th, 2024 minutes as corrected.

### **Claims for Approval: Totaling \$224,342.26**

County General	\$50,126.40
Road & Bridge	\$47,885.77
Solid Waste	\$7,637.84
Coronavirus Relief	\$3,360.00
County Health	\$11,498.33
Law Enforcement Center	\$8,382.64
Aging	\$107.68
Special Bridge	\$6,601.33
Historical	\$10.77
Technology Fund/CLER	\$141.62
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$3,259.60
Center TWP Road	\$2,099.68
Ottawa TWP Road	\$1,434.35
F.D. #1 O & L GEN	\$755.24
F.D. #2 MPLS GEN	\$116.01
Law Enforcement CE	\$80,925.00

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 Wolf seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 10-minute executive session for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and Campbell. To return at 10:25 a.m.

### **Upcoming Meetings Commission will attend:**

All Commission attended the area commissioners meeting in Concordia, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Malmberg attended the LEPC meeting April 10<sup>th</sup> and discussed burn regulations and spills with KDHE.

Malmberg and Wolf will attend the Kansas County Commissioners Association Conference April 15-18 in Pittsburgh.

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With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. on motion by Malmberg and seconded by Wolf. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 22 day of April 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