

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

April 4, 2022

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session with First District Commissioner Dawn Wolf, Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg and Deputy County Clerk, Heather Maddox.

Commissioner Wolf called the meeting to order at 8:00 am with opening prayer and flag salute.

Those present were Jim Kay.

JoDee Copple, Payroll Clerk, brought in payroll Claims to be approved.

Minutes from March 28, 2022 were reviewed. Commissioner Mortimer moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Malmberg attended (by ZOOM) the North Central Regional Planning Commission Meeting Thursday March 28. Malmberg talked about the weatherization program, it has been opened up to include the middle-income families. There is extra money that the Government is offering for families to weatherize their homes.

Commissioner Malmberg opened mail from The Army Corps of Engineers, there was no action required.

Commissioner Wolf attended the Radio Communication Meeting on Thursday March 31, in the courthouse basement.

Heather Maddox, Deputy Clerk presented claims registers, the Scot Loyd Contract for budget training, and abatements. All were signed and approved.

Keith Coleman, Facilities Manager reported talking with Kingman roofing about the courthouse roof. Keith also met with A&P roofing; they came last Friday. Geisler roofing was contacted as well. Keith mentioned while he was on the roof, he saw 5 fresh air intakes and 3 exhaust fans on the courthouse roof that have been shut up. Keith will investigate getting it all hooked back up and working. At the jail, Keith worked on cameras, put in a new hard drive, unplugged drains in pods, repaired the washer and helped with software issues. Commissioner Malmberg said that Keith and she went around the building last Monday and discussed a water leak from a generator or a transformer. Keith showed Commissioner Malmberg where conduit is breaking under the sheriff's office, Keith called an electrical company and they said we would have to replace a ground bar. To get it fixed we would have to dig up the sidewalk behind the courthouse to find the problem. Commissioner Mortimer said he thinks we should investigate it as soon as possible. Commissioner Malmberg said she would like Keith to get a concrete saw and start looking into the issue more. Commissioner Malmberg said she and Keith also looked at the steps on the south side of the courthouse and there is a wash out. Keith said they would need to be fixed. The steps going up to the Veteran's Memorial need to be redone as well, Commissioner Mortimer thinks they should wait until there is a decision on what will happen with the memorial before they decide if they want to tear the steps out or replace them. Commissioner Malmberg said there is water coming from somewhere in the basement to outside behind the courthouse, where there is a constant flow. Keith has gotten plans and is trying to find a water line that may be leaking. Commissioner Mortimer asked Keith to keep monitoring things and they will revisit the plans when Keith has a better idea of what can be done.

Russ Thornton, Ottawa County Sheriff gave a prisoner count of Ottawa County 3, Saline County 19, Sedgwick County 29, for a total of 51. Sheriff Thornton told the commissioners that contracts with Sedgwick and Saline counties have not been updated in the last year. It was 2020 when the last contract with Saline County was signed. The last contract with Sedgwick County was in 2017 or 2018. Our cost to Saline & Sedgwick counties is \$35 a day per inmate, other counties say they are increasing their cost. Thornton would like to increase our cost to \$40 per day. Commissioner Malmberg asked why there wasn't a new contract, Thornton said he didn't even know it was an issue until last week. A lot of contracts with vendors for the jail have been going up, so he would like to

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see the cost per day to house inmates go up as well. Malmberg asked how long the contract would be, Sheriff Thornton said that it should be an annual contract. When Saline County gets their new jail, we would then look at contracting with another facility to keep our inmate numbers up. Last weekend the Sheriff's office had hard drives go down, Sheriff Thornton made a call to IN ALERT, and they came and had the office up and running in an hour. The technician from IN ALERT came from the Great Bend area. They are a newer company, but it seems like they have lots of good things going for them. IN ALERT increased our gigabytes on the hard drive to keep our recordings longer than 30 days. Thornton paid LOCKIT to put software on sheriff computers. Sheriff Thornton talked to LockIT about the service part, and it would be \$70 a computer monthly. The sheriff's office has a total of 16 computers in the office. Right now, the Deputy's mainly use laptops as well as the Sheriff, that would reduce the computers down to 14, and not all of them would need to have software. Right now, we pay LockIT hourly for our service fees. Thornton asked why LockIT is being paid out of county general budget for the courthouse then why isn't the jail the same budget. Kim Winsett, IT joined the conversation and told commissioners that \$74 is paid to LockIT for each computer in the courthouse. Kim added it would be a one-time fee of \$900 to get the sheriffs office set up with LockIT and that is with just 10 computers. Kim said there should be more coverage in the sheriff's office than the courthouse has. They have state computers, so if the state finds negligence, then they could be shut down. Mortimer said he thinks that we should revisit the budget to see if we could help pay out of the general budget so its not all out of the sheriff's budget. The biggest thing is that the hours billed to the Sheriff's office could be more than they expect. Mortimer said find out what Thornton thinks it's going to cost, and the commissioners will visit with Vicki Jensen, County Clerk about where we can find funds out of the general budget. Commissioner Malmberg said that Thornton should go straight to Vicki and discuss after he finds out what all he needs from the budget. Thornton brought up county property to discuss with the commissioners. The Sheriff's office bought new desks for the deputy's office space, and the old desks need to be moved out. Sheriff Thornton asked the commissioners what the policy is on getting rid of county property. Commissioners discussed doing what is best and beneficial for the county. Commissioner Malmberg said she would like to look at and revise the County policy on getting rid of county property.

Greg Dockins, Road & Bridge Administrator and Chris Smith, Assistant Road & Bridge Administrator presented invoices for \$17,270 to buy 3 new pickups. Invoices were approved. Greg gave the commissioners an agenda for the NCK District 2 meeting, Wednesday April 6, 2022. Greg and all of the commissioners' plan to attend. David Crosson joined the meeting. He has concerns about a section of the river that is pushing its way into Riffle Rd and will potentially wash the road away. David gave the commissioners a Google Earth view of the river and the road that the river is impacting. David said that FSA (Farm Service Agency) looked at this specific section of the river, and felt that the water erosion fell under the state guidelines but there wasn't much the state would do at the time. David said he had been in to talk with the commissioners 3 or 4 times over the last several years and nothing has ever been done. Commissioner Wolf asked what we need to do. Commissioner Mortimer said he had asked Katrina Pollet if there was any grant money out there to see if that could help cover the cost of fixing the roadway and river. Katrina said she would get back with Scott this week. Commissioner Wolf will call Elaine Bowers and Dickinson County Administrator to see if there are any resources available to help us out. Richard Buck, County Attorney mentioned grants from the state for roads and bridges may be available.

The Ottawa County Museum Board, Jim Kay, Ray McGavren, Jana VanMeter and John Carson was present to discuss museum duties. Commissioner Wolf moved to strike what has been said in the last five minutes from the minutes. Mortimer Seconded. Motion Carried 3-0.

Commissioner Wolf moved to take a 2-minute break. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Mortimer moved to go into executive session pursuant to Attorney Client Privilege to discuss litigation. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were Commissioners and Richard Buck, County Attorney. The group returned to regular session at 10:11 a.m.

Samantha Davis, Museum Curator entered the meeting.

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Commissioner Malmberg moved to go into executive session pursuant to non-elected personnel exception. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were Commissioners, Samantha Davis and Richard Buck. The group returned to regular session at 10:27 a.m.

Commissioner Mortimer moved to continue the executive session. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Those present were Commissioners, Samantha Davis and Richard Buck. Motion carried 3-0. The group returned to regular session at 10:35 a.m.

Annie Grevas and Dave Irving with the 28th Judicial District came in to discuss what they are doing in Ottawa County. Ottawa County pays 1/3 of Dave's salary. In January, Dave was getting trained and completing certifications. At the beginning of March, Dave only has had 2 pretrial clients so far. Leslie Johnson and Amy Meysenburg also have an office in the courthouse that they come to on Tuesdays and attend court and see clients. Dave has been in contact with Sheriff Thornton about the new clients, they have only had minor cases to discuss. Dave will work with clients that have been charged with misdemeanors and/or theft and everything short of murder. This program helps clients get services to help them stay out of jail. They do bond supervision, provide more extreme provisions and resources to clients. The Judicial District has automated notifications for appointments or missed appointments. They have surveillance officers that check on clients in surrounding areas, to provide more supervision and public safety. Mentally ill clients that have been incarcerated are getting services to help them get what they need to stay out of jail. The staff is treating those clients in the field, so we don't see the revolving door of them going back in. Sheriff Thornton and Judge Parks were happy to see this program coming to Ottawa County. Attorney Buck expected a larger case load sooner than they have seen. In the last 25 years this is the slowest year Annie has experienced. Pretrial caseload would be bigger if there were more felony arrests said Attorney Buck. The commissioners would like to meet with Dave monthly to keep them updated on what's been happening.

Commissioner Wolf called Whitney Gifford with CPM, the previous health care provider— There was no answer. Commissioner Wolf left a message asking for all billing and stop loss records on claims.

Commissioner Mortimer moved to go into executive session pursuant to non-elected personnel exception. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were the commissioners and Richard Buck. The group returned to regular session at 11:23 a.m.

Sara Hodges, Aging talked with Commissioners about the OCK transportation department. In February there were 83 people picked up here in Minneapolis on the 81-Connection bus to Salina. Sara told the commissioners about a ribbon cutting at the new Transportation building this Thursday April 7, in Salina. Sara presented a non-disclosure confidentiality agreement with Mitchell County Health foundation to be signed by Chairperson Malmberg.

Commissioner Wolf moved to rescind Resolution 21-26, to end the Ongoing State and Local Emergency (Covid-19) as of today April 4, 2022. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Malmberg asked Marie Ballou, Emergency Management to come to the commissioner's room to discuss courthouse yard maintenance. Commissioner Malmberg said there are tons of dead weeds in the rock beds, leaves, pallets, branches, and rocks that she would like to see cleaned up. Commissioners wanted to replant bushes or flowers. Marie asked what the budget on this should be. Commissioner Wolf would like to see an idea of what they wanted before deciding on a budget. Commissioner Malmberg would like to start watering the grass. Commissioners want the outside of the courthouse to look nice.

Commissioner Mortimer moved to take a 3-minute break. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Richard Buck, County Attorney, discussed KCAMP with commissioners.

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With no further business before the board Commissioner Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:13pm. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

ADOPTED this 11th day of April 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Member

D.D. Malmberg, Chairman

Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

Heather Maddox, Deputy County Clerk