

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

January 16th, 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,

Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg

Stephanie Watkins, Deputy Clerk

Heather Maddox, County Clerk

Michelle Campbell, Human Resources

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

Karl Leech came into the meeting at 8:07 am

County Departments:

Sheriff

Prisoner count Saline County, 13 and Ottawa County 11. Total 24 inmates.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to accept the invoice for the Kansas National Resource Coalition for 2024 membership dues in the amount \$5,000 for a project that will assist our county in agriculture preservation.

Commissioner Mortimer came into the meeting at 8:23 am.

Commission signed off on abatements.

Steve Haley and Jeff Scheele came into the meeting at 8:44 am

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to recognize January as Human Trafficking Prevention month.

Bobby Boss came into the meeting at 8:48 am.

Haley, Boss, and Scheele let the commission know that Fire District #4 has voted in Scheele and Frances Baker to the fire board.

Wolf asked how many members they have on the board. Boss said 7 members.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to make Frances Baker and Jeff Scheele board members for Fire District #4.

Noxious Weed

Chris Smith, Road and Bridge Administrator and Joe Mullen, Road Supervisor came into the meeting at 8:56 am. Smith requested a executive session for non-elected personnel.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 15-minute executive session for personnel exemption to discuss a non-elected employee including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Smith and Mullen. To return at 9:15 am.

Smith explained that the extreme cold has gelled all the motor graders up. They have one loader that is working on clearing drifts. The salt sand trucks are running the blacktops. Smith and Mullen left the meeting at 9:21 am.

Clerk

Clerk Maddox requested a executive session.

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 including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and Maddox. To return at 9:27 am.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to give Stephanie Watkins the newly deputized clerk a \$.50 raise effective January 9th.

Maddox updated the commission on new Statutes for elections.

Maddox let the commissioners know that there will be a watermark on ballots each year. Maddox also told the commissioners that the Clerk's office personnel will not be able to conduct early advanced voting and it will need to be done in another room per Statute. Maddox will have to hire or borrow someone to work the early election board. Maddox said Coleman has the security gate up in the vault. There is a \$1,943.36 reimbursement for Election security

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due from the State.

Maddox discussed upcoming meetings for her and her staff. She asked if there was anyone who could answer the phone in the Clerk's office.

The group discussed abatements and deeds and how the process works within CIC and the rest of the courthouse. Commission discussed approval of the invoices.

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$110,653.10

County General	\$90,519.89
Road & Bridge	\$12,088.15
Solid Waste	\$3,300.00
Employee Benefits	\$875.00
Law Enforcement Center	\$3,175.44
Aging	\$164.98
Historical	\$58.62
Technology Fund/CLER	\$141.62
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$329.40

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the claims as presented under protest, due to the purchase of two 2023 Dodge Durango's purchased by the Sheriff's department in the amount of \$43,735 each. This is above the \$10,000 purchasing policy limit set by the board of county commissioners.

Museum Board

John Carson, Jim Kay, Janna VanMeter, Margaret McGavran, Ray McGavran, Jerry Schmidt, Keith Coleman came into the meeting at 10:36 am. Kay discussed that he went to the city council meeting and they said they will pay the city bill for this year for the current year of 2024. Kay said he expects the commissioners to take the city bill out of the county general budget for the Future Museum. Kay told the commissioners that Resolution 23-20 for the transfer of money from the Museum Budget to the Museum Capitol Outlay Fund, hasn't been done. Kay said that the Board will need to hire work done at the Blue Store and that it was important that they try to keep business local. Kay said that Mark Smith with the city, Keith Coleman, Facilities Maintenance, and a contractor walked through the building to determine what will need to be improved for the future Museum to be ADA compliant. Kay said as far as funding is concerned, he contacted North Central Regional Planning and they haven't gotten back with him. Kay and Schmidt would like to have a consultant. Kay reached out to K-State and Wildcat Consulting. They are student led. Schmidt contacted a consultant in Salina, also. Kay called Pestinger's about purchasing dehumidifiers as the humidity is bad in the Blue Store. Last week Schmidt met with Kyle Peterson at the Mitchell County Museum. Wolf asked when they planned on being moved to the future Museum. Kay said in a year. Kay said funding is an issue since there is only around \$100,000 available for the project. Malmberg asked the Board if they have the county purchasing policy. The board said yes. Wolf said she would like to get things moved to get rid of current storage payments. Malmberg said the Curator met with the commission and she said that she is ready to move into the future Museum. Kay said they are a long way from moving. The Curator needs clarification on who she should report leave to. Malmberg said it is difficult for one person to report to a board that meets once a month. Malmberg was looking at the Museum by laws, there are discrepancies about the appointment of members that need corrected. Malmberg said it states there is an annual meeting with the commissioners and the board is supposed to present an annual report at that time. Malmberg would like the museum board to look over their by-laws. The museum board left at 11:05 am.

Commissioner Mortimer shared an email with Jerry Schmidt about previous consulting on the future Museum the commissioners had done before the purchase for the museum.

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

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With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm on motion by Malmberg and seconded by Mortimer. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of January 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Chairman

D.D. Malmberg, Vice-Chairman

Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

Heather Maddox, County Clerk