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# OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

### FEBRUARY 18, 2025

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#### **Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Carla Grund, First District

Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Second District

Commissioner Duane Morris, Third District

#### **1. Call To Order**

Commissioner Mortimer called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., followed by the flag salute.

Commissioner Morris led the group in opening prayer.

#### **2. Repeal Resolution 23-10 Transient Guest Tax**

Jeff Ebel, County Attorney, discussed the repeal of Resolution 23-10 Transient Guest Tax. He stated this resolution was passed but was not able to be acted upon. The Kansas Department of Revenue did not approve the resolution due to incorrect language; therefore, the resolution was not able to be enforced. Ebel stated he will correct the resolution with the correct language and change the percentage to 5%. He also reminded the Commission that the Kansas Department of Revenue will get 2% of the dollars collected and reviewed the next steps in the process.

MOTION – To repeal Resolution 23-10 Transient Guest Tax

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Grund

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

#### **3. Sanitarian Contract**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented the sanitarian contract from Phillip Murrow with NCKLEPG.

Commissioner Grund asked about county liability. Jeff Ebel, County Attorney, stated the contract states we are a part of a board. He is an independent contractor and responsible for his own business.

MOTION – To approve the interlocal service agreement contract, with the first six months from time period January 1 to June 30 will be \$750.00 and will be \$1,500.00 annually beginning July 1 and going forward.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

#### **4. Zoning Board Appointments**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented the zoning board appointments. The new term will be from February 2025 to February 2028. The request is to appoint the following members: Phil Ballou, Jeff McHenry, and Arlan Bacon.

MOTION – To appoint Phil Ballou, Jeff McHenry, and Arlan Bacon to serve on the Zoning board and to serve from February 2025 to February 2028.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

#### **5. Mower Tractor Purchase**

Chris Smith, Public Works Director, presented bids to rent three mower tractors. Staff recommendation is to rent from Carrico Implement for \$7,252.00 per tractor for greater of 12 months or 350 hours. Smith noted that Carrico had presented their bid within the timeframe requested. He stated they spent over \$17,00.00 on fixing just one tractor alone last year. The county would still be responsible for damages, but not mechanical issues. He stated this does not include mower decks; they have to be purchased separately. He reviewed bids received for the decks. He stated the bid from Lott Implement is a little bit more expensive, but they are local. Smith stated the mower decks, on average, get ten years or more of good use. The mower deck bid from Lott is \$24,000.00 each, for a total of \$72,000.00. Smith stated he is working on building an equipment capital outlay fund for future large purchases. After reviewing the purchasing policy, it was the consensus of the Commission to review the purchasing policy before making a decision. Smith also gave an update on High Plains Resources for geophysical surveying. He stated he can try to set up a phone conference with the Commission.

#### **6. Recess**

MOTION – To recess for five minutes

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

#### **7. Resolution 25-05 End of Year Transfers**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented Resolution 25-05 End of Year Transfers. She reviewed the transfers and the statute that allows for the transfer. Transfers include the following: County General Custodial to County Capital Outlay Reserve (\$96,800.00); County General Emergency Management to PS Radio Maintenance/Upgrades (\$10,000.00); County General Emergency Management to Emergency Management Capital Outlay (\$10,000.00); County General Transfers to Law Enforcement Center Capital Outlay (\$135,000.00); Election to Election Capital Outlay (\$3,000.00); Road and Bridge to Special Machinery (\$200,000.00); Noxious Weed to Noxious Weed Capital Outlay (\$100,000.00); Fire District

#1 O&L General to FD#1 Capital Outlay (\$2,367.00); Fire District #2 Minneapolis General to FD#2 Capital Outlay (\$60,000.00). Commissioner Grund asked about budget authority. Cox confirmed the budget authority available with each transfer.

MOTION – To move to approve Resolution 25-05

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **8. Envisioning Session**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, reviewed the Commissioner's envisioning session. She reviewed the year one goals the Commission wanted to concentrate on. Cox discussed the goal of the pay scale and stated each Commissioner will meet with the Arnold Group to review the wage study process. The next goal is to review Employee Benefits/Insurance, Cox stated a committee has been formed and will meet next week. The Commission also discussed keeping revenue neutral and doing the budget in-house. Commissioner Mortimer stated we should use Scot Loyd this year to help explain the budget and how it was done in the past. Commissioner Morris stated with this being the first year, it would be a steep learning curve to do it in house this year and has concerns about continuity in the future. Commissioner Grund stated she is willing to do the budget. Commissioner Mortimer also stated it can be difficult for a commissioner to do the budget because they can't make any decisions. He stated Scot Loyd will help go through the budget and explain everything. JoDee Copple, County Treasurer, stated another benefit of using Scot Loyd is he knows the history of the budget and what departments receive a certain mill levy. Commissioner Morris suggested having the County Clerk contact the Loyd Group to see what options are available to complete the budget and how Commissioner Grund can be involved. Commissioner Grund discussed issues she found in the 2025 budget prepared by the Loyd group.

MOTION – To have the County Clerk contact the Loyd Group to see what options are available for doing the budget

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

**MOTION PASSED 2-0-1 (Aye: Commissioners Mortimer and Morris; Abstain: Commissioner Grund)**

The Commission discussed the last goal of the transient guest tax. They have repealed the original resolution and Jeff Ebel, County Attorney is working on a new resolution to present.

## **9. Approval of Accounts Payable and Commission Minutes**

MOTION – To approve the minutes of February 10, 2025

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

MOTION – To approve accounts payable for \$49,825.29

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

#### **10. Clerk Comments**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, discussed upcoming dates for trainings from Emergency Management.

#### **11. Commissioners Comments**

Commissioner Grund discussed a Kansas Department of Insurance article about delinquent properties. She also discussed salaries and wages and a grant guide from KAC.

#### **12. Adjournment**

MOTION – To adjourn the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

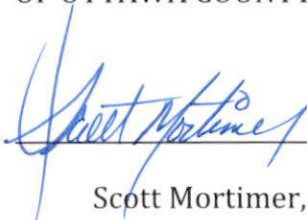
SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

ADOPTED this 24 day of Feb 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS





Scott Mortimer, Chairman



Carla Grund, Member



Duane Morris, Member

ATTEST:



Tammi Cox, County Clerk