



# Ottawa County Commission Agenda

**April 21, 2025**

**307 N Concord St**

**Minneapolis, KS 67467**

*All times are approximate*

1. Call To Order 8:00 a.m.
  - Prayer
  - Flag Salute
  
2. Public Forum – This is reserved for public comment for any items no on the agenda 8:05 a.m.
  
3. Solid Waste – Chris Smith, Publick Works Director 8:25 a.m.
  
4. Consent Agenda 8:45 a.m.
  - Accounts Payable
  - Correction Orders
  - Minutes (April 14th)
  
5. Sexual Assault Awareness Month – DVACK 9:00 a.m.
  
6. Clerk Comments 9:15 a.m.
  
7. Commissioners Comments 9:20 a.m.
  
8. Announcements 9:30 a.m.
  
9. Adjournment 9:35 a.m.

# April 2025 Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**WHEREAS**, April is designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), a time to educate the public, honor survivors, and raise awareness about the prevalence of sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 2 women and nearly 1 in 3 men will experience some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime, revealing the widespread and far-reaching impact of sexual assault on individuals and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in the state of Kansas, one incident of rape is reported to law enforcement every 7 hours, 51 minutes, and 23 seconds, underscoring the urgent need for continued awareness, education, and efforts to prevent sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Kansas Bureau of Investigations, a rape victim is most often female (94.6%), with 62.3% of victims under the age of 25. Offenders are typically male (88.7%), with 18.9% of them being between the ages of 15 and 20 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, the crime of rape is spread relatively evenly throughout the week, with Saturdays being the highest day of occurrence, accounting for 18.1% of all reported incidents. The majority of these incidents occur between midnight and 2:00 AM, a critical time for prevention, intervention, and awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, within DVACK's 7 county catchment area served by the Concordia satellite office, 11 incidents of rape were reported in 2023, yet only 2 arrests were made, representing just 18.2% of reported cases resulting in an arrest. This statistic highlights the need for stronger enforcement of justice, better support for survivors, and improved law enforcement response to sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the many challenges faced by survivors of sexual violence, including fear of not being believed, societal stigma, lack of resources, and barriers in the legal system, which contribute to underreporting and impede justice for many; and

**WHEREAS**, as a community, we must work together to address the issues surrounding sexual violence, support survivors in their recovery, and advocate for a justice system that holds offenders accountable while providing necessary services and protections for victims;

**WHEREAS**, the Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas, also known as DVACK, provides 24/7/365, free and confidential services to victims of sexual violence in Ottawa County; and

**WHEREAS**, DVACK advocates are available 24/7 at (785)827-5862 or toll free at 1-800-874-1499.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2025 as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date