

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

December 19, 2022

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,

County Clerk, Heather Maddox

Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg

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

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved the December 12th, 2022 minutes as presented.

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer/Payroll Clerk came into the meeting at 8:09am

Malmberg opened mail, from the US Census, a Christmas card from a vendor, a solid waste request from Winebrenner's in Culver, and a letter from Minneapolis High School about a donation to Project Grad.

**Claims for Approval: Totaling \$50,901.00**

County General	\$20,753.45
Road & Bridge	\$4,090.32
Ottawa County 911	\$329.60
Election	\$1,482.82
Noxious Weed	\$179.32
Aging	\$72.08
Bennington TWP	\$16,115.00
Historical	\$94.62
County Health	\$72.08
Appraiser	\$138.70
FD#1 O&L	\$65.31
FD#3 Delphos	\$2,025.92
Commissary	\$1,313.76
Law enforcement	\$4,168.02

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved the claims as presented.

**Public Comment:**

Jim Kay, Museum board member came into the meeting requesting the commission to pass a resolution for the amount of \$4,400 to be moved from the Ottawa County Historical fund to the Museum Expansion fund. Kay also requested to have the signs from the commissioner's room put into the Museum. Commission said that wouldn't be a problem, Kay then got into the commissioner's closet and found the signs he requested. Kay left the meeting at 9:56 am.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to pay Minneapolis Project Grad 2023, \$250.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved Resolution 22-23 to transfer \$5,000 from Election fund to Election Capital Outlay fund.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved Resolution 22-24 to move \$95,347 from County General fund to County Courthouse Improvement fund

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On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved resolution 22-25 to move \$5,000 from Ottawa County General Emergency Management fund to Emergency Management Capital Outlay fund.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved Resolution 22-26 to transfer \$5,000 from Ottawa County Noxious Weed to Noxious Weed Capital Outlay.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved Resolution 22-27 in the amount of \$13,5000 to be transferred from the County General fund to the Law Enforcement Center Capital Outlay.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved Resolution 22-28 for the transfer of \$200,000 from County General to the Law Enforcement fund.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved Resolution 22-29 for the transfer of \$275,000 from the road and bridge fund to the special bridge fund.

## **County Departments:**

### **Sheriff**

Prisoner count for Ottawa County 3, Saline County 25, Sedgwick 17, for a total of 45.

Russ Thornton, Sheriff, was asked by Malmberg if the sheriff's office will be putting out bids for the 800mhz radios. Thornton said yes, he feels like the interest rate will be lower with local banks. Malmberg asked what the payments would be each year going through leasing. Thornton said that they would be 5-year leases. Thornton said he is able to pull up to \$75,000 with his own funds, \$55,000 Commissary, \$14,000 from drug and alcohol fund, \$11,000 911 fund to add up to \$191,380.69 is the total cost for the deputy radios and dispatching system. Thornton is asking for ARPA funds from the commission to help with the project. Thornton brought up a metal detector for Courthouse safety the option that Thornton is looking at will cost \$7,500, this is for the metal detector, hand wand metal detector, set up, and training. Malmberg asked since we have to have a person stationed at the detector, why can't we just have a hand wand? Thornton said that this option would be easier to push 20 people through rather than using a hand wand on all of them. Thornton is asking for ARPA funds for this project.

### **Treasurer/Payroll**

JoDee Cople, Treasurer/Payroll Clerk presented the commission with a wage study proposal. Cople did reach out to HR partners about implementing a new wage scale and they suggested, there should always be a third party involved. It shouldn't be on the commission to decide what wages should be. Cople asked the commission if they could vote on it in January. The commission will revisit this request on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Road and Bridge**

Greg Dockins, Road and Bridge Administrator Chris Smith, Road and Bride Supervisor, and Josh Beckman with Kirkham Michael came to discuss a bridge grant that Ottawa County was accepted for. Dockins talked to the commission about being approved for the structure located on Laramie Rd west of Minneapolis. Malmberg wanted to know if there is a study that would be able to see if this bridge is necessary. Smith said he could go out to the 4 residents and talk with the owners and see if this would affect them in any way. Beckman told the commission that the travel count is 400 per day on that bridge. Malmberg said she would like to see what the survey says before accepting the bridge to be fixed.

### **Noxious Weed**

Kenny Baccus, Noxious Weed Director, talked with the commission about the department and what they have been doing. They have finished spraying for the year, and the sprayer has been winterized. The spray truck has been over to Great Bend to get updated fixes done. The boom mower has been out, when possible. Bennington, Center and Culver Townships have been sprayed and mowed. K-WORCC did an annual inspection at the Noxious Weed department, and they got tagged for fire extinguishers and an extension cord. All issues were fixed. Baccus said Marie with Emergency Management asked Baccus to pull up emergency signs around the county that are old, and need to be removed. Baccus will get with Chris Smith to collaborate over this project. Baccus said he is anticipating about 75 signs total that will need to be taken down. Baccus gave bids for chemicals to the commission.

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Malmberg asked what was left in the Noxious Weed budget. Baccus said with all December bills paid there will be a total of \$29,000 left over. Baccus discussed what chemicals have gone up in price from last year.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved the chemical bids in the amount of \$14,922 from Nutrien Ag and \$9,170.88 with VanDiest.

Baccus would like to get approval to get a job description out to the newspaper and website. The position would be open until filled. Malmberg asked if the Noxious Weed Department could hire a seasonal worker instead of a full-time position. Baccus said there is a lot to do even in the wintertime considering they don't have a secretary to help with paperwork. Commission approved to get the job posted.

## **Facilities Maintenance**

Keith Coleman, Facilities Maintenance Manager talked to the commission about the sewer in the basement. Last week Coleman had to flush the drains again. Coleman is needing to get into the pipes. He would need to get under the floor in the apartment. Coleman would like to get a camera in the pipe to see what is causing the blockage. Commission said this is a good idea. Coleman said he will be working nights and weekends to get this done. It will be too loud and he doesn't want to disrupt the workplace during business hours. Commission approved Coleman working on the project.

## **Emergency Management**

Marie Ballou, Emergency Management talked with the commission about getting FEMA money from the December 2021 windstorm. Ballou also has a HazMat IQ for 1<sup>st</sup> Responders training that will be taking place in February and in March. Commission talked with Ballou about her department.

## **Appraiser**

Kim Winsett, IT, talked with the commission about the new server for the county, she is just wanting to get approval for moving forward getting the new server ordered.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to have Kim purchase a new server within the confined purchasing agreement.

Winsett asked the commission to approve her raise for IT effective January 1.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to accept the request for IT pay beginning January 1st.

With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 11:34am on motion by Wolf and seconded by Malmberg. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 3rd day of January 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Wolf, Member

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D.D. Malmberg, Chairman

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Scott Mortimer, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

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Heather Maddox, County Clerk