
OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

JANUARY 21, 2025

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Carla Grund, First District

Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Second District

Commissioner Duane Morris, Third District

Staff Present:

Tammi Cox, County Clerk; JoDee Copple, County Treasurer

Others Present:

1. Call To Order

Commissioner Mortimer called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and Commissioner Grund led the group in opening prayer, followed by the flag salute.

2. Approval of Agenda, Correction Orders, Accounts Payable, and Commission Minutes

MOTION – To add wellness center discussion, appellate work, and executive session to the agenda and move the emergency management new hire discussion to next week

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve correction orders

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

Commissioner Grund discussed the payment for Golden Wheel. There was concern since they are not serving meals. She suggested not paying the \$42,500.00 appropriations until they have spoken with the Golden Wheel and Health Department next week.

MOTION – To take a five-minute recess

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve accounts payable for \$71,673.59

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve the minutes of January 13, 2025 as amended

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve the minutes of January 07, 2025 as amended

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

3. Road and Bridge Capital Outlay Fund

MOTION – To rectify a motion made January 7, 2025, motion to not transfer the \$101,540.43 to the Road and Bridge Capital Outlay Fund and have the money remain in the County Capital Outlay Fund earmarked for road and bridge purposes.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

4. Culver Fire Department Appointment of Members and Update

Renee Mattison, Culver Fire Department, presented the Culver Fire Department member appointments. The appointments are as follows: Chairman – Chad Mattison; Vice Chairman – Aaron Kirby; Secretary – Tricia Valesquez; Treasurer – Renee Mattison; Fire Chief – Samuel Davis; Assistant Fire Chief – Zack Heinecke. Renee Mattison stated they just recently fitted everybody for bunker gear. Commissioner Mortimer asked about air packs. Renee Mattison stated they have two. Commissioner Mortimer suggested reaching out to other fire departments for additional gear. Renee Mattison stated they will be turning over funds to the County Treasurer and closing the bank account. This way, they would be processing their bills going forward through the County.

5. Recess

MOTION – To take a five-minute recess

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

6. Wellness Center Discussion

The Commission discussed the wellness center as a benefit to employees and desire to lower contracted price. The Commission wants to explore if increased use of wellness center could reduce healthcare costs as part of the 2026 benefits discussions.

7. Executive Session – Confidential Data

MOTION – To move to executive session under the Confidential Data exception to the discuss trade secrets for 15 minutes to return at 11:04 a.m. to the Commissioner’s Room with Truette McQueen, County Appraiser and Tammi Cox, County Clerk

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken

MOTION – To extend the Executive Session for ten minutes to return at 11:15 a.m.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken

8. Appellate Work Contract with Attorney General’s Office

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented a bill for appellate work with the Kansas Attorney General’s office from July 01, 2024 to June 31, 2025 for \$2,805.00.

MOTION – To pay \$2,805.00 to the Kansas Attorney General’s Office for appellate services for July 01, 2024 to June 31, 2025.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

9. Budget Services

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented a contract from Scot Lloyd for budget services for \$25,000.00. Commissioner Grund does not want to spend \$25,000.00 on outside budget services. She stated she wants to try to do the budget. It was the consensus of the Commission to have Commissioner Grund look into doing the budget and not approve the contract today.

10. Solid Waste Fee Exemptions

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented Solid Waste Fee Exemptions that were filed for Marsha Everhart, First Baptist Church, and Cody Steinbrock.

MOTION – To approve the staff recommendations for solid waste fee exemptions

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

11. Recess

MOTION – To take a five-minute recess

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

12. Envisioning Session

The Commission discussed their one-year, two-year, four-year, and ten-year goals. Commissioner Mortimer stated his top goals are to work on the pay scale, insurance, jail upgrade, and the dump trucks. He also discussed the Golden Wheel. Commissioner Morris stated he agreed with Commissioner Mortimer and also has goals to lower taxes, improve communication, and getting the jail to full use, look at improving the windows of the courthouse and improve Granite Road from Lindsay to 180th. He stated the road project would be a long term goal. Commissioner Mortimer stated we also need to add the roof of the courthouse to the list. Commissioner Morris also discussed transient guest tax, liquor tax and possibly a sin tax. The Commission discussed sales tax. Commissioner Grund stated her goals in addition to those already presented, are determining if the budget goal is the Revenue, Neutral Rate, exploring what grant funding is available, doing the 2026 budget inhouse, a four-year capital outlay plan, improve relationships with Commissioners and staff, economic development, work with Choose Ottawa County, and museum improvements. The Commission discussed the Blue Store and what to do with it and Commissioner work sessions previously held before Commissioner meetings.

13. Recess

MOTION – To take a five-minute recess

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

14. Envisioning Session Continued

It was the consensus of the Commission to no longer have work sessions before the meetings. They also discussed the museum, increasing the tax base, and adequate reserves for ongoing capital improvements.

15. Adjournment

MOTION - To adjourn the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

MOTION BY- Commissioner Grund

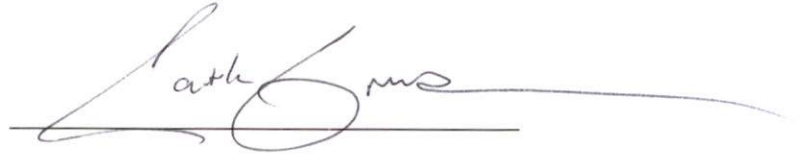
SECONDED BY - Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0


ADOPTED this ___ day of ___ 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Scott Mortimer, Chairman



Carla Grund, Member



Duane Morris, Member

ATTEST:



Tammi Cox, County Clerk

