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# OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

### MAY 11, 2026

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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. Commissioner Grund led the group in opening prayer followed by Commissioner Mortimer with the flag salute.

#### **2. 2027 Appropriation Request – Ottawa County Museum**

Leland Davis, Ottawa County Museum Board President, gave an overview of the Ottawa County Museum budget request. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$65,00000; this would be \$9,200.00 less than 2025. The museum is going to a 501c3.

#### **3. Ottawa County Museum Memorandum of Understanding**

MOTION – To approve the MOU with the museum

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

#### **4. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel**

MOTION – To move to executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss non-elected personnel for 5 minutes to return at 8:19 a.m. to the Commissioner's Room with Tammi Cox, County Clerk.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

No action taken

#### **5. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel**

MOTION – To move to executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss non-elected personnel for 20 minutes to return at 8:48 a.m. to the Commissioner’s Room with Truette McQueen, County Appraiser.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

No action taken

#### **6. Letter of Support for the Minneapolis Recycling Center**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented a letter of support the Minneapolis Recycling Center as requested last week. The Minneapolis Recycling Center is requesting the letter for a grant.

MOTION – To move to approve the letter from the Board of County Commissioners to support the Recycling Center in Minneapolis

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

#### **7. 2027 Appropriation Request – OOCK**

Sheila Nelson-Stout, President/CEO, gave an overview of the OOCK. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$21,800.00; this is the same amount as 2025.

#### **8. Road & Bridge Update**

Chris Smith, Public Works Director, gave a Road & Bridge update. Smith provided a list of completed projects since March 09, 2026. He stated they are preparing to begin crack sealing and that will take everyone. Smith stated Kirkham Michael was chosen to be the inspector for the project on Old Highway 81. Tammi Cox, County Clerk, discussed the motion last week regarding the motor graders driving personal vehicles and getting rid of the additional pickups. She stated they are working with the auditor to find the appropriate way to pay it out. Commissioner Grund inquired about the potential FEMA reimbursement of 230<sup>th</sup> south of Highway 18. Smith stated that he had given all the information to FEMA and was waiting to hear back. Commissioner Grund stated she will work on a Capital Improvement Plan for Road & Bridge. Commissioner Grund asked about the landfill. Smith stated the landfill is leased.

#### **9. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel**

MOTION – To move to executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Emergency Management staff for 15 minutes to return at 10:13 a.m. to the Commissioner’s Room with Tammi Cox, County Clerk.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

MOTION – To move to hire Marie Ballou to fill in as needed in Emergency Management at \$25.00 per hour for temporary help

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

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

MOTION – To approve consent agenda that includes accounts payable in the amount of \$103,080.30 and the Commission minutes for May 04, 2026.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **11. Clerk Comments**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, reminded the Commission there will be no meeting May 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day. She stated department head budget presentations are May 26<sup>th</sup>. Cox also discussed purchasing a sign stand for the hallway during meetings for \$25.00 to remind people of a meeting is in process to help keep noise down. Commissioner Morris will look into an electronic sign.

## **12. Executive Session – Confidential Data**

MOTION – To move to executive session under the confidential data exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss confidential data for 15 minutes to return at 10:44 a.m. to the Commissioner's Room with Tammi Cox, County Clerk.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

MOTION – To move to extend executive session under the confidential data exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss confidential data for 15 minutes to return at 11:00 a.m. to the Commissioner's Room with Tammi Cox, County Clerk.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

No action taken

### **13. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Grund stated the Commission was invited to breakfast at the Sheriff's Office at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Grund stated that overall she feels the departments in Ottawa County are pretty frugal; and that is why she is looking at other expenses to reduce the budget including appropriations. Commissioner Morris stated Sheriff Russell Thornton; Tammi Cox, County Clerk; and himself will be attending a regional jail meeting with the North Central Regional Planning Commission. Commissioner Morris also voiced concern with the State of Kansas and their spending; including the new lights going up at the interchange.

### **14. Adjournment**

MOTION – To adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

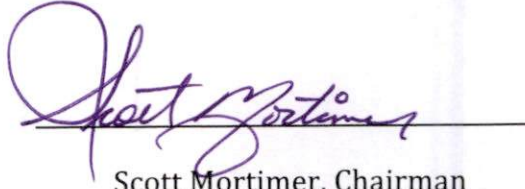
MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Grund

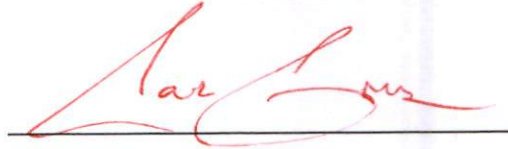
**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

ADOPTED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS



Scott Mortimer, Chairman

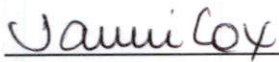


Carla Grund, Member



Duane Morris, Member

ATTEST:



Tammi Cox, County Clerk

