
OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

DECEMBER 16, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Dawn Wolf, First District

Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Second District

Commissioner DD Malmberg, Third District

Staff Present:

Tammi Cox, County Clerk; JoDee Copple, County Treasurer; Sheriff Russell Thornton

Others in Attendance:

Duane Morris, Carla Grund, Karl Leech

1. Call To Order

Commissioner Wolf called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Duane Morris led the group in opening prayer, followed by the flag salute.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION – Approval of Commission agenda

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

3. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

MOTION – To recess to Executive Session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act for five minutes and reconvene in the Commissioners room.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken

4. Public Comment

No Public Comment

5. EMS Grant

Tony Swetson, Bennington EMS, presented a grant in partnership with Minneapolis EMS that was awarded through a three-year, \$300,000 grant for a mobile integrated health program. The program focuses on providing services that traditional home health care cannot, targeting homebound individuals or those with mobility challenges. Services include diabetes management, wound care, post-surgery checkups, COPD and emphysema support, fall assessments, and connecting patients to local resources. The initiative aims to reduce repeat ER visits by filling gaps in care and helping patients remain at home. Two vehicles funded by the grant will operate in Minneapolis and Bennington, and the program will rely on telehealth and referrals from Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), which handle billing. While the program hopes to become self-sustaining, it will cease if no further funding or legislative support materializes after three years. Tony Swetson emphasized the significant need for this program, which also collaborates with Salina and Ottawa County facilities, and the Ottawa County Health Department.

6. Ottawa County Council on Aging Appointments

Sarah Hodges, Health Department Director, presented the Ottawa County Council on Aging board appointments for 2025. There is only one change from last year. The appointments are:

Ottawa County Health Officer: Trisha Smith

Ada Senior Center: George Powell & Jeri VanMeter (new)

Bennington Senior Center: Saundra Long & Judith Swagerty

Delphos Senior Center: Susan Main

Golden Wheel Senior Center: Doug Plummer & Sheila Reed

Niles Senior Center: Sandy Slater & Joan Sullivan

Department Medical Consultant: Dr. Trisha Little

Sarah Hodges stated each center nominates their representative. The Commission discussed using someone who works locally for the department medical consultant. Commissioner Malmberg stated she lives in Ottawa County she is fine with her being the consultant. Sarah Hodges stated the clinic runs underneath the doctor's license; medical consultants are hard to find. The job pays \$100.00 per month.

MOTION – To appoint the 2025 Health Officer, Council Members, and Medical Consultant as presented.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Wolf

MOTION PASSED 3-0

7. Medical Director for Minneapolis EMS

Karl Leech, Minneapolis EMS Director, stated they will be getting a new medical director on January 01, 2025. The new medical director will be Dr. Herrington. Dr Herrington is already the medical director for Bennington and EMS and is the head of the ER at Salina Regional. He is also the director for Lincoln and Salina EMS. The medical director looks over protocols and answers any questions EMS may have.

8. Solid Waste Exemption Discussion

JoDee Cople, County Treasurer, discussed solid waste exemptions. She asked the Commission if they would like to have a staff recommendation from the Appraiser's office. Commissioner Wolf stated if it is in a Commissioner's district they will go look at it. The Appraiser's office does an annual review of properties. The Commission discussed criteria including whether there was water and electricity, if it was livable which means the location could generate trash. It was the consensus of the Commission to have a staff recommendation. JoDee Cople asked if there should be an expiration date on the exemptions. Commissioner Wolf stated it should not be an automatic renewal. Commissioner Mortimer suggested every four years. JoDee Cople asked if the exemptions granted would apply for 2024; the consensus of the Commission was yes.

9. Kimble Mapping Contract

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented the 2025 Kimble Mapping Contract for GIS map maintenance. The total fee is \$12,000.00.

MOTION – Approve contract as presented.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

10. ARPA Funds Discussion

JoDee Cople, County Treasurer, discussed the ARPA funds. She stated the Commission had decided to reimburse salaries. She provided a spreadsheet of how ARPA funds were spent. The total amount to transfer is \$101,540.43. After reimbursing salaries, the rest of the funds will go to capital outlay.

MOTION – Re-allocate to the General Fund the remaining encumbrances for First Wireless/Mobile Radio for 800MHZ Radios for \$39,761.34

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – Re-allocate to the General Fund the authorization for Road and Bridge for Rock Hauling, with current available authorization of \$61,779.09

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To reimburse 2024 labor costs in the General Fund for the period January 25, 2024 to October 24, 2024, limited to ARPA SLFRF available for a total of \$101,540.43

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

11. County Clerk

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, provided AAE's to Commissioners to sign and discussed the Ottawa County real estate taxes for the County. It was stated that this year those funds will come from the County General fund; however next year it would come out of each departments budget for them to pay.

MOTION – For Ottawa County real estate taxes to come out of the custodial line item from the General fund

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

Tammi Cox also asked if the Commission is wanting to join the League of Municipalities. The County was apart of it in 2023, but not in 2024. It was the consensus of the Commission not to join.

12. Economic Development Appropriations

JoDee Cople, County Treasurer, stated the budget for economic development was originally \$50,000.00 and only \$1,500.00 has been used so far for the ROZ program. The remaining balance is for economic development through Choose Ottawa County.

MOTION – Pay the remaining \$48,500.00 to Choose Ottawa County

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

13. Approval of Minutes and Payroll

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$254,440.46

County General	\$13,714.42
Road & Bridge	\$200,971.26
Aging	\$1,864.95
Noxious Weed	\$123.75
Bennington TWP Road	\$2,285.82
Concord TWP Road	\$6,370.04
Richland TWP Road	\$1,400.55
F.D. #1 O&L Gen	\$69.70
F.D. #2 MPLS GEN	\$8,203.80
F.D. #3 DEL Gen	\$619.86
County Health	\$289.45
Historical	\$110.00
Law Enforcement Center	\$5,557.42
Appraiser	\$12,301.16
R.O.D. Tech Fund	\$228.00

Employee Benefits	\$(-0.04)
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$330.32

MOTION – To approve the accounts payable

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve the minutes

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

Prisoner Count – 3

14. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

MOTION – To recess to Executive Session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act for 30 minutes and reconvene in the Commissioners room with JoDee Copple, County Treasurer and Tammi Cox, County Clerk

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Malmberg

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken

15. Executive Session – Attorney-Client Privilege

MOTION – To recess to Executive Session under the Attorney-Client Privilege exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act for 15 minutes and reconvene in the Commissioners room with Jeff Ebel, County Attorney, Sheriff Russell Thornton, JoDee Copple, County Treasurer and Tammi Cox, County Clerk

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Wolf

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken

16. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

MOTION – To recess to Executive Session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act for 3 minutes and reconvene in the Commissioners room with Michelle Campbell, Human Resources Director, Jeff Ebel, County Attorney, and Sheriff Russell Thornton

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Wolf

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken

17.Reorganization of County Duties

MOTION – To reorganize and move HR, Payroll, and IT back to the Clerk’s Office

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

18.Adjournment

MOTION – To adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

19.Meetings Attended

Commissioners Wolf and Mortimer attended the Solid Waste Management meeting on December 11th.

ADOPTED this ___ day of ___ 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Chairman

D.D. Malmberg, Member

Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

Tammi Cox, County Clerk