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# OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

### JANUARY 07, 2025

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#### **Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Dawn Wolf, First District

Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Second District

Commissioner Duane Morris Third District

#### **Staff Present:**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk; JoDee Copple, County Treasurer

#### **1. Call To Order**

Commissioner Wolf called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and led the group in opening prayer, followed by the flag salute.

#### **2. Public Forum**

No public forum

#### **3. Resolution 25-02 Proclamation of a State of Local Disaster Emergency**

Marie Ballou, Emergency Management Director, presented Resolution 25-02 Proclamation of a State of Local Disaster Emergency. The resolution states that certain conditions have caused, or eminently threaten to cause widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property in disaster proportion. Such conditions have created obstructions which endanger health, safety and welfare of persons and property within Ottawa County for the winter storm that occurred on January 06, 2025.

MOTION – To approve Resolution 25-02 that finds certain conditions have caused, or eminently threaten to cause widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property in disaster proportion.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Wolf

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

#### **4. Approval of Agenda, Accounts Payable, and Commission Minutes**

MOTION – To approve the agenda

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

MOTION – To approve accounts payable

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg  
SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer  
**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

MOTION – To approve the minutes for December 30, 2024  
MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg  
SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer  
**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **5. Road Vacation Discussion**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, discussed a proposed road vacation. A request for a road vacation was filed on July 09, 2024. The requestor, Jessica Ebert, has asked for a road vacation on Granite Road between 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup>. The following entities have been notified of the road vacation: Road and Bridge, Appraiser’s Office, County Attorney, County Clerk, Utility Companies, Tescott Rural Fire District, EMS, Emergency Management, and the Sheriff’s Department. This request is the first step to proceeding with the road vacation. If the Commission wants to continue with the road vacation, certified letters will be sent to the adjacent landowners, there will be a publication in the paper 20 days prior to the meeting, and a resolution will be brought before the Commission to approve or deny the vacation. If the road vacation proceeds, costs incurred will include certified letters, mailings and potentially two publications. Staff recommends vacating the road. The road is currently not developed and there are no future plans to develop the road at this time. The road will revert to the landowners. Adjacent landowners Mark Miller and Robert Miller provided statements against vacating the road. It was the consensus of the Commission to continue with the road vacation.

## **6. Executive Session**

MOTION – Recess to Executive Session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Open Meetings Act for ten minutes and reconvene at 3:25 p.m. with County Appraiser Truette McQueen.  
MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg  
SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer  
**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

No action taken

MOTION – Recess to Executive Session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Open Meetings Act for five minutes and reconvene at 3:31 p.m. with County Appraiser Truette McQueen, County Clerk Tammi Cox, and County Treasurer JoDee Copple  
MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg  
SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer  
**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

No action taken

## **7. Employee Recognition**

Marilyn Heck, Register of Deeds, was presented with a plaque and recognized for her years of service to Ottawa County.

## **8. Road and Bridge Capital Outlay Discussion**

Chris Smith, Public Works Director, discussed the Road and Bridge Capital Outlay funds. He discussed using the funds to lease equipment. He stated leasing equipment would be a better option than purchasing. Commissioner Malmberg asked about the interest rate. Chris Smith stated there is no interest rate, if we move forward the only thing we would be responsible for would be damages. He stated it's really more like a rental, we will never own these tractors. He stated \$25,000.00 for three tractors is pretty cheap. We paid \$17,000.00 in repairs this year just to get one machine working. Chris Smith also gave an update on the snow removal.

MOTION – Move the \$101,540.43 from capital outlay to Road and Bridge to use for what makes the most sense

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **9. Resolution 25-01 Solid Waste Management Plan**

Chris Smith, Road and Bridge Administrator, presented Resolution 25-01 Solid Waste Management Plan. The Resolution states the Commission recognizes the importance of adhering to a comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan to address current and future waste management services.

MOTION – Move to approve Resolution 25-01 and adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Malmberg

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **10. Authorized User on County Credit Card**

MOTION – Authorize to remove the prior county clerk for the new county clerk on the county credit card

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **11. Meeting Room Policy Update**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, discussed updating the meeting room policy. A non-local non-profit had asked about using the meeting room over a weekend. With the recent weather events, this would require staff to work outside of normal working hours. The Commission asked the Clerk to review and revise the policy for Commission review and approval.

## **12. Kansas Natural Resource Coalition Membership**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition 2025 membership fee for \$5,000.00. Commissioner Wolf stated staff would need an update on what the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition is working on. Tammi Cox stated she would contact them to ensure we receive regular updates.

MOTION – To approve to pay the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition 2025 membership fee

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **13. Contract for 2024 Audit Services**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented a contract for 2024 Audit Services from Lindburg Vogel Pierce Faris, Chartered Certified Public Accountants.

MOTION – To approve the contract for 2024 audit services from Lindburg Vogel Pierce Faris, Chartered

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **14. North Central Regional Planning Commission 2025 Membership**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented the North Central Regional Planning Commission 2025 membership dues for \$3,500.00.

MOTION – To approve to pay the 2025 membership dues for the North Central Regional Planning Commission

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Malmberg

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **15. National Stalking Awareness Month Proclamation – January 2025**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented the National Stalking Awareness Month Proclamation. Stalking is intentional harassment – a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person, causing that person to feel fear and endangerment for themselves or their family. The variation in stalking behavior ranges from hang-up phone calls to more direct threats toward a victim. The likelihood of injury increases when the stalking behavior escalates over time. Under the laws of Ottawa County, Kansas and all jurisdictions in the U.S., stalking is a crime. The majority of victims are stalked by someone they know, typically an ex-dating partner or acquaintance, and 3 in 4 women killed by an intimate partner had been stalked by that same intimate partner. The statistics do not represent the true incidence and prevalence of stalking for multiple reasons, including not all victims report the crime to law enforcement, and stalking is a tactic of domestic violence and sexual abuse, so it may not be reported as the primary form of abuse and victimization although the victim has experienced stalking along with other forms of abuse.

Communities can better combat stalking by raising awareness, adopting multidisciplinary responses by teams of local agencies and organizations, and by providing more and better victim services.

MOTION – To proclaim January 2025 as National Stalking Awareness Month in Ottawa County

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

#### **16. National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month Proclamation – January 2025**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month Proclamation. Millions of men, women, and children are victims of human trafficking, which is the second-largest and fastest-growing criminal industry in the world. Human trafficking denies victims basic human dignity and freedom and is based on recruiting, harboring, and transporting people through the use of force, fraud, and/or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. It is a crime that can take many forms and tear at our social fabric, debase our common humanity, and violate what we stand for as a country. Traffickers frequently target victims and then use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt bondage, or other forms of control and manipulation to force victims to work against their will or to keep victims involved in commercial sexual exploitation. The U.S. Justice Department has identified Kansas as an originating state for human trafficking, and most trafficking in Kansas involves local children. With improve victim identification, medical and social services, training for first responders, and increased public awareness, the victims who have suffered this cruel crime can overcome the bonds of modern slavery, receive protection and justice, and successfully reclaim their rightful independence.

MOTION – To proclaim January 2025 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Ottawa County

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

#### **17. Announcements**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, wished outgoing Commissioners Wolf and Malmberg well and thanked them for their service to Ottawa County.

#### **18. Adjournment**

MOTION – To adjourn the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

ADOPTED this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_ 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Mortimer, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carla Grund, Vice-Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Duane Morris, Boardmember

ATTEST:



  
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Tammi Cox, County Clerk