

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

## September 5, 2023

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,  
Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer  
Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg  
Karl Leech

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer/Payroll Clerk  
Heather Maddox, County Clerk  
Michelle Campbell, Human Resources

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

Commissioners Malmberg attended harassment training last week.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the August 28, 2023 minutes as presented.

### Claims for Approval: Totaling \$215,970.23

County General	\$13,077.82
ARPA	\$2,650.00
Road & Bridge	\$191,724.08
Solid Waste	\$191.64
Noxious Weed	\$42.62
Building Fund	\$5,950.00
Diversion	\$226.94
Historical	\$64.00
Technology Fund	\$105.00
Law Enforcement Center	\$1,938.13

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

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved to pay, payroll.

Commission discussed high cost of publication fees for the Minneapolis Messenger and if we could possibly look at another paper in the county. Commission discussed the Delphos Republican and the Salina 311 newspaper out of Saline County. There will need to be more research on this matter before a decision is made.

### County Departments:

#### Sheriff

Prisoner count Ottawa County 6, Saline County 8, for a total of 14.

#### Attorney

Commission asked Richard Buck, to come into the meeting to discuss if there should be a resolution for a new credit card policy. Buck said no, that would just be a motion made by the commission.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 5-minute executive session for Attorney-client privilege to discuss the body including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and Richard Buck. To return at 8:59am. No decision was made. Buck left the meeting

#### Road and Bridge

Joe Mullen came into the meeting to discuss motor graders. Commission asked Mullen how many

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hours the graders get used in five years. Mullen said that if a grader operator takes 4 weeks off a year from grading then they will potentially have 4,800 hours on a grader when they trade it off. Mortimer asked Mullen to get a price quote on what it would cost to trade one motor grader in this year. Mullen will bring motor grader average hours to the commission.

### **HR**

Michelle Campbell came into the commission meeting and asked to go into executive session including JoDee Copple, payroll.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 15-minute executive session for non-elected to discuss employment including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Copple, and Campbell. To return at 9:55am. No decision was made.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to extend the executive session for 15-minutes for non-elected to discuss employment including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Copple, Campbell and Truette McQueen. To return at 10:10am. No decision was made.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to have Kim Winsett become a part-time employee effective immediately. During discussion Malmberg said that she feels that Winsett should be a contract employee not a part-time employee. Malmberg Nay, Mortimer Yay, Wolf Yay.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved as of September 1<sup>st</sup> IT contact has been moved from Kim Winsett to Michelle Campbell.

Commission called Randy Gruber to discuss what the Bennington Fire Department and Ambulance will receive in mils for 2024. Wolf left a message with Gruber.

### **Facilities Maintenance**

Malmberg called and asked Keith Coleman to come into the meeting to discuss the camera system. Coleman said that he just needs email addresses to get the link sent to them. Malmberg asked if the jail updates were finished. Coleman said all the deficiencies with the jail kitchen that were reported by the Fire Marshall have been fixed and the report has been sent back to the state for approval. He is in the process of repairing the grease trap. Coleman let the commission know that the new exterior doors will begin being installed started on Monday next week. Coleman left the meeting.

Steve Clanton, FSA board member came into the commission meeting to talk about a Mesonet system. It was discussed that if the Mesonet determines there is a drought, this would qualify farmers for federal funding. Malmberg asked, does the FSA board have funding for this? Clanton said no, that's why he is here talking with the commission. Wolf asked who will man this system? Clanton said K-State. Malmberg asked since Cloud County and Clay County don't have a Mesonet system, should we be putting the system somewhere close to the other counties to share the cost of the tower. Clanton said that the company or K-State will pick where the system goes. Mortimer asked if ARPA funds could be used for this. Maddox said that it could possibly be reimbursed if it is paid for in full by an entity and then Ottawa County could use the invoice for a reimbursement. CoCoRa is currently used but it doesn't monitor like the Mesonet system. Clanton said that the drought monitoring CoCoRa doesn't qualify any farmer for funding.

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With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 11:05am on motion by Wolf and seconded by Mortimer. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 11th day of September 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Wolf, Vice-Chairman

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D.D. Malmberg, Member

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Scott Mortimer, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Heather Maddox, County Clerk