

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

May 31, 2022

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session with First District Commissioner Dawn Wolf, Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg and County Clerk Heather Maddox.

Commissioner Malmberg called the meeting to order at 8:00 am with opening prayer and flag salute.

Commissioner Wolf moved to buy grave markers for the VFW. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. After further discussion it was agreed upon buying 24 grave markers at \$45 each and it would be paid out of the county general budget. Motion carried, 3-0. The VFW provides the Veteran markers to all of Ottawa County cemeteries.

JoDee Copple Treasurer presented a new bank card for Bennington State Bank to the commissioners to sign, it was signed. She also gave commissioners an employee exit interview to review. Commissioner Malmberg asked to discuss the new clerk's wage. Malmberg asked what the starting wage was for the clerk. Heather said it was \$38,000. Commissioner Malmberg asked Heather what experience she had. Heather told the commissioners that she knows how to do everything in the Clerk's office other than the budgets and taxes.

Commissioner Wolf moved to pay Heather Maddox for 30 minutes from 5-2-22. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried, 2-1 Malmberg Nay, Mortimer Yea, Wolf Yea.

Commissioner Malmberg moved to pay Heather Maddox at the starting wage of \$38,000. Motion failed, 1-2 Malmberg Yea, Wolf Nay, Mortimer Nay.

Commissioner Mortimer moved to pay Heather Maddox \$40,000 for the clerk's position starting on May 25th. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried, 2-1 Malmberg Nay, Wolf Yea, Mortimer Yea.

Keith Coleman, Facilities Manager reported working on the Courthouse windows, in the Jail and Dispatch office with software. Keith did some electrical at the Road & Bridge shop. Commissioner Malmberg asked Keith if he has been working with Kim to see what can be done with video and audio for the commissioner's room.

Russ Thornton, County Sheriff gave a prisoner count of Ottawa County 7, Saline County 17, Sedgwick County 26. Commissioner Wolf asked Sheriff Thornton what happens if you are over with Ottawa county inmates, Thornton said they wouldn't have an issue, they have holding cells they could use if needed. Sheriff Thornton asked Commissioners if he could have access to the courthouse security cameras. With the active shooter training it would be beneficial for the Sheriff's department to be able to have access. Sheriff Thornton would like to have keys to the courthouse as well so if an incident happens, they could get in without having to find someone. Thornton certified last week with his K-9 in Hutchinson.

Greg Dockins, Road and Bridge Administrator had employees out mowing when they could and hauled rock. Greg will be hiring a new employee for mowing. Greg updated the commissioners about the fuel system at the shop. Commissioner Wolf talked with Greg about a bridge on Frontier Rd over the weekend Wolf drove by, and there is no railing on one side of the bridge. Greg discussed options with commissioners. Commissioner Wolf also got a few complaints on 170th rd. from the Ottawa County line to 18 Hwy. Greg said they are still trying to get their equipment together to get out and get this fixed.

Kim Winsett, IT, talked with LockIT and they said that the upload process would be an outrageous wait time to get it on the server, because the file is so big. Kim said that going live on YouTube would be the only option as of now. Kim said if the Commissioners would like to move forward she can proceed. Commissioner Mortimer asked to table the discussion.

Randy Gruber, Theresa Charbonneau, David Casper, Cameron Maier, with Bennington Fire/EMS entered the meeting.

Cameron Maier Bennington Fire Department Chief presented the budget to the commissioners. They have a 20%

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increase from last year. They would like to have a few major upgrades, such as updating the SCBA (air pack) equipment that is 30 years old. They are needing to get things more current the total is looking at \$160,000. Mortimer asked if they could do this gradually. Chief Maier mentioned that they have a Dane Hanson grant, and it needs to be used within the year, and they would like to look into 800mhz radio upgrades. Both of these major upgrades would be a 2-year process. They have been looking into other grants, but they are limited to certain stipulations under the grants. Malmberg told the Maier that she appreciated his service.

Jim Kay and Mike Smith came into the meeting.

Theresa Charbonneau Bennington EMS Director, presented the budget. Director Charbonneau said that all the EMS is volunteer, she would like to make things competitive in the county. She would like to open 4 full time positions on the EMS, 2-day shift employees, and 2 on night shift. Something to help with this funding would be to get Ottawa County Health Center to split the transfers. EMS would like to have 800mhz radios as well. Commissioner Malmberg asked how many radios EMS would need. Charbonneau said that there are 24 employees now. Malmberg asked Chief Maier how many the fire department needed, he said that if they had 50 total for all of Bennington fire and EMS, that would be 15 for EMS and 35 for fire department.

Museum board members Janna VanMeter, Jim Kay, John Carson, and Ray McGavran came in.

Bennington Fire department left the meeting.

Mike Smith, Minneapolis Fire Department Chief and Assistant Chief Keith Colman, presented the budget to commissioners. Chief Smith said that he has changed some line items in the budget. Smith let the commissioners know the department only has 2 more payments on their new truck. Smith and Coleman discussed 800mhz radios with commissioners and how it would affect the fire department if the Sheriff office went to 800mhz radios. Coleman said its basically all change or none. Anyone who is on 800mhz cannot communicate with someone who isn't on 800mhz radios. Commissioner Mortimer would like to have a meeting with all Fire Departments about radios. Commissioner Wolf asked Smith if they were good with air packs for the dept. Chief Smith said they are good. The department trucks are getting older and will need to be worked on. Utilities will most likely go up, and fuel. They have increased their budget to account for price jumps.

Mike Smith and Keith Coleman left the meeting.

Ottawa County, Museum Board, raised the salary line but left everything the same as last year. Commissioner Malmberg asked if the curator was the museum employee or the county employee. Janna said that the museum board is the direct supervisor of the curator. And the board reports about the employee to the commissioners.

Kay Baccus came into the meeting.

Janna and the commissioners continued talking about the budget for the museum. Commissioner Mortimer would like for the museum board to continue setting and deciding on raises for the curator's salary.

Museum board left the meeting.

Kay Baccus Ada Fire Department Chief, presented the budget to the commissioners. Mortimer asked Chief Baccus what he thinks about the 800mhz radios, Baccus said he's not sure. Money would be an issue but if that's what's in the future is then it's probable what should be done, Baccus discussed. The Ada tanker is 49 years old, they are looking at an older semi to replace the tanker. Commissioner Malmberg thanked Kay for what he does.

Kay Baccus left the meeting

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Commissioner Mortimer moved to take a 5-minute break. Commissioner Malmberg seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Jim Klein, and Chris Fruits came into the meeting

Jim Klein Delphos Fire District Chief went over the budget with commissioners. Commissioner Mortimer asked Chief Klein about the 800mhz radios. Klein said he would need 22 pagers and 7 radios in trucks. Fruits said we will eventually all be there. Chief Klein said they just moved money around from one line to another on the budget. Commissioner Malmberg told Klein and Fruits thank you for what they do.

Jim Klein and Chris Fruits left the meeting.

Commissioners looked at invoices to be paid, and asked Heather questions.

Culver Fire Department did not show up to the meeting, Heather will call them to see if they can come June 7th.

Tescott Fire Department called and said they wouldn't be able to attend the meeting today and rescheduled for June 7th.

Becky McCary and Glenna Phillips came into the meeting

Glenna Phillips, Executive Director with Central Kansas Mental Health, presented the budget to the commissioners. Glenna talked about certified behavioral health clinics, within a 5-county base. Central Kansas Mental Health has an 9% increase from 2022.

Glenna Phillips and Becky McCary left the meeting.

Commissioner Malmberg moved to go into executive session pursuant to non-elected personnel. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were Commissioners. The group returned to regular session at 12:12pm.

Heather Maddox gave the commissioners invoices, to approve.

Commissioners discussed with Heather about the clerk's budget. Heather will put together a budget for the clerk's office.

Minutes from May 23rd, 2022 were reviewed. Commissioner Wolf moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Malmberg opened mail from Watkins there is a bill for \$967.50. Commissioners coded the bill and gave to Heather to pay. The Historical society sent a letter to the commissioners letting them know updates on the Grace Bedell House located in Delphos. On May 14, 2022, the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review approved the nomination for the Grace Bedell House to the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Richard Buck, County Attorney came in the meeting to sign claims registers, he asked if Heather sent out fence viewing letters from commissioners. Commissioner Malmberg signed them, and Heather will send them out.

Commissioner Wolf spent time with Cameron Maier, Bennington Fire Chief discussing the department's budget over the weekend.

Commissioner Wolf and Commissioner Mortimer attended the Republican Committee Meeting Thursday May 26th, to appoint the new County Clerk.

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Commissioners worked over their budgets.

With no further business before the board Commissioner Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:03pm. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

ADOPTED this 7th day of April 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Member

D.D. Malmberg, Chairperson

Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

Heather Maddox, County Clerk