

## Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

September 27, 2021

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 all present.

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

Minutes from September 20, 2021 were read. Commissioner Mortimer motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Malmberg seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

Heather Ziolkowski was introduced to the commissioners. Heather has been hired to work in the clerk's office.

Those present were JoDee Copple, Heather Ziolkowski and Katrina Pollet.

JoDee Copple, Treasurer asked the commissioners if they want to set a minimum for tax sale. \$100 minimum is common in other counties. Commissioner Malmberg motioned to set a minimum of \$100 for tax sale, Commissioner Mortimer seconded, after discussion, motion passed 3-0.

Keith Coleman, Facilities Manager, reported that Systems 4 was here last week and installed the TXP valve. Keith has made adjustment to fine tune the AC system this week. Keith will contact Systems 4 and request that they remove the R22 freon and replace with the synthetic version. Keith found conduit rusted on the west of the building and replaced. Blower motor in court services was replace. Keith found paperwork on the boiler, the inspection had expired in July 2021. Keith has contacted the state fire marshal and our insurance company to bring us back into compliance.

Russ Thornton, Undersheriff, reported prisoner count of Ottawa County 2, Saline County 9 and Sedgwick County 24. Saline County is starting to bring more prisoners due to covid staff shortages in Saline County. All prisoners are Covid tested and found negative before received by Ottawa County. Commissioner Mortimer asked who the new officer would be in Delphos, Russ stated that Delphos would no longer have one committed officer but would be patrolled in the same manner as other small communities in the county. Russ informed the commissioners that he is researching the cost of 5 new radios with a handheld mic. The radios are needed for correction officers and deputies. There is sufficient budget to cover the cost of the radios.

Russ and the commissioners will discuss his salary after his appointment by the governor. Russ stated that he will be supervising 8 correction officers, 3 deputies and 4 dispatchers. Discussion about advertising and recruiting additional employees. The commissioners congratulated Russ Thornton on his nomination from the Ottawa County Republican Precinct Committee to be recommended for appointment as Ottawa County Sheriff by Governor Kelly.

Jay Wagner presented a letter he received from Leonard Bristow from the Kansas Dept of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources, stating that the changes he made to the riverbank are illegal, unpermitted, and subject to the provisions of DWR administrative regulations. Commissioners & Jay spoke with Leonard Bristow, Water Structures Engineer, during the meeting. Jay should file a request for a 90-day extension, by email, requesting an extension and state that he is working with the county. Commissioners will assist with a plan to stop the erosion. It is required that a licensed engineer must either design the plan or approve the plan. Commissioner Mortimer stated that there are 100's of places like this between Ottawa County and Glen Elder due to the Corp of Engineers releasing water from Glenn Elder. Commissioner Wolf asked if there was any recourse with the Corp of Engineers, there is not. Commissioner Mortimer said we need a long-term plan that is cost effective. Jay Wagner left the meeting.

Greg Dockins, Road & Bridge Administrator, discussed the MOU with Ottawa County Hospital for snow removal. The commissioners would like to review the contract next week with the hospital administrator. Greg reported crew are working the bumps / rough spots on old 81 and hauling dirt in for 135<sup>th</sup> Last week he had 3 crew members out with illness.

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Commissioner Mortimer motioned to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for performance and confidential data (trade secrets) to discuss contracts. Commissioner Malmberg seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were Commissioners and Greg Dockins. The group returned to regular session at 10:00 am.

Richard Buck, County Attorney joined the meeting to discuss the Benefit Cost Analysis and the need for a bond council.

Commissioner Malmberg motioned to go into executive session to discuss confidential data (trade secrets). Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were Commissioners and Richard Buck. The group returned to regular session at 10:30 am.

Commissioner Malmberg motioned to go into executive session for attorney-client privilege to discuss bond council. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were Commissioners and Richard Buck. The group returned to regular session at 10:43 am.

Commissioner Malmberg motioned to authorize the County Attorney to retain a bond council firm to advise and represent the county in the issuance of Industrial Revenue Bonds. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Katrina Pollet, Human Resource Manager asked for an executive session.

Commissioner Malmberg motioned to go into executive session for non-elected personnel to discuss employee contracts. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were Commissioners and Katrina Pollet. The group returned to regular session at 11:05.

With no further business before the board Commissioner Mortimer moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 am. Commissioner Malmberg seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

ADOPTED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

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Dawn Wolf, Chairman

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D.D. Malmberg, Member

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Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

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Vicki L. Jensen, County Clerk