

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

September 13, 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 7, 2021 were read. Commissioner Mortimer move to approve the minutes. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried, 2-0. Commissioner Malmberg abstained, she was absent last week.

Those present were JoDee Copple.

Vouchers were approved by Richard Buck, County Attorney and Commissioners. Wellness Center Memberships will no longer be withheld from employee paycheck starting January 2022. Private membership rates are the same as County rates, so employees can pay memberships directly.

There was no public comment.

Russ Thornton, Undersheriff, Routine Business
Prisoner Count

Saline County - 18
Sedgwick County - 10
Ottawa County - 4

Commissioners asked Thornton about staffing. They would like to see higher wage and less OT. Russ discussed ideas for staffing. One correction officer resigned.

Greg Dockins, Road & Bridge Administrator – Commissioner Wolf brought a picture sent from Trevor Wolf that showed a pasture entrance was removed while they were putting in new ditches. Greg and Commissioner Wolf will look at it and come up with a solution. The Rock City board told Commissioner Mortimer that the road needs work. Averages 40 – 50 vehicles visiting Rock City each week and the Commissioners would like the road to be smoothed out and in good condition for tourism.

Commissioner Mortimer motioned to pay county employees, who have received a letter from the Ottawa County Health Department for mandatory quarantine, their regular wage instead of using sick pay. This decision will be approved through October 31, 2021, then reevaluate. Commissioner Malmberg seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Citizens have asked about building a new war memorial in a location more accessible to the public and asked if there would be funding available. Commissioners discussed location and possible funding. No decision made.

Commissioner Malmberg asked the clerk to request minutes and treasurer report from any entity funded by the county.

Katrina Pollet – Human Resources – HR Discussion – Katrina was absent. Will discuss next week.

Commissioner Mortimer motioned to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters, discussing health insurance qualifications. Commissioner Malmberg seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were Commissioners and Vicki Jensen, County Clerk. The group returned to regular session at 9:00 am.

Truette McQueen, County Appraiser - Zoning for Native Angus Processing Enterprises, LLC (processing / slaughterhouse). Manuel Barreiro was present to represent Native Angus Processing Enterprises, LLC. The zoning board met last week and voted to accept the revised conditions that were submitted to them from the commissioners meeting on August 30, 2021. Commissioner Mortimer motioned to accept Resolution 21-24, Approving a special use to establish a processing plant / slaughter house in the I-1 industrial district on certain grounds located in Ottawa County, Kansas under the authority granted by the zoning regulations of the county. Case No. SU-006-2021. Commissioner Malmberg seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Richard Buck, County Attorney – Native Angus Processing Enterprises, LLC (processing / slaughterhouse) has requested Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB's) and Tax Abatements. Industrial Revenue Bonds process starts with Department of Commerce doing a Cost Benefit Analysis with no cost to the county. Approx. 6 – 8 weeks to

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complete the Cost Benefit Analysis.

With no economic development plan at this time, Richard Buck asked the commissioner what direction they would like to go with tax abatements. Should tax abatements be tied to number of jobs added or amount of money a business invests? How many years for the abatement and what percentage each year? Commissioner Malmberg said she would like to see abatements tied to both jobs and investment. Richard will look into guidelines for IRB's and abatements.

Prior to this meeting, Commission Mortimer had a discussion with Owen Kindall from the Ottawa County Community Development Foundation, requesting additional funding for Director position. They hope to have someone hired by January 2022.

Symmetry natural gas contract for 2022 was presented to Commissioners. This contract will be accepted and signed.

Fence line disputes: Brad Thurston spoke with Commissioner Malmberg about a fence dispute. Commissioners discussed fence viewer laws. A formal complaint will have to be filed before action can be taken.

Keith Coleman, Facilities Management Director is making a master list of keys for the courthouse. Discussion about how to set up vendor accounts and address to mail invoices & statements, commissioners requested that Keith and the clerk work out those details. Keith will go to each county facility and talk to the department head about maintenance. He will also start a maintenance log for all major equipment.

With no further business before the board Commissioner Mortimer moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 pm, Commissioner Malmberg seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

ADOPTED this 20th day of September 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Chairman

D.D. Malmberg, Member

Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

Vicki L. Jensen, County Clerk