

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

May 13, 2024

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

Brandon Cople, Dave Hardesty

Heather Maddox, County Clerk

Stephanie Watkins, Deputy Clerk

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

Commission talked with Dave Hardesty about getting a smaller dumpster since the trash isn't as much as it was in the past due to the jail not having as much waste. Commission asked Keith Coleman, Maintenance to the meeting. Coleman agreed the dumpster could be smaller. Coleman said the chiller is in but needs to be adjusted.

Hannah Bett got back with the commission on the fees for sanitarian and the new amount is \$40,436. Commission is looking at other options for sanitarians due to a significant increase in the requested 2025 budget. Campbell came into the meeting at 8:24 a.m. and asked for an executive session.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 10-minute executive session for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and Campbell. To return at 8:35 a.m.

Public Comment: Brandon Cople discussed with the commission about hydrogen in Ottawa County. Cople attended a meeting in Dickinson County and found out information on this project.

Mortimer stated that taxpayers are asking him about the Jail. Treasurer Cople and Sheriff Thornton came into the meeting at 8:39 a.m. Mortimer said that he wants it to be known that counties around us have built new jails. We have been housing their prisoners, but they are capable of housing their own now. This is not the Sheriff's fault that the jail is empty. Carl Leech came into the meeting at 8:45 a.m. Cople wanted to let the commission know that the Law Enforcement budget is based off revenue, cash flowing in. Taylor Haws and Gretchen Boyum came into the meeting at 8:57 a.m. Cople stated that the Law Enforcement budget is not sustainable without the revenue. Cople explained to the commission that this budget is not the sheriff's fault or due to overspending it's simply because there is no means of income to help build the budget for the law enforcement side. We will have to transfer money from the General budget to help sustain the law enforcement budget. Maddox discussed it should be considered putting the Law Enforcement budget into County General for the 2025 year. Thornton said according to KSA 19-10 B2 medical needs are to come from County General budget and it has been coming from Law Enforcement. Cople and Thornton left at 8:59 a.m.

Central Kansas Mental Health, Taylor Haws, community base service coordinator, and Gretchen Boyum read a Mental Health Proclamation.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to make May Mental Health month in Ottawa County.

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$413,464.75

County General	\$330,177.47
Road & Bridge	\$54,681.45
Special Bridge	\$4,344.23
Solid Waste	\$8,927.22
Noxious Weed	\$270.96
County Health	\$139.92
Vehicle	\$1,740.00
Law Enforcement Center	\$78.08
Aging	\$248.53
Concord TWP Road	\$9,282.83
Richland TWP Road	\$18.77

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F.D #1 O&L GEN	\$62.03
F.D. #3 DEL GEN	\$1,948.45
Historical	\$192.62
Appraiser	\$73.69
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$1,066.04
Election	\$112.50

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

County Departments:

County Counsel

Richard Buck came into the commission meeting at 9:35 a.m. and asked for an executive session.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 10-minute executive session for litigation to discuss on-going litigation including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and Richard Buck. To return at 9:46 a.m.

Commission called Keegan Bailey, Housing Director with North Central Regional Planning Commission. Bailey discussed two new programs that are being offered to residents of Ottawa County. These two programs are, Moderate Income Housing Rehabilitation Pilot Program, and Demolition Pilot Program. Richard left the meeting at 10:30a.m.

Shelia Nelson-Stout President of OCCK, Susan Sprague, Kendra Krier, and Patrick Wallerius came into the commission meeting at 10:30 a.m. Nelson-Stout is asking for a budget amount of \$23,274, this is the same as last year.

Shelia Nelson-Stout, Susan Sprague, Kendra Krier, and Patrick Wallerius left at 10:43 a.m.

Phillip Murrow, Sanitarian came into the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Murrow discussed with the commission about serving 7 counties, Smith, Rooks, Osburn, Mitchell, Phillips, Republic, and Jewell. Murrow's fiscal year is from July 1– June 30. He said he would like a 60-day notice if the County contracts, with him and decides they don't want to continue the contract for the following year. Murrow has three permits he services, they are wastewater permits, well permits, and wastewater evaluation (lagoon, Septic). Murrow stated the annual fee will be \$1,500. If a constituent would like to file for permits, they can get on the website at smcoks.com if needed. Murrow left the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the May 6, 2024 minutes as corrected.

County Departments:

Sheriff

Prisoner count Ottawa County 4.

Commission called Scot Loyd about putting the Law Enforcement budget into the County General budget. Loyd said that if the Law Enforcement budget is over spent then the county could be looking at budget violation. If the budget falls under county general and there is an over spending there would be no violation.