

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

June 3, 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

Michelle Campbell, Human Resources

Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg

Jerry Ayers, Brandon Copple

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

## County Departments:

### Attorney

Richard Buck came into the meeting and asked the commission for an executive session.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 20-minute executive session to discuss ongoing litigation to consult with attorney for body including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and Richard Buck. To return at 8:24 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to extend the executive session 10-minutes for ongoing litigation to consult with attorney for body including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and Richard Buck. To return at 8:34 a.m.

**Public Comment:** Jerry Ayers would like to see the commissioners give one of their employees a compliment. Galen Reinhart is doing an outstanding job in the Wells area. Mr. Ayers stated Galen is doing a heck of a job. He is taking out the washboards and constantly doing a good job.

### Sheriff

Prisoner count 6 for Ottawa County. Russ Thornton, Sheriff came into the meeting and discussed an invoice from an attorney with the commission. Thornton asked for an executive session.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf 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 Russ Thornton. To return at 8:51 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to extend the executive session 10-minutes for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Thornton and adding Richard Buck. To return at 9:01 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to extend the executive session 5-minutes for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Thornton and adding Michelle Campbell. To return at 9:06 a.m.

## Claims for Approval: Totaling \$71,858.33

County General	\$3,727.91
Road & Bridge	\$18,244.39
Solid Waste	\$30,448.03
Noxious Weed	\$16,751.69
County Health	\$694.29
Law Enforcement Center	\$192.12
Aging	\$75.00
F.D. #2 MPLS General	\$1,108.51
Historical	\$59.35
Employee Benefits	\$199.64
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$357.40

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

## **Road and Bridge**

Chris Smith came in to discuss with commissioners what the Road and Bridge has been working on. Wolf was driving from Abilene to Wells on the county roads, and the roads looked good. Wolf stated that as a Board they agree that it might be beneficial to pull employees out of graders and work on ditches. Mortimer stated that when Malmberg and he first got on the board they talked to the Road and Bridge Supervisor at the time about getting two trucks and a track hoe and working a couple of weeks in different locations. Smith stated that we are not doing that because when we get on big jobs it takes everyone in the department. Malmberg stated grading the dirt roads too much is not helping the erosion problem. Smith stated that it depends on what the situation is when they get there. He has discussed with townships the process. Mortimer stated when Smith gets started crack sealing the Ada Road, can he keep some employees on ditches in other parts of the county. Smith stated that he will need all but two operators. Malmberg asked about less grading and more ditch work on dirt roads. Smith stated that yes, he agrees. Malmberg stated that she understands when it rains or doesn't rain, it is a different decision all the time. Malmberg also stated that she has seen them on dirt roads that do not need to be worked. Smith stated that he has one operator right now that is blading his entire territory until he gets more familiar with the area. Wolf stated that Bennington township is going to put sand and rock on Dove Road. Smith stated for them not to do the rock and will get with Bennington Township for the final decision. Wolf stated that the commission knows how good Public Works is doing on the roads and that they appreciate it. Mortimer stated that the commission would not like to purchase graders this year to help with the Road and Bridge budget. They would prefer to upgrade the mowers if possible. The mechanic was not able to go to training for Electronic for Machines and the DEF systems. They are looking at new dates. Malmberg asked if the requested township meeting was set up. Smith stated that he has it ready just has not selected a date yet. Malmberg stated the middle of July or beginning of August might be the best time. Smith stated we are going back out to Pike Trail Marker. They have been working on asphalt, mowing. They did get awarded \$1,016,000 for high-risk rural road grant. This will be used for shoulder widening on 170<sup>th</sup> rd. from Hwy-18 to the Saline County line. This will be a 2026 project. They will crack seal this Fall on half of 170<sup>th</sup> rd. Once the widening is finished, Public Works will do a 2" overlay. Mortimer stated that when it gets rainy, they could clean the ditches out on the Delphos Road. Smith stated that the plan is to dig out some of the Delphos Road to help with drainage.

Jay Hatfield, Richard Buck, and Russ Thornton came into the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Tonya Paul with DVAC, presented the commission with a Proclamation for June 2024 which is Elder Abuse Awareness Month. Mortimer asked about some literature regarding this Proclamation.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to make June Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg moved to pay Loyd Group \$6,942.00 out of ARPA, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved the claims as presented.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 15-minute executive session for ongoing litigation including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Thornton, and Buck. To return at 9:57 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the May 31, 2024 payroll as presented.

Wolf asked Mr. Hatfield if he had any questions or comments. He stated that the elections system is outdated.

Commission called Keith Coleman regarding an unsigned letter from a resident. Malmberg stated that Buck just purchased a server, and she asked if that was going to go on his inventory. Commission discussed inventory with Salamander and CIC. Coleman stated that he would recommend talking to CIC to see about getting the inventory part of CIC.

Cambell, HR informed the commission of two employees that will be retiring this summer.

Thornton came into the meeting and asked the commission for an executive session.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 5-minute executive session to discuss personnel exemption for non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg and Sheriff Thronton. To return at 10:59 a.m.

Thronton asked the commission for another executive session to include Michelle Campbell HR.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 10-minute executive session for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected personnel with Wolf,

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Mortimer, Malmberg, Cambell and Thornton. To return at 11:22 a.m.

Wolf asked Sheriff about the K-9 Officer. Sheriff Thornton said they only have one right now until the other one is certified. Wolf stated that other area commissioners have told her that they use their K-9's to go out with the deputies. Malmberg asked if KHP works with our K-9 as well. Sheriff stated they do call, and the Sheriff's K-9 does go. The Commission discussed how inventory is controlled regarding items getting checked in and checked out. When Narco, the K-9 Officer, is retired, there will be something signed stating he is off our insurance and that he is not property of Ottawa County anymore.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the May 28, 2024 minutes as corrected.

**Upcoming Meetings Commission will attend:**

Scot Loyd budget meeting Thursday at 10 am.

With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m. on motion by Mortimer and seconded by Malmberg. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 10th day of June 2024.

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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Heather Maddox, County Clerk