

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

February 26, 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

Keith Coleman, facilities maintenance manager, Karl Leech, and Museum Board members Jerry Schmidt, John Carson, Jim Kay, and Jeff Hodges.

Heather Maddox, County Clerk

Stephanie Watkins, Deputy Clerk

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

Wolf read an email from Mark Zeltner with Atchison County talking about commissioner rights to CIC access. On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved commissioners are allowed view only access to the CIC accounting suite.

Kathy Scharplaz came into the meeting at 8:05 a.m.

## County Departments:

### Museum

Jim Kay, Museum Board President discussed with the commission a part time employee for 999 hours for the year. The museum board wants this employee to be raised to \$14.00 per hour.

Commission would like to look at the budget with the curator, and will get back with the board.

Kay said that they would like \$100,000 from the county to match \$85,000 in expansion fund, and \$15,000 in their endowment fund.

Kay would like to get figures so they can move forward. Keith said he will get ADA compliant, electrical, and engineering done and get quotes so they can be approved.

**Public Comment:** Scharplaz would like to discuss the jail's financial problem, she is against housing illegal aliens, putting young hostile people in the jail. She feels it will change the community. Commission said it's up to Russ what happens with the jail. Commission told her that the Sheriff was looking at holding deportees that will be transported out with in the month. They would not be released in Ottawa county.

Michelle Murk was present representing the Davidson Agency. Murk said sometimes it's good to have a second opinion on insurance coverage. Commission would like for Murk to set a time and get with the Clerk to provide quotes on county coverage.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 5-minute executive session for confidential data to discuss trade secrets including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and Coleman. To return at 8:47 a.m. No decision was made.

### Sheriff

Prisoner count Ottawa County 9.

Russ Thornton discussed with the commission about quotes he received for repairs on some of the doors at the jail. Russ and Keith left at 8:53 a.m.

### Treasurer

JoDee Copple came into the meeting at 8:56 a.m. and discussed a bankruptcy with the commissioners. Copple left at 8:57 a.m.

Commission went through ARPA funds to get an updated spread sheet back to Carlotta Sunderland with The Loyd Group.

### Road and Bridge

Chris Smith arrived at 9:16 a.m. and brought in a dilapidated housing application for the commission to look over. Commission would like to know the tonnage price. Smith will reach out to the Landfill and get the tonnage price.

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Smith and Campbell brought in the new PPE voucher policy for the commission to approve.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board

approved the new PPE Policy for Public Works Section 30.03 to supersede previous Road and Bridge PPE policy.

Commission discussed free dump days, Smith said that he discussed with MRS and the spring dump days have been set for May 6<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> and tire dump will still be available out at the county shop during these days.

Karl Leech left the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Mike Montoya came into the commission meeting at 10:52 a.m. to discuss becoming the County Counselor.

Montoya said he has worked with Saline County for 35 years. Commission discussed what Ottawa County is doing.

Montoya discussed some options they have. Commission asked if Montoya would be interested in being Ottawa

County Counselor. Montoya and the commission agreed to retain Montoya for the month of March. Russ Thornton

came into the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board

approved a 5-minute executive session for Attorney- Client Privilege Exception to discuss Potential litigation

including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Montoya and Thornton. To return at 11:28 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board

approved to extend the executive session 5- minutes for Attorney- Client Privilege Exception to discuss Potential

litigation including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Montoya, and Thornton. To return at 11:33 a.m.

Thornton, and Montoya left the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to

accept Mike Montoya and the commissioner's mutual agreement for the County Counselor for the month of March.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved

the February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes as corrected.

### Claims for Approval: Totaling \$663,782.43

County General	\$576,947.11
Road & Bridge	\$13,595.64
Buckeye TWP Road	\$6,491.35
Noxious Weed	\$575.00
County Health	\$2,256.09
Law Enforcement Center	\$10,454.82
Aging	\$65.00
Bennington TWP Road	\$5,250.00
Concord TWP Road	\$2,500.00
Sheridan TWP Road	\$1,350.00
Vehicle	\$100.04
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$3043.39
PS Radio Maint/Upgrade	\$15,000.00
Appraiser	\$27.60
Employee Benefits	\$41.66
F.D. #1 O&L Gen	\$300.00

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F.D. #2 MPLS Gen	\$1,300.00
F.D. #3 Del Gen	\$1,683.00
Jail Commissary	\$22,136.05
Election	\$107.68

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

With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 on motion by Wolf and seconded by Malmberg. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

\_\_\_\_\_  
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