

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

June 17, 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

Heather Maddox, County 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 attended the pinning of Deputy Dayton Rindt, Deputy Pelton Smalls, and Undersheriff Jerry Ziolkowski. Sheriff Thornton recognized Sheriff Office staff for their hard work and stepping up the last few months.

Karl Leech came into the meeting at 8:17 a.m.

Commission went over invoices.

Robert Boss and Brian Breese came into the meeting at 8:37 a.m. The Bennington Fire Department would like to ask the commission for a total of \$248,000 for their 2025 budget. Malmberg asked what kind of big purchases they have in mind for 2025. Chief Breese said they have wants and needs but they have things that are outdated like the jaws of life. Brandon Copple and Richard Buck came into the meeting at 8:46 a.m. Chief Breese said they are looking at getting an air dispenser to fill air tanks, this would save them from having to go to Salina. Wolf asked about turn over and how many active volunteers they have. Chief Breese said there are 40+ on the team. Wolf said they have talked to Minneapolis, and they have been toning down the volunteers and it saves them money on disability insurance. Chief Breese said that the average age of volunteers are in their sixties. The volunteers have requirements they have to follow, the Fire Department doesn't let anyone on. Malmberg asked if any of this money is for the EMS side. Chief Breese said no the EMS will present their own budget. Commission asked Breese if he could get the commission a breakdown of funds they are expecting to spend for the 2025 budget year, they would like to see specific line items. Chief said they could do that.

Breese and Boss left the meeting at 8:59 a.m.

Julie Yarmer with Freedom Claims Management came into the meeting at 9:00 a.m. JoDee Copple, Richard Buck and Michelle Campbell came into the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Julie gave a review of the insurance from January 2024 through May 2024. The group discussed different ways of doing health insurance for 2025.

Julie Yarmer left the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

## **County Departments:**

### **Sheriff**

Prisoner count Ottawa County 6.

Copple, Buck and Campbell left the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

### **Appraiser**

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

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 15- minute executive session for employee exception to discuss non-elected including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and McQueen. To return at 10:24 a.m.

### **Public Works**

Chris Smith and Joe Mullen came into the meeting to discuss the Laramie Bridge L.7-130.6, at the junction of Laramie and Pike, on the west side of Minneapolis. Smith discussed with the owner of the property about purchasing the right of way around the bridge. She is in agreement with Smith and Mullen that she will sell the property in the amount of \$1,000. Commissioner Wolf signed the agreement.

### **Attorney**

Richard Buck discussed with the commission about invoices that had sales tax and non-itemized receipts. Buck asked the commission for an executive session.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 15-minute executive session with Attorney for body to discuss ongoing litigation including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and Richard Buck. To return at 11:09 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved the June 10th, 2024 minutes as corrected.

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## Claims for Approval: Totaling \$86,777.89

County General	\$46,285.45
Coronavirus Relief	\$139.00
Road & Bridge	\$25,574.14
Special Bridge	\$4,331.36
Appraiser	\$1,194.30
Noxious Weed	\$4,366.09
County Health	\$1,577.06
Law Enforcement Center	\$101.55
Aging	\$784.01
F.D. #1 O & L General	\$61.43
F.D. #3 Del General	\$1,440.00
Jail Commissary	\$131.96
Historical	\$42.19
Technology Fund/CLER	\$332.77
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$330.32
Election	\$86.26

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

### Upcoming Meetings Commission will attend:

Commissioner Wolf and Commissioner Mortimer attended the Kansas Department of Commerce meeting Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>, at the public Library in Minneapolis

Commissioners Mortimer and Wolf both attended the Bike Across Kansas in Delphos at the City Park on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Wolf attended a retirement party for a Transportation Employee  
Wolf will attend Constitution Alive in Wichita on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. on motion by Malmberg and seconded by Mortimer. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 24th day of June 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