
OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Dawn Wolf, First District
Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Second District
Commissioner D.D. Malmberg, Third District

Staff Present:

Tammi Cox, County Clerk; JoDee Copple, County Treasurer; Shelby Walker, Register of Deeds Office, Michelle Campbell, Human Resources, Dee Velasquez, Facilities

Others in Attendance:

Duane Morris, Jerry Ayers

1. Call To Order

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

2. 4-H Youth Development Contribution

The Commission received a letter asking for support for the Central Kansas District 4-H programs.

MOTION – Approve \$200.00 to go to the Central Kansas District 4-H program which includes Ottawa County.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

3. Approval of Accounts Payable and Prisoner Count,

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$102,768.94

County General	\$16,663.74
ARPA	\$6,017.63
Road & Bridge	\$54,333.53
Solid Waste	\$8,970.92
Noxious Weed	\$13.99
County Health	\$197.74
Law Enforcement Center	\$485.99

Aging	\$141.62
Center TWP Road	\$462.00
Morton	\$11,892.60
Historical	\$140.44
F.D. #1 O&L General	\$376.95
F.D. #3 Delphos General	\$199.00
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$435.00
Election	\$2,437.79

MOTION – To approve accounts payable as presented

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Malmberg

MOTION PASSED 3-0

Prisoner Count – 5

4. Public Comment

Jerry Ayers, Poll Agent, stated he had no issues to report about the election. He stated he attended election worker training and tried to be picky about electrical cords, listening for interaction, etc. and could not find any issues. Jerry Ayers stated the biggest change is the focus being on voters, including adding kid ballots. He gave average times for a voter from check-in to submitting their ballot. Jerry Ayers also stated there was a big push on voter privacy. Commissioner Malmberg stated the final results were on the website by 8:30 p.m. Tammi Cox, County Clerk, commended the election workers and staff for all their hard work. Duane Morris stated he was aware of two people in a township who were switched positions on the ballot. Tammi Cox stated she was aware of the issue but had not been here when the ballots were created. Jerry Ayers also stated he wanted to bring to the board’s attention a possible violation of K.S.A. 19-212, but did not state what it was.

5. Solid Waste Update

JoDee Cople, County Treasurer, stated she spoke with both the City of Minneapolis and the hospital regarding solid waste; both entities appreciated hearing what was going on regarding solid waste.

6. Approval of Commission Minutes for November 04, 2024

MOTION – To approve the minutes for November 04, 2024.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

7. KAC Voting Delegates

It was the consensus of the Commission to have Commissioner Malmberg as the voting delegate for KAC and Tammi Cox, County Clerk, as alternate.

8. Culver Fire Bill Update

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer stated she was in contact with Renee Mattison regarding the Culver Fire bill for the tanker. Renee Mattison is waiting for a call back from the company and they are making payments to them. She also has looked into the Fireman's Relief Fund, and it may be an option, but not until the January disbursement.

9. War Memorial Proposal

Commissioner Mortimer discussed the proposed war memorial and suggested paying for the cement work out of the courthouse improvement fund. He stated this is something that needs to be fixed and suggested looking for any other areas around the courthouse at the time to be updated or repaired. This would be contingent on what the final proposal would be for the war memorial. It was the consensus of the Commission to consider paying for cement work out of the courthouse improvement fund contingent on the final proposal of the war memorial.

10. Road and Bridge Update

Chris Smith, Road and Bridge Director, gave a Road and Bridge update. He stated they have finished Ada blacktop road they have been chip sealing and are back on mowing ditches and other routine tasks. He stated the bill for striping the road was \$10,000.00 less than quoted. Chris Smith stated he had hoped there would be enough leftover oil to do the ballfields, but there wasn't enough and discussed upcoming road projects.

11. Sheriff's Office Update

Sheriff Russell Thornton gave the Sheriff's Office update. He discussed transportation of prisoners from Mitchell County jail for appointments and stated that it should be slowing down. He stated the Kansas Highway Patrol has notified him that himself and Undersheriff Jerry Ziolkowski will receive accommodation medals for the park shooting that happened over the summer. Sheriff Russell Thornton stated they have been working on a grant with the Kansas Department of Transportation and explained the different tiers, stating they are looking into tier 2. Commissioner Mortimer asked if there was any update on the jail. Sheriff Russell Thornton stated there may be some changes in the next coming months. He discussed possibilities of ICE detainees and juveniles. He also stated one deputy has graduated from KLETC and the other will graduate this Friday.

12. Commissioners Wages

Commissioner Malmberg discussed commissioner wages, The incoming commissioner for District 3, Duane Morris, ran on a platform of lowering commissioner's wages and he stated he would take \$10,000.00 less.

13. FCMI Insurance

The Commission reviewed the proposed insurance plan and discussed potential savings with an HSA plan. The County's cost of health insurance went up 28% from last year. The Commission stated their intent is to put more funds into wages, rather than benefits. There was discussion between the Commission and employees regarding the proposed changes. The proposed plan would move the deductible to \$1,000.00 for individuals, \$2,000.00 for family; implement copays on the traditional plan (\$25.00 for primary care office visits, \$50.00 for specialists and urgent care; \$100.00 for emergency room); monthly employee cost for traditional plan would be \$25.00 for single; \$50.00 for employee plus children; \$200.00 for employee and spouse, \$250.00 for family; implementation of Health Savings Account program with the County paying \$50.00 towards the HSA plan and will match an additional \$50.00 if the employee puts in \$50.00.; implement a preventative care checklist which allows employees to receive a \$500.00 deductible credit on the traditional plan for the calendar year of 2026 or to receive \$500.00 additional dollars in their HSA for the same calendar year; monthly employee cost on the HSA plan will be free for employee and children and \$100.00 for spouse or family plan; the dental plan will continue in both plans without an added cost. The Commission also would be approving a \$1.00 raise for all employees except County Clerk, County Treasurer, and County Commissioners for the year 2025.

MOTION – To approve the proposed insurance plan and raise as stated

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Wolf

MOTION PASSED 3-0

14. Adjournment

MOTION – To adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Wolf

MOTION PASSED 3-0

ADOPTED this ___ day of ___ 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Chairman

D.D. Malmberg, Member

Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

Tammi Cox, County Clerk