

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

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

The commission held reorganization as follows,

On Motion by Commissioner Mortimer, Seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved Commissioner Wolf as Chairperson and Commissioner Malmberg as vice-chairperson.

On motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to keep Roberts rules as the commission meeting rules.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved Citizens State Bank, Bennington State Bank, and Tescott State Bank as the County's Banks.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to keep district boundaries the same.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved Minneapolis Publishing Company to be the official County Newspaper.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to keep Richard Buck as the county counselor.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to appoint the following Ottawa County Department Heads as follows:

Emergency Management, Marie Ballou

Health Department, Sara Hodges

Aging, Sara Hodges

Road and Bridge, Chris Smith

Museum Curator, Samantha Davis.

Doug Plummer came into the meeting at 8:11am

Commissioner Wolf asked Malmberg and Mortimer if they received an email from Kim Radke in Delphos.

Commission said they did receive it.

Sheriff Thornton came into the meeting at 8:28 am.

County Departments:

Road and Bridge

Smith came into the meeting to give the commission calendars. Malmberg told Smith that she talked to a constituent about Granite Rd. There are holes in the road by the tracks. Smith said he knew about it and the employees are working on it.

Sheriff

Prisoner count Saline County, 14 and Ottawa County 6, and 5 Ottawa County juveniles housed in Junction City. Total 25 inmates.

Russ Thornton discussed a grant in the amount of \$30,027 that is paying for 7 laptops that are out of date. Thornton will put a portion of the remaining grant on the Axon equipment to help with the cameras in the patrol cars at a cost of \$32,000 for total cost of License Plate Reader System.

Thornton let the commission know that Saline County moved their inmates into their new facility last week. He is projecting that the inmates with Saline County housed in Ottawa County will be moved soon. Thornton discussed the School Resource Officer with the commission. Thornton said they have someone in mind, and they wouldn't have to send this candidate to school. Mortimer asked what the SRO would make in a year. Thornton said it would be around \$35,000 a year. Wolf asked if the schools would be willing to pay for the fuel for the SRO to travel between the schools and would drive the vehicle home. Thornton said he will propose this when the time comes.

Karl Leech came into the meeting at 8:54 am.

JoDee Copple came into the meeting to set up Zoom for the Arnold Group Meeting.

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On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 30-minute executive session for personnel exception to discuss non-elected including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Phillip Hayes and Heather Poorman with the Arnold group. To return at 9:30 am.

Doug Plummer left the meeting. At 9:31 am.

Mortimer called Dave Sweat, Minneapolis Mayor, to discuss the electric bill for the museum in future.

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 30-minute executive session for Personnel Exemption to discuss non-elected personnel including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, Phillip Hayes and Heather Poorman with the Arnold group. To return at 10:22 am.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to extend the executive session 30-minutes for personnel exception to discuss non-elected including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg Phillip Hayes, and Heather Poorman with the Arnold group. To return at 10:53 am.

Alicia Kiefer came into the meeting to discuss with the commission her issues with the clerk's office. She discussed getting on the agenda and the clerk's office not being open all the time. Keifer discussed the election bonus and errors with election and taxes. Malmberg called a point of order. The clerk is speaking out of turn. Michelle Campbell came into the meeting at 11:05 am to replace Heather Maddox to take minutes. Kiefer would like to have the clerks bonus looked at. Kiefer left at 11:11am

Michelle Campbell left the meeting, Maddox returned and Undersheriff VanCoevern came into the meeting at 11:11am.

Thornton came back into the meeting and discussed policies for the County and how they are hard to implement with the sheriff's office. Thornton discussed Saline Co. Jail opening and the prisoners leaving to return to Saline Co. Thornton met with ICE, January 2nd about housing deportations. Commissioner Malmberg wants to know what it will cost to make the required improvements by ICE needed for the jail and what the insurance company will cost and cover.

Cambell came into the meeting at 11:50 to discuss sick leave and annual leave policy.

Campbell, Thornton, and VanCoevern left the meeting at 12:17 am.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the January 2, 2024 minutes as corrected.

Commissioners signed off on abatements. Commission signed off on Juvenile Quarterly expense in the amount of \$3,201.95, and the Saline County coroner expense for \$16,609. Commission called Dave Hardesty about dumping residential trash at the landfill.

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With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 12:39 pm on motion by Malmberg and seconded by Mortimer. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 16th day of January 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Chairman

D.D. Malmberg, Vice-Chairman

Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

Heather Maddox, County Clerk