
OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

OCTOBER 28, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Dawn Wolf, First District

Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Second District

Commissioner D.D. Malmberg, Third District

Staff Present:

Tammi Cox, Clerk's Office; Jeff Ebel, County Attorney; JoDee Copple, County Treasurer; Michelle Campbell, Human Resources Director

Others in Attendance:

Carla Grund, Duane Morris, Karl Leech

1. Call To Order

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

2. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Wolf reminded the Commission she will be out next week but will be in attendance over Zoom. Commissioner Malmberg asked about adding discussion to motions that included the public. Commissioner Wolf asked about mileage sheets and making them all uniform. Commissioner Malmberg discussed some billing issues in the past that needed to be updated.

3. HUD Solid Waste Fees

Jeff Ebel, County Attorney, discussed the challenges regarding solid waste fees and the implications of the AG opinion, which states mandatory fees cannot be enforced as a tax without allowing opt-out options. Due to HUD's tax-exempt status, certain fees cannot be applied. There is a Payment In Lieu of Tax (PILOT) agreement between the City of Minneapolis and HUD; but that does not pertain to the County. Commissioner Wolf asked why the city benefits from the PILOT while the county does not, this is still an expense the county is incurring. Jeff Ebel stated there is a possibility to renegotiate. He stated every county has to have a solid waste management plan; they do not have to have a landfill. The Commission discussed whether to have Minneapolis Refuse Service (MRS) bill individual customers instead of the county. Jeff Ebel stated the state is concerned about proper collection and disposal of waste. Commissioner Wolf highlighted that the county does not have a solid waste landfill, which necessitates sending waste to Salina. Commissioner Mortimer asked about the methodology behind fee calculations. JoDee Copple, County Treasurer, confirmed that it was per tonnage. Jeff Ebel proposed a resolution that

allows residents to opt out of the solid waste fee. Carla Grund inquired about the contract specifics regarding solid waste. It was stated that before 2017, the City of Minneapolis collected solid waste fees and reimbursed the county. JoDee Copple clarified the calculation for 2024 was based on tonnage (3,000 tons). An increase in fees will be necessary to cover the full cost of trash hauling, which should be subtracted from the county's annual contract.

4. Appraiser Vehicle

Truette McQueen discussed purchasing a new vehicle and getting rid of the 2012 Nissan Rogue. Commissioner Mortimer suggested getting rid of the Rendezvous and asked the difference in the miles and years. Commissioner Wolf suggested looking at the Kelly Blue Book value on both vehicles.

5. Appraiser Position Wage

Truette McQueen stated he did interviews last week. He stated he wanted to offer \$15.00 per hour. Commissioner Malmberg asked what the position would be. Truette McQueen stated the position would start working with personal property, and eventually go into mapping and transfers. It was the consensus of the Commission to offer \$15.00 per hour for the new position.

6. Abatement of Properties

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer, discussed two properties that were not tied to an address. She stated years ago, if there was a special assessment for an individual person and not a property, an ID would be created with zero taxes. There are two left from 2012 and this would be a cleanup of the system. There is no way to collect any back taxes, due to not being able to do a tax sale. It was the consensus of the Commission to do the abatement.

7. Solid Waste Recap

Tammi Cox, County Clerk's Office and JoDee Copple, County Treasurer, gave a summary of solid waste. It was the consensus of the Commission to have staff meet with effected entities about upcoming changes. Road and Bridge will be the contact for Solid Waste and the County Clerk will take official minutes of the Solid Waste Committee meetings.

8. KCAMP Voting Delegates

MOTION – To appoint Commissioner Malmberg as voting delegate and Commissioner Wolf alternate as voting delegates at the KCAMP annual meeting on December 03, 2024.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

9. Public Forum

Duane Morris commended the Election office for helping kids vote on sample ballots. Tammi Cox gave an early voting update.

10. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

MOTION – To recess to Executive Session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act for ten minutes to discuss non-elected personnel and reconvene at 8:22 a.m. with Stephanie Watkins, acting County Clerk and Tammi Cox.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Wolf

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken.

11. Approval of Accounts Payable, Prisoner Count, Approval of County Commission Minutes

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$56,033.97

County General	\$7,950.16
Road & Bridge	\$11,257.20
ARPA	\$20,037.00
Jail Commissary	\$71.18
Vehicle	\$85.02
Noxious Weed	\$269.47
County Health	\$1,088.58
Law Enforcement Center	\$39.77
F.D. 2 MPLS General	\$1,670.26
Historical	\$477.25
Election	\$13,088.08

MOTION – To approve accounts payable as presented

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve payroll as presented

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve Commission minutes as corrected

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Malmberg

MOTION PASSED 3-0

Prisoner Count 5

12. Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation

Tonya Paul, DVACK, gave an overview of DVACK and discussed the Festival of Trees fundraiser. She also presented the Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation, declaring October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Ottawa County.

MOTION – Declare October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Ottawa County

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

13. Insurance Renewal

Julie Yarmer, Freedom Claims Management, Inc (FCMI), discussed renewal of the county insurance plan. She stated renewing with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas was the best option compared to other companies and reviewed the renewal plan. Commissioner Wolf expressed concern over the increase in costs and the need for a sustainable solution. Julie Varmer suggested implementing a preventative care checklist; this would offset a proposal to raise the deductible to \$1,000.00, with a \$500.00 offset for preventative care. It was the consensus of the Commission to leave Visioncare Direct due to being a no-cost option for the county and remove Teledoc from the benefits plan. Commissioner Wolf proposed charging a nominal fee for dental coverage. It was the consensus of the Commission to make the following adjustments to the current healthcare plan: Increase deductible by \$500.00, with a return of \$500.00 for preventive care completion; Copays: ER - \$100.00, Primary Care - \$25.00, Urgent Care - \$50.00, Specialists - \$50.00 (these changes apply to the deductible only and not to an HSA). The Commission discussed the preventative plan. Further discussion regarding the dental plan and premiums will be at the next meeting.

14. Adjournment

MOTION – To adjourn the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

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:

Stephanie Watkins, County Clerk