
OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

OCTOBER 14, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Dawn Wolf, First District

Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Second District

Commissioner D.D. Malmberg, Third District

Staff Present:

Stephanie Watkins, Acting County Clerk; Tammi Cox, Clerk's Office; JoDee Copple, County Treasurer; Chris Smith, Road and Bridge Director; Michelle Campbell, HR Director

Others in Attendance:

Doug Becvar, Duane Morris, Carl Leech

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. 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 8:15 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

3. Temporary CMB License

Doug Becvar asked the Commissioner about a temporary Cereal Malt Beverage License for the upcoming Bohemian Hall Thanksgiving dance being held on November 29, 2024. The event has been a yearly tradition, but the dance has not been held since 2019 due to COVID. The dance will be held at Bohemian Hall, 97 Ute Rd, Glasco from 8:00 p.m. until 1:30 a.m. He was directed to the County Clerk's office after the meeting to get the correct application.

4. Miscellaneous Business

Commissioner Wolf stated she received a certificate of appointment from the Office of the Governor for the appointment of Jeff Ebel, County Attorney. Michelle Campbell, HR Director asked for a copy of his filing.

The Commission signed an Issue of Disposal of Dilapidated Housing for the City of Delphos.

Stephanie Watkins, Acting County Clerk, provided an audit packet and mail to the Commission.

Commissioner Malmberg asked for the most updated Solid Waste Plan from the County Clerk's Office.

5. Clerk/Election

Commissioners asked for an update on the Clerk/Election Office. Tammi Cox stated there are very tight deadlines at this time, valuations were due by the 5th of October. Staff is currently working on getting everything completed. She stated Ottawa County staff along with Jamie Doss, Saline County Clerk, have been helpful with getting everything completed by the required deadlines. Tammi Cox stated early voting starts Wednesday, October 16th. Commissioner Malmberg gave a special thanks to Stephanie Watkins, Acting County Clerk, for stepping in and stepping up to the challenge.

6. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Malmberg asked how soon Solid Waste fees are needed. JoDee Copple, County Treasurer, stated today.

7. Executive Session – Potential Litigation

MOTION – To recess to Executive Session under the Attorney-Client Privilege exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act for ten minutes to discuss potential litigation and reconvene at 8:43 a.m. with Jeff Ebel, County Attorney and Tammi Cox, County Clerk's office.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To extend the Executive Session an additional ten minutes

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Wolf

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken.

8. Road Closure – Granite between 40th Road and 50th Road Resolution 24-15

MOTION – To rescind Resolution 24-15 due to improper notification of landowners.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

9. Road & Bridge Update

Chris Smith, Road and Bridger Director, was informed of rescinding Resolution 24-15. Commissioner Wolf asked for an update on the roads. Chris Smith stated staff is working on ditches and blacktops. He stated there are only four graders blading right now, the other operators are working on ditches.

Commissioners said they would like to see minimal blading until it rains.

10. Executive Session – Potential Litigation

MOTION – To recess to Executive Session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act for five minutes to discuss compensation and reconvene at 9:05 a.m. with Michelle Campbell, HR Director and acting County Clerk Stephanie Watkins.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To extend the Executive Session for five minutes.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Malmberg

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken.

11. Election

MOTION – To rescind the motion to give Stephanie Watkins, County Clerk, \$500.00 monthly from ARPA funds for election pay for monthly through the end of the year; and give \$583.33 to Stephanie Watkins for the month of October and the appointed Clerk \$583.33 for November and \$583.33 for December. Which is the remaining election wage for 2024.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

12. Solid Waste

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer, discussed solid waste and how to allocate fees. The Commission asked about the Solid Waste Plan. JoDee Copple summarized the current solid waste resolution with proposed changes from the Commission. Commissioner Malmberg asked if the county pays for each building or one fee for solid waste. JoDee Copple stated the county does not pay a solid waste bill. Commissioner Wolf stated we probably should since other businesses are. JoDee Copple stated it's a tax in and a tax out. Commissioner Malmberg stated this is something to be looked at for next year's budget. Commissioner Wolf followed with it is not as a tax, but a service. Commissioner Malmberg stated we also need to look into the labor and fees that Ottawa County Road and Bridge is already utilizing at the landfill.

13. Employee Assistance Program

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer discussed the Employee Assistance Program. She stated it costs \$875.00 every quarter and the fees have not changed since the County has had it. Commissioner Wolf asked what it covers. JoDee Copple stated marriage counseling, personal counseling, financial assistance, etc. She stated it is a program free to employees that they can utilize. Commissioner Wolf asked how we let employees know about it. JoDee Copple stated it is in their yearly enrollment packets.

14. Ottawa County Museum

Michelle Campbell, HR Director, met with the museum curator. The address currently being used for fiber optic internet is through Twin Valley using the address of the Blue Store. The request is to drop the lines at the Blue Store and add fiber optic internet to the museum. Commissioner Malmberg asked if there would be any cost. Michelle Campbell stated it should just be an address change. It was the consensus of the Commission to allow the change.

15. IT

Commissioner Malmberg asked about the enhanced backup of computers in the County Clerk's office. Michelle Campbell stated LockIt has been backing up the entire county for the last month. She stated she will call and cancel the enhanced back up. Commissioner Wolf asked if there was still a backup of the county of some kind. Michelle Campbell stated yes, they are continuing to back up the County as they have on the cloud. Commissioner Malmberg asked about the new computer in the Clerk's office. Stephanie Watkins stated it wasn't the entire computer, it was the CPU. It was needed due to a known computer issue.

16. Solid Waste – Resolution 24-18

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer, discussed solid waste and provided a copy of the Solid Waste Resolution and rates. JoDee Copple explained some entities do not have tax statements. Those bills have not been getting sent out. She stated it would be easier to keep track if we kept everything on special assessments on the tax bill. It was the consensus of the Commission to put solid waste fees on all tax statements. Commissioner Mortimer read Resolution 24-18 regarding municipal and rural fees for Solid Waste. Commissioner Wolf stated the cost for residential and non-profits per year will be \$130.00 and businesses will be \$52.00 per ton. Commissioner Mortimer stated Saline County is raising their rates \$2.00 per ton per year for the next five years and we pay that for our household waste to be hauled there.

MOTION – To approve Resolution 24-18, municipal and rural fees for Solid Waste.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Wolf

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To add a non-profit rate of \$130.00 per year to Resolution 24-18 for Solid Waste fees

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Malmberg

MOTION PASSED 3-0

17. Recording of Commission Meetings

Commissioner Malmberg discussed a camera system for the Commission. The Commission discussed what other entities may do.

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

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$159,048.79

County General	\$36,152.71
Road & Bridge	\$27,605.72
Solid Waste	\$9,962.00
Noxious Weed	\$167.99
County Health	\$10,846.70
Law Enforcement Center	\$593.15
Aging	\$975.25
Bennington TWP Road	\$1,475.32
Center TWP Road	\$791.41
Chapman TWP Road	\$24,620.39
Culver TWP Road	\$381.46
Morton TWP Road	\$1657.64
Stanton TWP Road	\$30,046.40
Historical	\$427.26
Covid Relief	\$3,484.74
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$30,046.40
Appraiser	\$723.10
F.D. #1 O&L GEN	\$355.40
F.D. #2 MPLS GEN	\$5,088.94
F.D. #3 DEL GEN	\$3,258.21

MOTION – To approve accounts payable as presented

MOTION BY– Commissioner Wolf

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

Prisoner Count – 5

MOTION – To accept the County Commission minutes for October 07, 2024 as corrected

MOTION BY– Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Wolf

MOTION PASSED 3-0

19. Adjournment

MOTION – To adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

MOTION BY- Commissioner Malmberg

SECONDED BY - Commissioner Wolf

MOTION PASSED 3-0

20. Upcoming Meetings for Commissioners to Attend Together

North Central Planning Commission Meeting

October 24, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Martinelli's Little Italy

158 S Santa Fe

Salina, KS 67401

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