

Minutes of Proceeding
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners
July 30, 2018

Office of the Ottawa County Clerk
8:00 a.m.
Regular Session

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session with First District Commissioner Kathy M. Luthi, Second District Commissioner James P. Kay, Third District Commissioner Karen S. Brumbaugh, and County Clerk Mary Arganbright.

Rob Boss, opened the meeting in prayer and then Commissioner Brumbaugh led the group in the flag salute.

Dawn Wolf, and Rob Boss, District 1 County Commissioner Candidates, were observers.

Mary Arganbright, County Clerk, reported to the commissioners that Scott Hardin, LockIt Technologies, was down last week and looked at the current internet set-up in the Law Library. He has sent his recommendation to Todd Tuttle, NCKCN.

At 8:15 a.m., the commissioners held the 2019 proposed fire district budget hearing. Those present were Steve Haley, Brandon Cochran, Judith Swagerty, and Tony Swetson. Brandon gave the commissioners a proposal to merge Bennington EMS into Ottawa County Fire District #4. Brandon addressed the proposal he gave them. Brandon said that the City of Bennington has relinquished their right for the ambulance and has agreed to put the ambulance under the Ottawa County Fire Department #4. The transfer is in the works. His request was to raise the ambulance mill levy from 6 mills to 6.133 mills. The commissioners said that at this point, they can lower the mill levy, but could not raise it. Brandon showed the commissioners how they would like ambulance district lines redrawn. The commissioners asked if they have talked to the City of Minneapolis yet. Brandon said no. Commissioner Kay moved to adopt the 2019 fire district budget as presented. Commissioner Luthi seconded. Motion carried, 3-0. At 8:30 a.m., the commissioners held the 2019 proposed county budget hearing. Additional individuals present were Richard Pieschl, and Richard Buck, County Attorney. Richard Pieschl asked what percent increase over last year is the budget up? Commissioner Luthi said 2.24%. Richard said that was reasonable, and if that could be maintained, he would be happy. Commissioner Luthi said that the 2019 estimated levy is down 2.256 mills. Commissioner Luthi moved to approve the 2019 County budget at 86.500 mills. Commissioner Kay seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

Vouchers were approved.

Commissioner Luthi moved to table the solid waste exemption requests for the Ada Methodist until Commissioner Brumbaugh gets clarification on them. Commissioner Kay seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

Tommy Barrett II, District 1 County Commissioner Candidate, was an observer.

Shannon Luthi, Road & Bridge Administrator, gave the commissioners a Motor grader summary of the John Deere 622GP motor grader that was demoed. Those present were Lance Jones, and Jake Schmidlein, Murphy Tractor and Equipment. Lance answered questions the group had. Shannon reported on what crews were doing. Shannon said that plans are in the works to see a demo of a tree mulcher.

Brandon Cochran, Bennington EMS, asked the commissioners if they had any questions from the presentation earlier on the recommendation of redrawing of lines for the Bennington Ambulance and Minneapolis Ambulance districts.

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The commissioners will meet with the County Attorney and make sure they are following statutes, and Commissioner Brumbaugh will call Brandon so he can get with Dave Sweat, Minneapolis City Council member. Commissioner Luthi asked to see the minutes from all entities involved on the transfer.

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer, stopped in and the commissioners visited with her on her salary increase request. Commissioner Brumbaugh said the commissioners have visited about it, and they reiterated that they are not giving out any more raises this year. JoDee asked about the additional raise for Missy Witt, Deputy County Treasurer, that was discussed back in March, that in September JoDee will be requesting. JoDee asked how raises were going to be handled for next year. The commissioners said they hadn't discussed it.

Truette McQueen, County Appraiser, came in and the commissioners went over time sheets for his employees. The commissioners said for him to make sure his employees are getting their lunch hour. Truette asked other payroll time questions.

Keith Coleman, Sheriff, gave prisoner count of Saline County 48, and Ottawa County 6. Keith updated the board on cell repairs from an incident. Bill Shipley, Harbin Construction, joined the group and asked if they had any questions on the newest information that Erik Jorgensen, Archetype Design Group, emailed them. The commissioners said they haven't had time to review the document yet. The commissioners placed a call to Gilmore & Bell, Bond Council, for information on a bond project for the jail remodeling.

Sara Thompson, Clerk of the District Court, came in and visited with the commissioners about getting rid of two cabinets that they are no longer using. She has had a vendor ask if he could buy it. Commissioner Brumbaugh read off to Sara the process. Sara said that it would be nice to have a canopy on the north side of the building.

Les Johns, David Hardesty, and John Hardesty, Landfill Operators, Shannon Luthi, Road & Bridge Administrator, and Jason Rourke, RMA Engineering, met with the commissioners to discuss the landfill. Les asked if the pond was still going to be put in. Commissioner Brumbaugh said that Dave had a list of concerns that he would go over, and the pond would be addressed. For the pit, Dave said that it needed to be squared up and sloped to the West, flat on the bottom so it will drain where needed, and the dirt could be used for final cover on the current pit. The group discussed the current pond, a new pond, and a spring. John indicated that MRS is concerned about dumping from the top of a pad. There are liability and litter issues. The group looked at a map that Dave had drawn up. It was decided to go ahead and start using the cell as originally designed and reevaluate as needed.

Commissioner Kay moved to go into executive session at 1:02 p.m., for ten minutes for non-elected personnel to protect the privacy of the employee. Commissioner Luthi seconded. Motion carried, 3-0. Those present were the commissioners and Kenny Baccus, Noxious Weed Administrator. They returned to regular session at 1:12 p.m. No decision was made.

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With no other business before the board, Commissioner Kay moved to adjourn at 1:20 p.m. Commissioner Luthi seconded.
Motion carried, 3-0.