

Minutes of Proceeding
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners
August 24, 2020

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

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

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

Mary Arganbright, Ottawa County Clerk, gave the board minutes to review from August 17, 2020. Commissioner Wolf moved to accept the August 17, 2020, minutes as read. Commissioner Kay seconded. Motion carried, 3-0. Commissioner Wolf then noticed a correction to the minutes. Commissioner Wolf moved to amend the August 17, 2020 minutes to read, the reason USD #239 and USD #240 are different is because USD #239 had already spent Relief funds prior to July 31, 2020, which was part of their allotment. Commissioner Kay seconded. Motion carried, 3-0. Mary gave the board a job description to sign on a new correction officer that has been hired. Mary gave the commissioners the Annual Budget document to sign from Todd Heitschmidt, Court Administrator, saying that the court budget was approved as submitted for 2021. Commissioner Brumbaugh signed the document. Mary gave the commissioners an email from Joyce Warshaw, 2020 Census, asking the commissioners to stand by the 2020 Census. The commissioners said that they continue to encourage citizens of Ottawa County to fill out the census, as it affects funding that our county gets from the federal government. Mary let the commissioners know that Matt Hettenbach, candidate from the Primary Election, August 4, 2020, called her last Friday, to let her know that when Thomas Barrett II and himself drew straws on Monday, August 17, 2020, for the Lincoln Township Trustee position, that one of the straws had blue on it, and the other didn't. He also said that from where he was sitting, when Commissioner Brumbaugh showed both candidates the length of the straws, he could not see. Mary said that she asked him if he said anything to Commissioner Brumbaugh when she was showing the straws, and Matt said that he did not. Matt said that he was not upset, but just wanted to call it to the attention of the board. Mary informed Matt she would let the commissioners know his concerns. The commissioners looked at the straws and both straws had the same coloring on them, striped red and blue, alternatively, and that he must of saw only the blue on one of the straws. Mary let the commissioners know that the Secretary of States office let the election officers know last week that each county would be getting two ballot drop boxes for voters to drop their voted advance envelopes/ballots in for elections.

D.D. Koster Malmberg, Commissioner District #3 candidate was an observer at 8:02 a.m.

Kevin Urban, Saline County Environmental Services, and Sara Hodges, Ottawa County Health/Aging Administrator, visited with the board on a request from an Ottawa County property owner, 96 Ash Lane, Bennington, that wants to drill a new lawn and garden well that will be 8' east of the garage and 50' west of the lateral field. The location does not meet the required separation distance from structures according to county code. Kevin said that he could not approve the private well without a waiver from the County Commissioners. After discussion, the commissioners agreed to stay with the county code and not allow a waiver. Kevin then gave the commissioners information regarding another property on 120th Road that is requesting to put in a wastewater system. The property is not the required three acres. If the soils are suitable for a lateral field, there would only be space for 150 gallons per day, and a larger system or a replacement system, may not be possible due to the size of the parcel. It would also need a waiver from the commissioners if the parcel is not grandfathered in. Kevin will visit with the county appraiser and then if the written waiver is done, they will know how to proceed.

Commissioner Kay moved to approve the request from Truette McQueen, County Appraiser, to raise Deputy Appraiser Kim Winsett, from \$16 per hour to \$17 per hour effective 8/25/2020. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried, 3-0. Commissioner Wolf moved to approve the requests from Kenny Baccus, Noxious Weed Administrator, to raise Kenny's pay from \$23.75 to \$24.00, effective 8/25/20, and John Hendrick, Spray Operator, from \$17.25 to \$17.50, effective 8/25/20. Commissioner Kay seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

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Commissioner Brumbaugh read an email from County Attorney Richard Buck, received 8/20/2020, regarding an email Richard received from Professor Yunk, K-state Architecture, regarding the courthouse building improvements. (Full copy on file in the Ottawa County Clerk's office). Commissioner Kay moved to give the K-State architecture department permission to redraft the original blueprints of the courthouse into AutoCad electronic format to use the AutoCad as the baseline for future work. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

Greg Dockins, Road & Bridge Administrator, reported on what crews were doing. Greg said that he is still looking for a dump truck.

Truette McQueen, County Appraiser, stopped in and the commissioners informed him that they approved the request for his Deputy Appraiser for the \$1 per hour raise.

Keith Coleman, Sheriff, gave prisoner count of Saline County 40, Department of Corrections 1, and Ottawa County 4. Keith reported on items still left to fix on the jail remodeling project. Keith reported on employee matters, and the correction officer starting wage of \$13.25 per hour. Commissioner Wolf moved to move the Correction Officer starting pay from \$13.25 per hour to \$14.50 per hour to be competitive with the surrounding counties, effective 8/25/20. Commissioner Kay seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

With no further business before the board, Commissioner Wolf moved to adjourn at 10:09 a.m. Commissioner Kay seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.