

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session with Commissioner Kathy M Luthi, Commissioner James P Kay, Commissioner Ray McGavran and County Clerk Mary Arganbright.

Commissioner Luthi opened the meeting with the flag salute and prayer.

The official minutes of July 9, 2012, were approved and signed.

Marie Ballou, Emergency Management Coordinator, came in and reported that Ottawa County was in the high fire index range. She also said that she had some complaints on lifting the burn ban last week. No ban was put on this week.

Sandy Cline, Health/Aging Administrator, came in and visited with the commissioners on a former employee. Sandy said that she needed to hire a social worker, and asked permission to do so. The commissioners approved.

John Copple, Highway Administrator, reported on what crews were doing. The group discussed the excavator. The commissioners agreed to what until next year to address it again.

Kenny Baccus, Noxious Weed Administrator, and Warren Ediger, architect, met with the commissioners and the group looked at the plans for the new building. Kenny has reviewed the plans and has approved them. The bidding procedure was discussed. Warren explained that government projects require bonding. The commissioners are requiring bid bond, performance bond and material bond, or a 100% letter of credit. . The bid date was set for August 3, 2012.

Truette McQueen, Zoning Administrator, came in and the commissioners explained that Sue Miller, Ada, called and wanted to set-up a town meeting with the commissioners present to discuss the proposed cell tower matter. The commissioners asked if they can do that, since the matter will be coming to them July 30, 2012, as the commissioners hearing the issue. Truette will check and let them know.

Keith Coleman, Sheriff, gave prisoner count of Sedgwick County 32, Ottawa County 1, and Saline County 11. Keith said they had a fire marshal inspection last week, and had a few minor things to do. He is working on them. Keith said that he would like to hire a part-time dispatcher. They have four dispatchers to handle all shifts. This individual could fill in for sickness/vacation. The commissioners approved. He reported on other employee matters.

Dennis and Lori Rhoden, Niles, and John Copple, Highway Administrator, met with the board and discussed 250th Road. Dennis said that he met with Kenny Wilcox, Road Foreman, and the road in question was an open road. However, it hadn't been maintained. The county went down and did their part, and Dennis said the county did a great job. Dennis said that Thomas Barrett III, Lincoln Township Trustee, was present and said the township would rock it. Now other township officers do not want to rock it. The commissioners explained that the township boards are elected, and they are responsible for what they do and don't do to the township roads. The commissioners have no say. Commissioner Luthi will make a courtesy call to the township board, after she receives some written documentation from the Rhoden's on the facts on what happened. Commissioner Luthi suggested they write the detailed facts to each township board member also.

At 11:00 a.m., the commissioners held a grievance hearing with Jennifer Lister, former health department employee. Richard Buck, acting on behalf of Ottawa County Attorney, was present. Jennifer went over allegations she received from Sandy Cline, Health/Aging Director, when she was terminated. Jennifer asked if she still needed to pay the county back for the insurance through July that the county has already paid. The commissioners said yes, as that is what county policy is. She also indicated that she didn't get to start the insurance until after the 90 days, but as what was shown to her was since her hire date did not fall at the first of a month, then it goes to the following the month. She was shown how the insurance companies handles that when she came in to fill out her insurance applications.

Commissioner Kay moved to go into executive session for attorney/client matters at 11:30 a.m. for ten minutes. Commissioner McGavran seconded. Motion carried.

Those present were the commissioners and Richard. They returned to regular session at 11:40 a.m. The commissioners instructed Richard to review documents that have been provided to them, and come back with any recommendations, August 6, 2012.

Truette McQueen, Zoning Administrator, informed the board that they could get sued if they attended any meeting in regards to the proposed cell phone tower in Ada, before it goes to hearing, which is July 30, 2012. Truette is going to make contact with individuals in Ada and visit with them, since the commissioners cannot make contact. The commissioners received from the State, value information in regards to how the appraiser's office appraises commercial property. The document showed that Ottawa County is within it's guidelines.

With no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.