

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

February 5th, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in Suite 201 at the Ottawa County Courthouse.

**Those present were:**

First District Commissioner Dawn Wolf,

Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer

Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg

Heather Maddox, County Clerk

Stephanie Watkins, Deputy Clerk

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

Alexander Colosimo and Susan Hoge came into the meeting at 8:07 am.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to accept solid waste exemption fee for 108 N Kansas Ave Tescott, and 209 N New York Ave in Tescott.

**Public Comment:**

Alexander Colosimo, EMS discussed that he had a confrontation on an EMS call last year. Colosimo said the Minneapolis City Police caught the incident on body cam. Colosimo said he asked Richard Buck to prosecute the individual, and Buck recently said he will not be prosecuting it because the individual's child died that day. Colosimo said that he contacted the Attorney General, and they said they can't do anything about it. Wolf said thank you for notifying the Commissioners. Colosimo said that he wanted it to be known that Buck wasn't doing his job.

Wolf spoke to Marie Ballou Emergency Management about the emergency disaster.

Mortimer would like to highly encourage all townships to participate in the emergency disaster declaration to attempt to get FEMA funds.

Russ Thornton came into the meeting at 8:22 am.

**County Departments:**

**Sheriff**

Prisoner count Ottawa County 9. Thornton discussed housing Ottawa County inmates. Mortimer said that Richard Buck resigned as County Counselor. Any contracts need to go through the commission. Thornton said there is a contract that needs to be looked at for the jail doors. There are only 3 doors that need to be fixed right away. At 8:36am Undersheriff Tyler VanCoevern came in followed by Karl Leech and Michelle Campbell at 8:49 a.m.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to reorganize and make the current Road and Bridge Admin to the Public Works Director at a salary of \$67,000. Effective January 25, 2024

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to make the Road and Bridge Admin Assistant into the Public Works Admin Assistant at the rate of \$21.30/hr. Effective January 25, 2024.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to make the current Road Supervisor Road and Bridge Supervisor at a salary of \$57,840. Effective January 25, 2024.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to make the current Noxious Weed Administrator position to Noxious Weed Lead in the amount of \$22.00/ hr.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to make the current position of Sign Installer to Spray Operator in the amount of \$15.00-15.60.

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## Appraiser

Truette McQueen asked the commissioners what is asked of his office for the cut back at the jail. McQueen does not want to take people from the jail. McQueen doesn't want to have to pay out sick and vacation time, if he takes an employee and he only wants one with appraisal knowledge. At 9:18 McQueen left.

## Human Resources

Michelle Cambell, HR asked for an executive session.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 5-minute executive session for personnel exception to discuss non-elected including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and Cambell. To return at 9:30 a.m.

No decision was made.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to accept County Counselor Richard Buck's resignation effective February 1, 2024, per the email received from Richard Buck to the Commissioners.

## Clerk

Heather Maddox gave the commission abatements and claims register. Maddox asked about EMS appropriations.

## Fair Board

Sheldon Daugherty and Jamie Rice came into the meeting at 9:43 a.m. Malmberg informed Daugherty, Fair Board President, she researched the personal liability the members have with KCAMP. It was discovered the board is not covered because the commission doesn't appoint the members. Daugherty will take this to the board for a discussion.

Dave Sweat, Owen Kindall came into the meeting at 9:51 a.m. Brian Kindall came into the meeting at 9:54 a.m. Chris Smith came into the meeting at 10:02 a.m. The Commission held a County, City, Fair Board, Carnival, Recreation Commission meeting. All parties will do some research and will meet again in March.

Daugherty, Rice, Kindall, Sweat, all left the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Wolf talked with Elaine Bowers and Susan Concannon and emailed the information she received about possible new prisoners to Sheriff Thornton.

Commissioner Malmberg asked for a printout of the County Counselor's budget.

Michelle Campbell brought in contracts to the commission from the previous County Counselor.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved Nunc Pro Tunc Resolution 24-03, employee wages.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to change the county mileage rate to the same as the state rate of 65 cents effective February 5, 2024.

## Claims for Approval: Totaling \$41,910.03

County General	\$14,243.30
Road & Bridge	\$13,740.82
Noxious Weed	\$25.05
County Health	\$855.90
Law Enforcement Center	\$13,422.92

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Aging	\$43.00
F.D #2 MPLS General	\$222.66
Ottawa County 911 Fund	\$356.38

On a motion by Commissioner Mortimer, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved the claims as corrected.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the January 29, 2024, minutes as corrected.

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the February 1, 2024 minutes as presented.

With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m. on motion by Wolf and seconded by Malmberg. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 5th day of February 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Wolf, Chairman

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D.D. Malmberg, Member

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Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

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Heather Maddox, County Clerk