
OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

APRIL 27, 2026

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Carla Grund, First District

Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Second District

Commissioner Duane Morris, Third District

1. Call To Order

Commissioner Mortimer called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Grund led the group in opening prayer followed by Commissioner Mortimer with the flag salute.

2. NWKEICI Letter of Support

Commissioner Grund presented a letter of support to the Kansas Cooperative Loan/Waiver Committee for Logan and Camille Nichols. This letter helps to obtain housing funds from Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center, Inc., and fiscal agent, North Central Regional Planning Commission. Camille Nichols stated they will tie into the sewer they have now. Commissioner Grund stated she spoke with Truette McQueen, County Appraiser, and he stated they will need to be approved by the sanitarian. Commissioner Grund stated the letter is contingent on sanitarian approval. The Commission gave contact information for the sanitarian.

MOTION – To move to approve the letter to Kansas Cooperative Loan/Waiver Committee on behalf of Logan and Camille Nichols to be signed by the Commission

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

3. Museum Building Maintenance Agreement

Commissioner Morris stated the museum has not gotten back to him about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). He stated he met with Keith Coleman, Facilities Director, about the MOU and received input to clarify the MOU. He stated Coleman was willing to assist in different ways including helping to research solutions.

4. Register of Deeds Update

Shelby Walker, Register of Deeds, gave a Register of Deeds update. She stated Fidler finished the initial drop of 45,000 converted documents. She stated her department has about 4,000 records to go back and indexing. Walker stated she will be attending a Fidler Synopsis May 18-20 in Illinois. This is a

nationwide conference. Fidler picks up the majority of the cost; she just has to pay transportation. She also stated she has her Register of Deeds annual seminar June 9-12 in Colby. Walker stated she attended the Fidler spring meeting in Wichita last week and gave an update on ADA compliance for government websites. She stated they have extended the deadline by one year.

5. Shredding Services

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented a Request for Action to obtain shredder services through Secure Shred. Secure Shred would provide monthly pickup of county shredding materials. Cox proposed utilizing the Executive Container, which can hold 50-70 pounds. This container would be available for all staff. Cox stated she is proposing to pay the fee out of the miscellaneous fund. She stated district court is also interested in getting an Executive Container. There is also discussion about possibly getting one for the Sheriff's Department. The cost of the container and pickup would be \$45.00 per month; for a total of \$540.00 per year per box. The contract requires a 30-day notice period for changes; this allows for flexibility to get a larger box or change the pickup times.

MOTION – To move to approve the contract with Secure Shred for the courthouse for \$45.00 to come out of the miscellaneous fund; and one for district court to come out of the district court budget.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

6. Approval of Commission Minutes

MOTION – To approve the minutes for April 20th as presented

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

7. Clerk Comments

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, stated she will be attending her annual Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association meeting this week. She stated she has spoken with Mike Montoya for the Regional Commission, and the next step will be another meeting to meet with Montoya for further discussion. Commissioner Grund stated at the conference she just attended, many smaller counties are struggling to find a county counselor. Cox stated the audit will be the week of May 4th.

8. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

MOTION – To move to executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Emergency Management applications for 5 minutes to return at 8:43 a.m. to the Commissioner's Room to include Tammi Cox, County Clerk.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To move to extend the executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Emergency Management applications for 10 minutes to return at 8:53 a.m. to the Commissioner’s Room with Tammi Cox, County Clerk.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken

9. Mental Health Awareness Month

Taylor Haws, Central Kansas Mental Health Center, presented the May Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation. We recognize that mental health challenges are common, with one in three adults in Kansas reporting symptoms of anxiety and/or depression, and one in five youth experience a major depressive episode each year. Nearly half of Kansans experiencing a mental health concern do not pursue care, with stigma contributing to silence, delayed treatment, and worsening outcomes. Rural communities are rooted in resilience, hard work, and strong community ties, yet experience unique barriers to mental health care, including limited access, concerns about privacy, and stigma that can discourage help-seeking. Stigma can lead to isolation, reduced access to early intervention, and increased risk of crisis, including higher rates of suicide and untreated mental health conditions in our communities. Creating a culture of openness and understanding allows individuals to seek help earlier, strengthens connections, and supports recovery. Central Kansas Mental Health Center is committed to fostering communities where mental health challenges are recognized as real and treatable, and where individuals feel supported in reaching out to trusted providers, peers, and community networks. Reducing stigma requires community-wide engagement through education, open dialogue, and collective effort to create environments where seeking help is encouraged and supported.

MOTION – To move to have the Chairman sign the proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

10. Uniform Discussion

Chris Smith, Public Works Director, discussed uniform services. He stated the county currently uses Unifirst; but have been approached by Cintas. He stated they have been having issues regarding Unifirst and are interested in switching to Cintas; they would also be the cheaper alternative. Smith stated the contract would be a five-year contract. It was the consensus of the Commission to go with Cintas.

11. KDOT Criteria Selection

Chris Smith, Public Works Director, handed out grading sheets for construction engineers interested in becoming inspectors for High-Risk Rural Road work. He asked the Commission to turn them back into him on Monday.

12. Road & Bridge Discussion

Chris Smith, Public Works Director, stated he went out for bid for 25 culverts and received two bids: J & J Drainage (\$14,125.50) and Welborn (\$15,197.25).

MOTION – To approve the bid for J & J Drainage for \$14,125.50 for 25 culverts

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

Smith also discussed putting the trucks they have currently for motor grader operators to put on Purplewave. Smith stated they would be putting dump trucks and other miscellaneous equipment up for auction on Purplewave. Commissioner Morris asked about the Rendezvous county vehicle. It was the consensus of the Commission to put the Rendezvous up on Purplewave. The motor grader operators would no longer use the county vehicles; they would switch to using their personal vehicles and be paid a monthly stipend. Commissioner Mortimer suggested paying a \$75.00 per month stipend for the eight drivers.

MOTION – To approve reimbursing motor grader operators for the use of their personal vehicles for \$75.00 per month beginning in the June payroll

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

13. Approval of Accounts Payable

MOTION – To approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$63,922.79

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

14. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Grund stated she presented about local government to seniors at Bennington High School and attended the enactment of a drunken driving crash there. The Sheriff Department, Bennington Fire Department and Bennington EMS all participated in this enactment. She stated Bennington High School has a SAFE program. She also stated herself and Commissioner Morris and Tammi Cox, County Clerk, attended the hospital board meeting. Hospital Administrator Jody Parks gave

a presentation on how the hospital has grown and how it is operated. Commissioner Grund stated she attended the Kansas County Commissioners Association (KCCA) meeting. She stated the legislators denied all six of the county sales tax proposals that were presented; one out of Ellsworth County had already been approved by voters. Cox stated she has a representative from Gilmore & Bell coming next week to give a better understanding of the steps to take for sales tax proposals. Commissioner Grund stated at the KCCA meeting that the National Association of Counties (NaCo) talked a lot about alternative energy. Commissioner Morris stated we need to reconsider our NaCo membership, they are on the cutting edge of alternative energy. It was the consensus of the Commission to have Commissioner Morris look into the membership and bring it back next week. Commissioner Morris discussed a railroad crossing grant and stated the railroad crossing on Old Highway 81 and how its malfunctioning. Commissioner Grund asked about the Risk Management meeting. Commissioner Morris stated he attended, noting if we can get better equipment, we would have less injuries. Commissioner Grund stated at the KCCA meeting, they discussed property taxes and how the bills that were presented would not provide actual relief to counties or taxpayers. Commissioner Mortimer sent a picture of a saw that attaches to a skid steer to both Commissioners and Chris Smith, Public Works Director.

15. Adjournment

MOTION – To adjourn at 10:10 a.m.


MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Grund

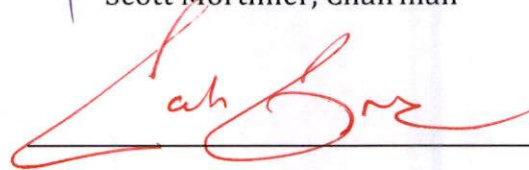
MOTION PASSED 3-0

ADOPTED this 4th day of May 2026.

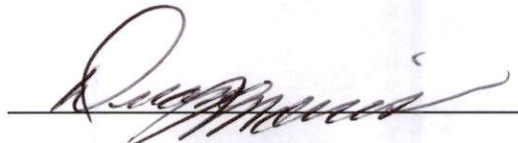
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS



Scott Mortimer, Chairman



Carla Grund, Member



Duane Morris, Member

ATTEST:



Tammi Cox, County Clerk

