

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

June 19th, 2023

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,
Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer/Payroll Clerk
Heather Maddox, County Clerk

Michelle Campbell, Human Resources came into the meeting.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved the June 12th, 2023 minutes as presented.

Commissioner Mortimer and Clerk Maddox attended the Culver City Council meeting on Tuesday June 13th.

Claims for Approval: Totaling \$175,696.52

County General	\$70,366.44
Road & Bridge	\$27,158.45
Ottawa Co 911	\$764.40
Election	\$123.00
Hospice	\$7,000.00
Noxious Weed	\$1,084.45
Aging	\$1,455.53
Chapman TWP	\$23,161.15
Ottawa TWP	\$300.00
Sherman TWP	\$19,281.05
County Health	\$72.08
Appraiser	\$20.80
Clerk Technology Fund	\$449.86
FD #1 O&L	\$52.26
Law Enforcement Center	\$24,407.05

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

Public Comment: Kent Boster, with the Bennington Cemetery came into the meeting to discuss a letter he received from the county clerk about contracting the budget for the 2024 year.

Katie Vanderhoff, with Choose Ottawa County and Owen Kindall came into the meeting to give the commission an update on what's happening with the organization. They have been working on housing, jobs, quality of life, and they are focusing on housing. It is a hot topic on the state side and there are lots of grants out there for housing that nonprofits can apply. Kindall asked to see the commission on a quarterly basis moving forward. There is so much going on in the organization that they would like to keep the commission up to date on. One main project they have been working on is the Choose Ottawa County website (chooseottawacounty.com). They will have job postings and

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housing posted. Kindall said they want to promote some tourism and retail within Ottawa county. They have been awarded a C grant of \$50,000 they gave to several entities in the county. Katie gave the commission a wage printout for the county. Kindall discussed that the wages within 7 counties, one which is Ottawa County, is declining. Kindall said they would like to reach out to the state for a reasoning. Katie discussed with the commission a moderate housing grant. There would need to be a housing analysis to apply. Katie talked about a block grant from the Federal Cares Act to help with Covid-19 loss for profit businesses.

County Departments:

Clerk

Heather Maddox, County Clerk gave the commission mail from the state of Kansas concerning the Culver Fire Department. Richard Buck, County Counselor said that he called the state to inquire if Culver actually got the report filed. The state said that there is nothing on file for Culver fire department. Buck told the commission that he doesn't know how to proceed. Maddox discussed with the commission about the Culver City Council meeting. The Culver Mayor is reaching out to the City Attorney to see what the next step is for the city.

Sheriff

Prisoner count for Ottawa County, 3.

Noxious Weed

Kenny Baccus, Noxious Weed Director came into the commission meeting to give a department update. Baccus said as of May 22nd he received a new employee; he is doing a great job! He is testing on June 21 for the first of three applicators license tests. Malmberg asked if he will be getting a CDL. Baccus said yes eventually, but it would be best if he got his applicators license first. Baccus said the new employee has been working on vegetation management with Corteva. He has been learning how to mix and load chemicals, and learning weather conditions and when it is best to spray. Baccus said they have been doing 911 signs, spraying, digging up plants, etc. Baccus said he has tried to call landowners and will be sending out letters for those that haven't responded by phone. Baccus said the weed department has made \$21,300 in chemical sales, and the weed department has applied about \$25,000 in chemical for the county right of way. Baccus said it seems sales of chemicals are high at the moment, and he expects it to keep increasing. Baccus asked for clarification for the request for action form. Malmberg said if there is something that you want the commission to vote on, the department head would need to present the request form. Malmberg said that the fairgrounds look good. Baccus said he will be spraying again before the Fair as well. Malmberg asked about the 911 sign at 110th and Evergreen Rd. Malmberg asked if it has been hit again or if it hasn't been set up since it was hit last. Baccus said that he has put it up several times, but did notice the other day that it was hit again. Wolf asked if they could put the sign further back in the right of way. Baccus will go look at the sign.

Road and Bridge

Chris Smith, Road and Bridge Administrator, Joe Mullen Road Supervisor, came into the meeting. Smith discussed the high school track. The construction company is wanting to buy crushed concrete from the road and bridge department. Malmberg said she doesn't think it would be beneficial for the county to get rid of it, But Malmberg said she will be okay with what Smith and Mullen decide. Malmberg said trading it out now would be better than waiting so the price doesn't go up. Smith said that they usually lock in the price at the beginning of the year, and it sits there usually through the rest of the year. Smith said they are working on Old 81 this week. Smith said they are finishing up ditches and getting ready to crack seal.

Attorney

Richard Buck, County Attorney, came into the meeting to discuss the City of Culver.

Human Resources

Michelle Campbell, Human Resources, talked with the commission about more bids for the wage study. Campbell spoke to surrounding counties about their wages. She is looking at bordering counties. Campbell is reaching out to other wage groups and is finding that the prices are way overpriced compared to the two bids we have already received. Wolf asked if she would reach out to the counties about their benefits and compare as well. Campbell said she isn't looking into that right off but will sure look after the wages come in.

Upcoming Meetings Commission will attend: Commission will have a work session on Wednesday June 21st.

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With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm on motion by Malmberg and seconded by Wolf. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 26th day of June 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Vice-Chairman

D.D. Malmberg, Member

Scott Mortimer, Chairman

ATTEST:

Heather Maddox, County Clerk