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# OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

### JANUARY 05, 2026

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#### **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 Morris led the group in opening prayer followed by Commissioner Mortimer with the flag salute.

#### **2. Public Forum**

Brandon Cople discussed permits for sewer systems and how the grandfathering work, specifically if they didn't originally get a permit. He also asked if the wage study is up and going. Commissioner Grund stated yes, it was implemented 01/01/2026 with the \$8,000.00 governor. Cople asked about the Ada tower. Commissioner Morris stated at this time it's dead in the water, they have not heard from the company. He also asked about the abandoned missile silos.

#### **3. INA Alert Technology & Service Agreement**

Keith Coleman, Facilities Director, presented the INA Alert Technology & Service Agreement. The system is for the doors, cameras, and panic alarms. Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> they are going to start charging \$110.00 per hour for technical support unless there is a service agreement. The service agreement would be \$330.00 per month. INA Alert Technology & Service would always monitor the system and would take 10% off if they must come on site. Commissioner Grund asked how long the information is saved. Coleman stated he believes it is 18 days. It was the recommendation of staff to sign the service agreement.

MOTION – To accept the proposal for INA Alert from Keith Coleman

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

#### **4. Homeland Security Appointment**

Jason Gipson, incoming Emergency Management Director, presented a letter to the North Central Homeland Security Council appointing Jason Gipson, Emergency Management Director, as the new official representative for Ottawa County. This would replace Marie Ballou, the outgoing Emergency Management Director.

MOTION – To appoint Jason Gipson as the new representative for the North Central Homeland Security Council as of January 01, 2026

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **5. Moving County Offices**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, discussed moving of county offices. She stated the Emergency Operation Center is in the basement of the courthouse. The Extension Office is currently in the process of moving across the street to their new building. Cox stated it would make sense to put the Emergency Management office in the basement and would like to move the HR office where the Emergency Management office was. Cox stated she had spoken with Keith Coleman, Facility Director and Marie Ballou, Emergency Management Director, and they were in agreeance. Coleman stated it would have more space. Ballou stated it would save having to take everything downstairs. It was the consensus of the Commission to move the offices once they become available.

## **6. Road and Bridge Update**

Chris Smith, Public Works Director, gave a Road & Bridge update. Commissioner Mortimer asked about the abandoned missile silos. Smith stated the state comes in quarterly and does well samples. He stated they should be finishing up today on Oxbow Road and talked about hauling rock for Rock City. Smith also discussed working on ditches and working on Walnut and 40<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Grund stated she has a list of things she would like to see done in her district. Commissioner Mortimer stated we need to let Smith do his job and not micromanage him. Smith stated he has a list a mile long, it's not about picking and choosing. It's about priority. He stated there are things I've wanted to do since I was a road supervisor that I haven't gotten to. He stated for example, it takes a week to get setup to do a ditch. Smith also stated he is currently working with FEMA on a road they are wanting to get work done on.

## **7. Solid Waste Fee Exemption**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented a solid waste fee exemption for Auto-Tek LLC on Sheridan. Cox stated they take the trash from that location to the other business location. Based on criteria set by the Commission, the appraiser's office is recommending the exemption be denied. It was the consensus of the Commission to defer the decision until they have spoken more with the appraiser.

## **8. Policy Review**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, presented Policy 20.01c Religious Accommodation and Policy 20.21 Voluntary Terminations/Resignations.

MOTION – To approve Policy 20.01c and Policy 20.21 with correction.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **9. Approval of Accounts Payable and Commission Minutes**

MOTION – To approve the accounts payable for December 30<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$47,319.47

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

MOTION – To approve the accounts payable for December 31<sup>st</sup> in the amount of \$97,026.58

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

MOTION – To approve the payroll for December 2025

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

## **10. Solid Waste Fee Exemption Continued**

Truette McQueen, County Appraiser, called in over the phone spoke with the Commission. It was decided to have McQueen speak with other counties on how they handle their solid waste fee.

## **11. Commission Minutes**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, stated she reviewed the minutes on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and did not see any place for changes based on the last meetings conversations. Commissioner Grund stated she wants to explain why she was not in favor of paying longevity bonuses. She stated it was unfair to put information without justification. Commissioner Mortimer stated its not fair that she is changing the minutes for the paper. Cox stated she believes the numbers presented were incorrect and some of the information was not apart of the meeting. Commissioner Grund offered to show where the numbers came from. Commissioner Morris stated we are undermining our people. Commissioner Grund stated it is the Commission's job to double check the information that is being presented and be accountable. She stated she was disappointed her comments and justifications will not be in the minutes.

MOTION – To approve the first set of minutes presented for December 08, 2025

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

**MOTION PASSED 2-1**

**(Aye – Commissioner Mortimer and Morris; Nay – Commissioner Grund)**

Cox also discussed the minutes for December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Commission went over agreed upon changes. They will be voted on next week.

## **12. Clerk Comments**

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, discussed the hospital bond and informed the Commission about a meeting that morning for an applicant briefing regarding the July flooding.

## **13. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Mortimer asked about giving money to the 4H council. He also discussed a grant for Rural Champions. He forwarded the email he received to the other Commissioners. The Commission discussed ideas for the grant including getting a grant writer.

## **14. Adjournment**

MOTION – To adjourn the meeting at 10:34 a.m.


MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

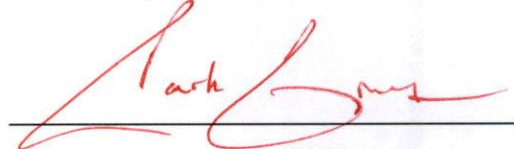
SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris


**MOTION PASSED 3-0**

ADOPTED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Mortimer, Chairman

  
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Carla Grund, Member

  
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Duane Morris, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Tammi Cox, County Clerk

