

## Ottawa County Board of Commissioners Minutes

September 7, 2021

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session with First District Commissioner Dawn Wolf and Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer. Third District Commissioner D.D. Malmberg was absent. In the Clerk's absence, Katrina Pollet took the notes.

Commissioner Wolf called the meeting to order at 8:00AM with opening prayer and flag salute.

Those present were JoDee Copple, Katrina Pollet, and Duane Morris. Also joining by 8:30 AM was Rick Shupe and John Wilson.

Commissioner Mortimer moved to accept the 2022 Budget, Commissioner Wolf seconded, motion passed 2-0.

Commissioner Mortimer moved to approve the minutes from August 30, 2021, with minimal changes to verbiage. Motion carried 2-0.

Discussion ensued about the validity of the RNR data in the Aumentum software. The Commissioners have requested for the Treasurer and the County Clerk to do some random checks to ensure validity.

Commissioner Wolf brought up the Symmetry contract and discussion surrounded the need for Symmetry which is to help keep electrical costs at a minimum. This issue was tabled until next week. The contract is due back to Symmetry by October 1, 2021.

Commissioner Wolf read an email from the Secretary of State Division of Valuation stating our Appraisal Office follows State of Kansas.

Public Comment: Duane Morris discussed wages for the County Commissioners comparing Ottawa County to Saline County; Ellsworth; Cloud; Dickinson and Lincoln counties. He stated the county's pay their commissioners less than we do and he wanted to know why. Commissioners Mortimer stated he spent numerous hours weekly checking roads and a lot of time being a BoCC member. He understands the concerns and stated if after a year he was "just loafing" he would consider a decrease. He stated he gets calls and goes and checks bridges, trees etc., and puts in more than just the 3 hours per week in the meeting. Commissioner Wolf stated some counties pay for cars, vehicles and mileage and we do not. Mr. Morris stated he "realized we set employee wages higher and looked at other counties salaries" when doing so and he thought that was a good move. However, he thought we should keep everything in line with other counties. Mr. Morris is going to contact other counties to see what additional pay those counties are providing BoCC's.

Rick Shupe, Ottawa County Republican Committee Chairman stated he must advertise the Sheriff's recent vacated position and wanted to know what the pay scale would possible be and the requirements. Katrina read K.S.A. 19-801b to the group. The salary range of \$46,520 to \$70,870 was provided. The salary will be determined by the BoCC, in consultation with the HR Manager, and they will identify years of service in the corrections field as the salary.

Sheriff Keith Coleman provided the prisoner count of Saline County 22; Sedgwick County 12; and Ottawa County 3. The BoCC accepted the formal resignation of Sheriff Coleman. The BoCC expressed their

appreciation to the Sheriff for his years of dedicated service and look forward to working with him in a new capacity.

Greg Dockins, Road and Bridge Administrator and Jeff Bender, Foley Equipment representative, who provided quotes for 2 new 120-14AWJ Motor Graders. These motor graders are set to replace two older graders and follow a lease/purchase program the county adopted five years ago. Commissioner Mortimer moved to approve the bid from Foley for the two motor graders at \$192,865. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Commissioner Mortimer discussed with Mr. Dockins a taxpayer concern and showed a video of a ditch on 20<sup>th</sup> road where sand and grass were graded onto the road. Mr. Dockins will review what happened and have a report to the Commissioners on how to fix this issue.

Kenny Baccus, Noxious Weed Administrator, discussed the Kansas Association of Counties updates which was very informative. The items included: Constitutional Home Rule and Legislative Directors report of which they discussed redistricting in Kansas. This will not affect Ottawa County but will affect the larger counties. There are webinars available on the KAC website about the SPARKs funding and the American Rescue Funds that are now available. Rural Broadband is still a discussion in the Capital building, and we are encouraged to reach out to our legislatures Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall supporting this issue of bringing internet to all areas of Kansas. Discussion on MS-ISAC Cyber Security which is free to the members of the National Association of Counties (NACO). There is a \$400 annual fee for joining this organization. Commissioners will attend a NACO presentation in October. He is getting prices on signs in white with black lettering. He also discussed the Flexisign Software update which we can upgrade now for \$811.30 as after September the price raises to \$1159. If sufficient budget, Kenny will purchase.

Sara Hodges, Health Dept. Administrator provided a contract we sign annually to utilize the Mitchell County Health Departments Dietician to help plan healthy meals for WIC participants and trainings provided for staff. Commissioner Mortimer moved and Commissioner Wolf seconded signing the contract. Motion passed 2-0. Ms. Hodges also discussed the Public Transport Bus and the increase in utilization over the last few months. Please note, Monday through Friday at 2 PM is the Health Department COVID-19 screening in the Health Department parking lot. Patrons do not have to exit their vehicles. Results are completed within a ten-minute time span. The HD is averaging 30 tests per week.

Katrina Pollet, Human Resource Manager, discussed staff who are using sick leave when they run out of vacation leave so they can continue taking vacations and wanted to know the stance the BoCC has on this issue. BoCC stated vacation leave is for vacations and sick leave is for when the employee or an immediate family member is sick. When someone is sick and has utilized all their sick leave, they can then substitute vacation leave but not vice versa. Commissioner Mortimer motioned the sick leave not being allowed for vacation time be effective immediately. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Richard Buck, Ottawa County Attorney/County Counselor came in to discuss the Symmetry contract. This issue was tabled to 10:30 AM Monday September 13.

Commissioner Mortimer motioned to go into executive session for 10 minutes, to discuss attorney client privilege. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Those present were Richard Buck, Ottawa County Attorney/County Counselor, and the Commissioners. No decision was made.

With no further business before the board Commissioner Mortimer moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 am. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

ADOPTED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

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Dawn Wolf, Chairman

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D.D. Malmberg, Member

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Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

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Vicki L. Jensen, County Clerk