

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

March 14, 2022

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session with Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg and County Clerk, Vicki Jensen all present. First District Commissioner Dawn Wolf, present by Zoom.

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

Discussion ensued around the meaning of a "dirt road". Commissioner Mortimer had multiple calls about the motion last week. Will continue discussion later with Greg Dockins.

Those present were Richard Buck, County Attorney.

Keith Coleman, Facilities Manager asked about hanging commissioner's pictures in the hallway. They are currently in alphabetical order, and Keith would like to hang them in chronological order. Commissioners approved. Keith helped with dispatch computer, plumbing in kitchen and LED lighting in the jail. Removed snow on Thursday. Heineke Electric worked on the Generac generator at jail to do a firmware update, throttle body is sticking and needs to be replaced. Jackson Glass, Concordia will be here Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to replace courthouse windows that were broken in the windstorm. Roof is leaking, district court has had several tiles fall. Keith will look at roof. Keith is gathering and organizing data on his computer pertaining to the county buildings parts, pieces, fixtures and equipment.

Russ Thornton, County Sheriff gave a prisoner count of Ottawa County 2, Saline County 23, Sedgwick County 26. Russ reported changing the process for inmates communicating with family and attorneys with tablets through Securus. The only cost, to the county, is \$469 to build a data link between Securus and Omnigo.

Greg Dockins, Road & Bridge Administrator and Chris Smith, Road Supervisor discussed routine business. Bids were presented from APAC for the overlay of the Delphos Road from 10th street to Hwy 41 for \$705,000. APAC withdrew their bid from 2 weeks ago and raised the price \$50,000. Cold mix, cold pack and chip rock would be an additional expense. Hall Brothers declined to bid stating they are too busy. Discussion ensued to determine if we should spend this money now or wait. \$705,000 is 73% of Highway Reserve Funds. Instead of depleting the highway reserve funds, it was decided to patch the road for now and hopefully the price of oil products will go down. Cloud/Ottawa County Line bridge project cost was presented at \$18,808.00, which will be split with Cloud County. Our cost will be \$9,404.00. Snow removal was started at 8:00am on Thursday, instead of paying overtime. Commissioner Mortimer received several calls about last weeks' discussion concerning dirt roads not being graded. Mortimer explained that "dirt road" means only dirt, not gravel roads. Greg presented statements from 5 surrounding county road supervisors / engineers who stated they do work their dirt roads. Commissioner Malmberg does not want dirt roads drug in her district during dry periods, Commissioner Mortimer and Commissioner Wolf asked Greg and Chris to use their discretion about the roads in their districts. There has been no response to the advertisement for contract labor to mow county roads. We may need to hire an additional employee to mow for the summer months. Ads have been placed in the Messenger and the county Facebook page.

Chasta Cleveland asked the commissioners for donation to Project Grad 2022. Commissioner Wolf motioned to give \$200 to Project Grad, Minneapolis for the after-graduation program. Motion died for lack of second. Donations from prior years were reviewed. Commissioner Wolf motioned to give Project Grad 2022, Minneapolis \$250.00 for their after-graduation program. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Mortimer motioned to take a three-minute break. Commissioner Malmberg seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Wolf motioned to go into executive session for attorney client privilege. Commissioner Malmberg seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were Commissioners, Richard Buck, County Attorney and Truette McQueen, County Appraiser. The group returned to regular session at 10:02.

Truette McQueen, County Appraiser informed the commissioners that property valuation notices will be mailed out by March 23rd. This is the largest increase he has seen in 38 years. This increase is because of the price houses are currently being sold.

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Commissioner Wolf motioned to appoint Jay Macy and David Stanley to 28th Judicial District as Non-Lawyer Members to the Judicial Nominating Commission. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Malmberg motioned to move \$17,239 from employee benefits to Citizens State Bank for CPM claims. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Rick Comfort joined the meeting.

Dun and Bradstreet letter received February 1, 2022 was discussed. Vicki Jensen, County Clerk researched the letter and tried to get logged into a D&B Dashboard to view details. Part of the login process and verification required county bank account information and passwords. At this point, Vicki decided this was a phishing site and stopped the process. Commissioner Wolf and Commissioner Mortimer had also called D&B. At this point, Commissioner Wolf and Mortimer are not convinced this is a bogus letter and asked Vicki to contact local bankers for their opinion.

Minutes from March 7, 2022 were reviewed. Commissioner Malmberg motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

Commissioner Wolf called Annie Grevas to discuss the Juvenile program with Saline County. Annie is on the agenda for March 28, 2022.

Replacement of Ottawa County Museum board member was discussed. It is not known if the commissioners appoint a new member or if the Museum board should appoint. Commissioner Malmberg will call Neal Kindall to get the details.

Commissioner Wolf asked Vicki Jensen, County Clerk about the Aging Department budget and why it was cut. Vicki responded that this happened in July, before she took office, and therefore had no idea what happened. Vicki and Sara Hodges spoke with Jeff Reece, Auditor 2 weeks ago and he indicated that the commissioners cut the budget. Commissioner Wolf would like Jeff on the agenda to discuss.

With no further business before the board Commissioner Malmberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 am. Commissioner Mortimer seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

ADOPTED this 21st day of March 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Member

D.D. Malmberg, Chairman

Scott Mortimer, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Vicki L. Jensen, County Clerk