
OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2025

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Carla Grund, First District
Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Second District
Commissioner Duane Morris, Third District

Staff Present:

Tammi Cox, County Clerk; JoDee Copple, County Treasurer

Others Present:

Richard Shupe, Jerry Ayers, Juanita Morris

1. Call To Order

Commissioner Mortimer called the meeting to order. Richard Shupe led the group in prayer, followed by the flag salute.

2. Swearing In Ceremony

Commissioners Carla Grund, Duane Morris, and Scott Mortimer were sworn into office along with Shelby Walker, Register of Deeds; Jeff Ebel, County Attorney; Sheriff Russell Thornton; and Tammi Cox, County Clerk by Judge Parks.

3. Reorganization of Commission

MOTION – To appoint Commissioner Mortimer as Chair

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To appoint Commissioner Grund as Vice-Chair

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

4. Appoint County Banks

MOTION – To appoint Bennington State Bank, Citizens State Bank and Bank of Tescott

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

5. Approve District Boundaries

MOTION – To keep the district boundaries the same as they are

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Grund

MOTION PASSED 3-0

6. Official County Newspaper

MOTION – To approve the Minneapolis Messenger as the Official County Newspaper

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

7. Staff Appointments

MOTION – To appoint Marie Ballou as Emergency Management Director

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To appoint Sarah Hodges as Health Department Director

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To appoint Sarah Hodges as Department of Aging Director

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Grund

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To appoint Chris Smith as Public Works Director

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Grund

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To appoint Samantha Davis as Museum Director

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To appoint Keith Coleman as Facilities Director

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Grund

MOTION PASSED 3-0

8. Commission Wage Discussion and LEPC Appointment

Commissioner Morris stated that he is pledging a portion of his wages to Ottawa County Community Foundation or other nonprofits for the betterment of Ottawa County. Commissioner Grund stated she will be tracking her hours for future discussions of wages. Commissioner Morris volunteered to be on LEPC board.

9. Approval of Accounts Payable and Correction Orders

MOTION – To approve accounts payable

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Grund

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve the correction orders

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

10. New Commissioner Orientation

Department Heads and Elected Officials gave an overview of their department, goals, and upcoming plans. The departments that presented were: Commissioner Scott Mortimer; Tammi Cox, County Clerk; Truette McQueen, County Appraiser; Shelby Walker, Register of Deeds; JoDee Copple, County Treasurer; Marie Ballou, Emergency Management Director; and Jeff Ebel, County Attorney. Tours were given by: County Building - Keith Coleman, Facilities Director; Road and Bridge/Noxious Weed - Chris Smith, Public Works Director; Health Department – Sarah Hodges, Health Department Director; Museum – Samantha Davis, Museum Director; Sheriff's Office/Jail – Sheriff Russell Thornton. Commissioner Mortimer left the meeting at 3:20 p.m. before the Sheriff's Office/Jail tour.

11. Adjournment

MOTION – To adjourn the meeting at 4:49 p.m.


MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Grund


MOTION PASSED 2-0

ADOPTED this ___ day of ___ 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS



Scott Mortimer, Chairman




Carla Grund, Vice-Chair



Duane Morris, Board Member

ATTEST:



Tammi Cox, County Clerk

