
OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

APRIL 21, 2025

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Second District

Commissioner Duane Morris, Third District

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Carla Grund, First 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. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Morris stated he spoke with the museum board. They want to work on the museum in phases. They are looking at expanding the facility, but they are still investigating. The museum board is wanting to put artifacts and a sign in the window of the Blue Store to promote the museum. It was the consensus of the Commission to allow them to put items in the window. Commissioner Morris also stated he attended the lithium battery training on Saturday.

3. Road and Bridge Comments

Commissioner Mortimer asked about a trucking invoice. He stated another company does it at a cheaper rate. Chris Smith, Public Works Director, stated they have to use different companies because the one cannot do all of the hauling that needs to be done. Commissioner Mortimer stated he spoke with someone who has offered to help with mowing on the east side of the county. Smith stated he was approached by the City of Minneapolis about helping with repair of the runway. They do not have the equipment to spray oil. He stated he would like to help, but they are short staffed at this time and do not have the manpower. Commissioner Mortimer stated we need to try to help where we can and asked about doing it during harvest when we are trying to stay out of people's way. Smith stated that would be the best scenario but will have to see what their schedule looks like.

4. Approval of Accounts Payable and Commission Minutes

MOTION – To approve accounts payable for \$56,231.33

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 2-0

MOTION – To approve the minutes of April 14, 2025

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 2-0

5. Announcements

Commissioner Morris stated there is a defensive driving class coming up this week for all county staff.

6. Sheriff Comments

Sheriff Russell Thornton stated that he went down to Mulvane along with Undersheriff Jerry Ziolkowski and a dispatcher to accept the nomination for heroism award for the incident at the park last year. He stated they were there representing everyone who was there that day as a team including Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Minneapolis EMS, Minneapolis Police Department, the neighbor across the yard, pool staff and dispatchers.

7. Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation – April 2025

Tanya Paul, Outreach Specialist for DVACK, read the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation for April 2025. April is designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time to educate the public, honor survivors, and raise awareness about the prevalence of sexual violence. 1 in 2 women and nearly 1 in 3 men will experience some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime, revealing the widespread and far-reaching impact of sexual assault on individuals and communities. In the state of Kansas, one incident of rape is reported to law enforcement every 7 hours, 51 minutes, and 23 seconds, underscoring the urgent need for continued awareness, education, and efforts to prevent sexual violence. According to the Kansas Bureau of Investigations, a rape victim is most often female (94.6%), with 62.3% of victims under the age of 25. Offenders are typically male (88.7%), with 18.9% of them being between the ages of 15 and 20 years old. The crime of rape is spread relatively evenly throughout the week, with Saturdays being the highest day of occurrence, accounting for 18.1% of all reported incidents. The majority of these incidents occur between midnight and 2:00 AM, a critical time for prevention, intervention, and awareness. Within DVACK's 7 county catchment area served by the Concordia satellite office, 11 incidents of rape were reported in 2023, yet only 2 arrests were made, representing just 18.2% of reported cases resulting in an arrest. This statistic highlights the need for stronger enforcement of justice, better support for survivors, and improved law enforcement response to sexual violence. We recognize the many challenges faced by survivors of sexual violence, including fear of not being believed, societal stigma, lack of resources, and barriers in the legal system, which contribute to underreporting and impede justice for many. As a community, we must work together to address the issues surrounding sexual violence, support survivors in their recovery, and advocate for a justice system that holds offenders accountable while providing necessary services and protections for victims. The Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas, also known as DVACK, provides 24/7/365, free and confidential services to victims of sexual violence in Ottawa County. DVACK advocates are available 24/7 at (785)827-5862 or toll free at 1-800-874-1499.

MOTION – Move to acknowledge April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 2-0

8. Adjournment

MOTION – To adjourn the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 2-0

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____ 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Scott Mortimer, Chairman

Carla Grund, Member

Duane Morris, Member

ATTEST:

Tammi Cox, County Clerk