
OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

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., followed by the flag salute.

Commissioner Grund led the group in opening prayer.

2. Public Forum

Karl Leech, Minneapolis EMS Director, stated Miltonvale EMS will be shutting down. Minneapolis EMS will be taking over the two townships that are in Ottawa County: Sherman and Chapman. He stated he is starting the process and has spoken with the City, Sheriff, dispatch, and emergency management. There will be a meeting tomorrow to discuss what the next steps are.

3. Community Corrections Annual Grant Applications

Michelle Callam, 28th JDCC Community Corrections Director, discussed Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) grant funding. She stated KDOC allocates funds at the beginning of the year. Callam stated KDOC is going through possible funding restructuring. 28th JDCC receives \$2.5 million a year from KDOC currently. Callam also discussed the pre-trial program. Ottawa County used to participate in the pre-trial program, Callam stated she will come back before the Commission to discuss restarting the pre-trial program. For the KDOC funding, the grant requires a signature from the Chairman. The grant has already been approved by the 28th JDCC advisory board.

MOTION – To approve the Adult Comprehensive Plan for 2026

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve the Juvenile Comprehensive Plan for 2026

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve the Juvenile Evidence Based Programs Grant Signatory Approval Form for 2026 and 2027

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

4. Saline County Sanitarian Final Report

Seth Odette, Saline County Sanitarian, gave a final report to the Commissioners. He stated they performed 135 tests for Ottawa County in 2024, reviewed the number of inspections, and discussed septic system work. Commissioner Grund asked how many wells there are in Ottawa County. Odette stated there are thousands of wells; the County decides how a well is built; the quality of the water is on the landowner. Odette stated they encourage people to test their well water. Odette also stated he is working with the county's IT to transfer records of prior years of work performed by Saline County Sanitarian to Ottawa County for continuity purposes.

5. Review of Purchasing Policy

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, discussed the Purchasing Policy. The Commission discussed changing the local bidder amount. This change would allow the county to choose a local bidder over the lowest bidder. The original policy stated that the local bidder had to be within 1%, the proposed changes would be to increase the 1% to 10% and take out verbiage that makes the local bidder match the lowest bid. Commissioner Grund asked the County Attorney about the changes and how upcoming bid awards would be affected. Jeff Ebel, County Attorney, stated he will review the policy and come back later in the meeting.

6. Recess

MOTION – To recess for five minutes

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

7. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

MOTION – To move to executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to the discuss Non-Elected Personnel for 5 minutes to return at 9:13 a.m. to the Commissioner's Room with Tammi Cox, County Clerk and JoDee Copple, County Treasurer.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken

8. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

MOTION – To move to executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to the discuss Non-Elected Personnel for 5 minutes to return at 9:18 a.m. to the Commissioner's Room with Tammi Cox, County Clerk and JoDee Copple, County Treasurer.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken

9. Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Mortimer asked about the Delphos Fire Department and an update on the road vacation on Granite.

10. Budget Discussion

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, followed up on last weeks budget discussion. She stated she spoke with Scot Loyd about doing the budget, but meeting with Commissioner Grund to review budget concerns periodically. Cox also recommended having the Clerk and Treasurer be the point person for any Commission changes with the accountant. Commissioner Morris stated it sounded good and likes the idea of continuity of Scot Loyd doing the budget. Commissioner Mortimer stated we already budgeted for Scot Loyd. Commissioner Grund discussed the 18 critical services that counties must provide and the importance of finding ways to save money and this could be a place to save.

MOTION – To move to use Scot Loyd to propose the 2026 budget and Commissioner Grund to review budget as it is being prepared.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 2-1

(Aye – Commissioners Mortimer and Morris, Nay – Commissioner Grund)

11. North Central Juvenile Regional Detention Board Appointment

MOTION – To appoint Sheriff Russell Thornton to the North Central Juvenile Regional Detention Board

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

12. Review of Purchasing Policy

Jeff Ebel, County Attorney, returned to the meeting to discuss the purchasing policy. He stated the purchasing policy does not need to be changed, the Commission can choose not to follow it.

MOTION – To move to change the purchasing policy by deleting the second bullet point in Section 4 referring to local bidder matching the low bid and changing the local bid being within 10% of the low bid.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

13. Tractor and Mower Deck Purchase

Chris Smith, Public Works Director, discussed a proposal to rent three tractors from Carrico Implement for \$7,252.00 per tractor for no greater than 12 months or 350 hours. Smith noted that Carrico had presented their bid within the timeframe requested. The county would still be responsible for damages, but not mechanical issues. He stated this does not include mower decks; they have to be purchased separately. He reviewed bids received for the decks. He stated the bid from Lott Implement is a little bit more expensive, but they are local. Smith stated the mower decks, on average, get ten years or more of good use. The mower deck bid from Lott is \$24,000.00 each, for a total of \$72,000.00. The funds would come from the capital outlay fund.

MOTION – To approve the rental of three tractors for the amount of \$7,252.00 each from Carrico Implement for 12 months or 350 hours whatever comes first to come out of the county capital outlay fund.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To amend the purchasing policy for equipment or vehicles that are over the \$15,000.00 limit will not have to request sealed bids per Level 3, but be approved by the Commissioners. Department Heads/Elected Officials would solicit bids consistent with Level 2 per the purchasing policy.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To buy three mower decks at Lott Implement for \$24,000.00 each to come out of the county capital outlay fund.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer

MOTION PASSED 3-0

14. Fair Grounds Property/Land Use Agreement

The Fair Grounds Property/Land Use Agreement was discussed with the Commission and the following: Owen Kindall – Minneapolis Rec Commission; Dave Sweat – City of Minneapolis; Jamie Rice – Minneapolis Rec Commission; Rick Johnson – Fair Board; Bryan Kindall – Fair Board; Doug Plummer – Ottawa County Service Corp and USD 239. Commissioner Grund asked about the word jointly between land ownership between the City and the County. It was agreed to strike the word jointly and replace it

with and/or. The group discussed the history of the land and how it was deeded. The group also discussed adding Ottawa County will be responsible for property and liability insurance for all buildings unless noted as an exception under Real Estate and Building Ownership or Property and Liability Insurance, adding the City of Minneapolis will provide property and liability insurance on city owned property that is utilized by the Rec Commission and the South restroom.

MOTION – To approve the Fairground Property/Land Use Agreement with the following changes: Page 1 - strike the word jointly and replace it with and/or; Page 2 – under the Liability Insurance section include Ottawa County will be responsible for property and liability insurance for all buildings unless listed as an exception and the City of Minneapolis will provide property and liability insurance on city owned property that is utilized by the Rec Commission.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

Kindall commended on how well everyone works together. He also discussed the sewers being plugged by rocks in the sewer dump and they are going to move the sewer dump using a grant they received. Kindall stated they are considering putting up a QR code with Venmo payment for people who use the RV hookups. It was suggested adding a link to Choose Ottawa County. The group discussed possibly working on the boat ramp and Chris Smith, Public Works Director discussed chip sealing this year.

15.Appointment of Public Information Office and Freedom of Information Officer

MOTION – To appoint Tammi Cox, County Clerk as the Public Information Officer and the Freedom of Information Officer

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

16.Solid Waste Exemption

MOTION – To approve the requested solid waste exemption for the Kleins

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

17.Approval of Accounts Payable and Commission Minutes

MOTION – To approve the minutes of February 18, 2025

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve accounts payable for \$48,651.47

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

18. Clerk Comments

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, discussed the regional Commission meeting being held on April 9th in Cloud County and an email she received from the City of Culver.

19. Recess

MOTION – To recess for five minutes

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

20. Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Mortimer discussed K.S.A. 22-2907(3)(c) that states diversion fund should go back to the general fund and asked how much is in the fund. JoDee Copple, County Treasurer, stated there is less than \$10,000.00. It has been used for supplies in the County Attorney's office in the past and to purchase firearms for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Grund stated she would like to get salary information from department heads before the meeting with the Arnold Group. Tammi Cox, County Clerk, will send out the information. Commissioner Grund also discussed a prior payment to a bond being paid out of an incorrect account in 2024. It was the consensus of the Commission to reach out to the auditor to adjust the entry for the jail bond payment. Commissioner Grund also asked about looking into a new tax sales tax to cover the EMS and hospital appropriations since they are not state required services. Jeff Ebel, County Attorney, will look further into it.

21. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

MOTION – To move to executive session under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to the discuss Non-Elected Personnel for 5 minutes to return at 11:30 a.m. to the Commissioner's Room with Tammi Cox, County Clerk.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken

22. Adjournment


MOTION – To adjourn the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris


SECONDED BY – Commissioner Mortimer
MOTION PASSED 3-0

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

