

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

## September 3, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in Suite 201 at the Ottawa County Courthouse.

### Those present were:

First District Commissioner Dawn Wolf

Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer

Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg

Brandon Copple

Heather Maddox, County Clerk

JoDee Copple, Treasurer

Commissioner Wolf called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led the group in opening prayer, followed by the flag salute.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved the August 26th, 2024 minutes as corrected.

### Claims for Approval: Totaling \$57,683.38

County General	\$11,162.07
Road & Bridge	\$6,263.29
Solid Waste	\$27,000.00
Noxious Weed	\$147.22
County Health	\$6.98
Law Enforcement Center	\$53.90
Ottawa TWP Road	\$2,889.35
Bennington TWP Road	\$5,600.00
Fountain TWP Road	\$3,117.93
Grant TWP Road	\$271.32
Historical	\$308.08
Appraiser	\$511.00
F.D. #1 O&L General	\$297.50
F.D #2 MPLS General	\$54.74

On a motion by Commissioner Malmberg seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved the claims as presented.

### Public Comment:

Brandon Copple talked with the commission about a few things he would like to see up and going in the County. The hospital is on his radar, they could use a mammogram machine and an ultrasound machine. There will need to be a new room for the mammogram machine as well. There are lease options for both machines. But there is also a grant for the mammogram machine and the building. Something else Copple said is the jail, it could generate some revenue with KDOC (Kansas Department of Corrections). The new museum, or the Blue Store is not sustainable, if they had a \$400,000- \$450,000 budget then the museum could help sustain the budget with fundraisers (having more at the Blue Store). Another thing Copple talked about is the Racetrack, it could generate property tax if they turn this into a housing development. Copple said he talked with Truette McQueen about zoning. Copple discussed a wind program. Copple talked with the state about the county operating a wind department and program. The state said yes this is a possibility. Copple said 15-20 wind towers could be a huge revenue in upwards of 5 million dollars annually. Malmberg said counties can't get loans. Copple said there are banks willing to partner. There are also grants available for this kind of project. Malmberg asked where will you get land for this. Copple said they would have to talk to landowners. The last thing Copple discussed with the commission is that the feed yard could get up

# Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

September 3, 2024

and running, if they could get a processing plant and feed yard together, not a slaughterhouse. Malmberg said the feed yard is in bad shape. Copple said there are interested parties that would be willing to update and get things going. Copple said that grants are key, and they will need grants to keep these projects running. Copple said he would be willing to write these grants.

## County Departments:

### Treasurer

JoDee Copple, discussed with the commission about the survey for the holiday party. Copple said there were few responses and employees were okay with the gift card.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved to give \$35 chamber gift cards to all employees for Christmas.

On a motion by Commissioner Wolf seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved a 5-minute executive session for personnel exemption to discuss non-elected including Wolf, Mortimer, Malmberg, and Copple. To return at 8:42 a.m.

### Human Resources

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, by unanimous vote the Board approved the 2025 holiday schedule.

On motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Malmberg, by unanimous vote the Board approved to allow the set up at POW table in the lobby of the courthouse during the week of September 16<sup>th</sup>- September 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Health Department

Trish Smith came into the meeting to ask the commission to sign off on the WIC Contract.

### Sheriff

Prisoner count Ottawa County 5.

### Clerk

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved Resolution 24-15 for road closure, on Granite between 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Rd.

### Commission

Commission discussed with Rick Comfort about grants and looking into more information on the Museum.

Commission talked with Jeff Ebel about his upcoming appointment. If appointed he will be in Ottawa County Monday morning and Tuesday. He will be here Monday and Tuesday after January 1. He will do the county counselor job and child in need of care cases.

Commission went over the 2025 budget and made changes.

## Upcoming Meetings Commission will attend:

Commissioner Wolf and Commissioner Mortimer attended the North Central Commissioner meeting on Wednesday August, 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Concordia.

Commission will be present at the Solid Waste Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September at 6:00 p.m. in the Courthouse basement meeting room.

Commission will hold the RNR meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a.m. in the commissioner's room.

Commission will be present at the Township board meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the courthouse basement meeting room.

On motion by Commissioner Malmberg, seconded by Commissioner Mortimer, by unanimous vote the Board approved the resignation of Richard Buck for County Attorney and County Counselor effective September 13<sup>th</sup> 2024.

**Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes**  
**September 3, 2024**

With no further business before the commission the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. on motion by Malmberg and seconded by Wolf. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADOPTED this 9th day of September 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Wolf, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
D.D. Malmberg, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Mortimer, Member

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Maddox, County Clerk