
OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2026

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. Commissioner Morris led the group in opening prayer followed by Commissioner Mortimer with the flag salute.

2. Executive Session – Non-Elected Personnel

MOTION – To move to executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Emergency Management applications for 30 minutes to return at 8:33 a.m. to the Commissioner's Room with Joe Pruitt, HR Coordinator; Keith Coleman, Facilities Director and Tammi Cox, County Clerk.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To move to extend the executive session under the non-elected personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to discuss Emergency Management applications for 15 minutes to return at 8:48 a.m. to the Commissioner's Room with Joe Pruitt, HR Coordinator; Keith Coleman, Facilities Director and Tammi Cox, County Clerk.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

No action taken

3. Noxious Weed Report

Chris Smith, Public Works Director, presented the Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report. Commissioner Grund asked about the numbers included in the report for chemical reimbursements and the cash carryover amounts. Smith will make the changes and turn in the report. Commissioner Grund praised the department for the work completed on 200th and 210th roads south of Highway 18 and

asked about the bridge to be replaced on 200th Road south of Highway 18. Smith stated they are meeting with other entities to review the plan with the bridge.

MOTION – To move approve the noxious weed report as amended

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Grund

MOTION PASSED 3-0

4. North Central Regional Planning Commission

Deb Ohlde, Executive Director of the North Central Regional Planning Commission, gave an update for the North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC). Ohlde stated they are the fiscal agency for homeland security dollars and serve 103 out of the 105 counties; Ottawa County is part of the North Central region. She stated they operate the weatherization program for 41 counties, which is a program for low-income households to improve energy efficiency. Ohlde discussed their business finance program, Demo to Dirt program, and community development programs. Commissioner Grund asked how the annual dues are determined. Ohlde said they charge \$3,500.00 per county.

5. Approval of Accounts Payable and Commission Minutes

The Commission met with the Sheriff Russell Thornton regarding vehicle purchases. He stated the leasing company couldn't get the fourth Tahoe; but could get a Ford F-150 faster and it's \$10,000.00 cheaper. Commissioner Grund asked about switching from Omnigo to Enterpol. Sheriff Thornton stated he was under the impression they could get out of the Omnigo contract but found out later they are not able to until 2029. Sheriff Thornton also gave an update on the jail.

MOTION – To approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$57,739.72

MOTION BY– Commissioner Grund

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

MOTION – To approve the minutes for April 13th as presented

MOTION BY– Commissioner Morris

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Grund

MOTION PASSED 3-0

6. Clerk Comments

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, reminded the Commission about the meeting at the hospital after the Commission meeting. She also stated she is working on the county counselor project for the Regional Commission meeting and is moving forward on it. Cox stated the county audit will begin the week of May 4th.

7. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Morris stated he will be attending the Kansas County Commissioners conference next week. Commissioner Grund noted she was attending the KCC conference and clarified her numbers from last week regarding recycling stating that as of the \$29,000.00 for recycling; \$26,000.00 was for tires. She stated our KCAMP check received last week was larger than last year and discussed the sales tax in Lincoln County; noted National Volunteer Week is this week and thanked all the volunteers for their service throughout the county. Commissioner Grund asked about the EMPG grant which is used to offset the salary of the Emergency Management Director. Tammi Cox, County Clerk, stated that grant funding has not been approved yet for anyone in the state. Commissioner Grund stated she went through the first six months of minutes to make sure we aren't missing anything with emergency management, noting quarterly risk management meetings were done last year. Commissioner Morris will follow up regarding these meetings. Commissioner Morris presented an MOU with the Ottawa County Museum. The Commission discussed the leasing and insurance of the building. It was the consensus of the Commission to ask Keith Coleman, Facilities Director, to review the MOU and discuss it with the Commission next week. Commissioner Mortimer stated the Commission was invited by Delphos Alive for a Celebration of Sound on April 25th at the Delphos Auditorium. New Image will be entertaining, and they will do a dedication of the new sound system and honor the donors. Commissioner Mortimer stated he received a phone call about putting a farmer's market up in the Blue Store. The Commission discussed having the interested party draft a letter of agreement and indemnifying the county from liability.

8. Recess

MOTION – To recess the meeting at 10:23 and reconvene at 11:30 a.m. at the Ottawa County Health Center.

MOTION BY– Commissioner Mortimer

SECONDED BY – Commissioner Morris

MOTION PASSED 3-0

9. Reconvene

Commissioner Morris reconvened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. in the Ottawa County Health Center board room with OCHC Board of Trustees meeting with Commissioner Grund and Tammi Cox, County Clerk in attendance.

10. Ottawa County Health Center Meeting

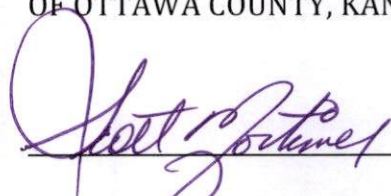
Jody Parks, Ottawa County Health Center Administrator, reviewed the history of the hospital and went over financial information.

11. Adjournment

Commissioner Morris adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

ADOPTED this 27th day of April 2026.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS



Scott Mortimer, Chairman



Carla Grund, Member



Duane Morris, Member

ATTEST:



Tammi Cox, County Clerk

