

Ottawa County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

August 8, 2022

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session with First District Commissioner Dawn Wolf, Second District Commissioner Scott Mortimer, Third District Commissioner D. D. Malmberg and Ottawa Clerk Heather Maddox.

Commissioner Malmberg called the meeting to order at 8:00 am with opening prayer from Nate Foust, and flag salute.

Those present were Nate Foust, Pastor with First Baptist Church

Heather Maddox gave the commissioners invoices to approve.

Minutes from August 1, 2022 were reviewed. Commissioner Mortimer moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

Keith Coleman, Facilities Manager reported working on the Courthouse yard and maintenance at the Jail.

Russ Thornton, County Sheriff gave a prisoner count of Ottawa County 5, Saline County 21, Sedgwick County 21. Sheriff Thornton told the commissioners that he tried to reach out to Cornerstone last week about computers getting updated, and he has not heard back from them. Commissioner Mortimer asked Sheriff Thornton what the reasoning is for letting the sheriff's cars run in the parking lot outside the office. Thornton said he would talk to the Deputies about this. Commissioner Malmberg discussed with the Sheriff about Deputies speeding without lights and sirens on. Sheriff Thornton said they have a new deputy and it has been discussed and will be discussed again about the lead foot.

Greg Dockins, Ottawa County Road & Bridge Administrator, and Chris Smith Road Supervisor talked with commissioners about roads.

Commissioner Mortimer moved to go into executive session pursuant to non-elected personnel. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were Commissioners, Chris Smith, and Greg Dockins. The group returned to regular session at 9:20 am.

Kenny Baccus, Noxious Weed administrator, John Hendrick, spray operator, Chris Smith, Road Supervisor came into the meeting to discuss the plan Baccus put together for the commissioners. Baccus and Hendrick traveled to the west side of the county, they came up with 4 reasons why there is an issue with the bind weed areas. There are areas that have not been done yet this year, there are spots that are right in front of houses, there are areas that have no ditch, bridge or waterway near them. The last reason is there are sensitive crops around the area. Another chemical that Baccus has been using recently is Tordon 22k which is a better solution for Bind weed, but if there are crops out there it could hit them and could affect the crop up to three years down the road. Milestone will burn bind weed, its got a soil residual to it. Mortimer asked which one has the least chance to move, Baccus said Milestone. Commissioners asked if there is a drift on it or if we could put that in, Baccus said it is built in. Mortimer said he knows we can't spray when its 30 mph, but what is the wind speed limit on what you usually spray? Baccus said 15mph is the maximum windspeed. Commissioner said there needs to be a solution. Commissioners asked if there is a list of people who have asked not to have their property sprayed. Baccus will get the list of people to the commissioners.

Marie Ballou, Emergency Management told the commissioners the lawn care companies that we reached out to declined to bid. They are too busy as of now.

Truette McQueen, County Appraiser asked for an executive session with the Commissioners. Commissioner Mortimer moved to go into executive session pursuant to non-elected. Commissioner Wolf seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Those present were Commissioners and Truette McQueen. The group returned to regular session at 10:39. No decision was made.

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Julie Yarmer, Freedom Claims, gave the commissioners a six-month report for the county insurance. Mrs. Yarmer explained the savings having Freedom Claims is at 27%. JoDee Copple Ottawa County Treasurer came in and discussed rates and what it would look like for next year. Commissioners are overall pleased with the new insurance, and set a date for open enrollment.

Commissioners went through the handbook and discussed changes.

Commissioners will have a work session Friday August 12th, all day with Scot Loyd.

With no further business before the board Commissioner Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:34. Commissioner Malmberg seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

ADOPTED this 15th day of August 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

Dawn Wolf, Member

D.D. Malmberg, Chairperson

Scott Mortimer, Vice Chairperson

ATTEST:

Heather Maddox, County Clerk