

GOVERNMENT

Commissioner Minutes Summary

Note: The official minutes of the Ottawa County Commission are available at www.otawacounty.org. This is an abbreviated recap.

The Ottawa County Board of County Commissioners met on November 24, 2025, with Commissioners Carla Grund, Scott Mortimer and Duane Morris present. The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. by Commissioner Mortimer, followed by an opening prayer led by Commissioner Morris and a flag salute led by Commissioner Mortimer.

Jerry Ayers discussed the QR code on the tax statements. Commissioner Grund shared that the online payment is made through INK and the additional cost only pertains to e-check and credit card payments. JoDee Copple, County Treasurer, stated if a taxpayer comes to their office, there is no fee to pay by cash or check. To pay online, there is a charge to use an e-check; paying by debit or credit card charges a 2.5% fee. She stated Ottawa County uses the state system and the state is who charges the fee. David Crosson discussed the water meeting that was held on November 10th and the monitoring of wells and discussed issues with some roads and bridges. The Commission discussed the damage done by a semi on Quartz Road, potential signage needed at Quartz Road at Highway 81 and anticipated reimbursement for damage done paid by the trucking company and Schwartz Farms. Brandon Copple discussed the township/county hybrid roads, sales tax, and elections. He also asked about body cam footage for public viewing. Jeff Ebel, County Attorney, stated body cam footage is not generally available for public viewing because it's part of a criminal investigation.

Jim Kay, Museum Board, stated the museum board elected the new officers for 2026: President – Leland Davis, Vice President – Karissa Koelling, Secretary/Treasurer – Jana VanMeter. Kay desired the Commission to allow the Board to continue as they have in the past. Commissioner Grund discussed the statutes and the six-member board that is listed in the statutes. Jeff Ebel, County Attorney, stated there is no bylaw exception to the statutes. He stated according to the statutes there are six appointed board members and the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Grund stated as long as the board is under the Commission, they need to follow the statutes.

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, stated the Employee Benefit Committee has a recommendation for employee insurance. Bukaty went out to bid for Ottawa County, the bids were reviewed by the committee, and United Healthcare and Delta Dental are the recommendations. Commissioner Grund discussed the differences between the proposed United Healthcare costs as compared to the current Blue Cross Blue Shield costs with Freedom Claims. Commissioner Grund pointed out that the United Healthcare plan only includes medical insurance, stating the County will also incur the cost of the Delta Dental administrative costs and dental claims to be paid. Commissioner Grund believes the proposed United Healthcare and Delta Dental plans will cost about \$80,000 more than the existing plan. She noted that the proposed plan is a simpler and better plan for the em-

ployees. Cameron Mullen, Employee Benefit Committee, confirmed with Family Care Clinic at Ottawa County Health Center and All Smiles Dental Care that they are in network with United Healthcare and Delta Dental, assuring that County employees will be able to use these local providers. The Commission discussed changing the dental benefit from \$3,000.00 down to \$1,500.00 per person.

The Commission approved the insurance proposal as presented by the Employee Benefit Committee with United Healthcare and Delta Dental, with the maximum dental benefit reduced to \$1,500 per person.

The Commission discussed county roads and the current hybrid system with Chris Smith, Public Works Administrator.

Sheriff Russ Thornton discussed possibly purchasing license plate readers in vehicles and a new building for the gun range. He applied for a grant for the license plate readers and noted the new building at the gun range would reduce other storage costs.

The Commission approved policies presented by Tammi Cox, County Clerk: 10-01 – Purpose of Ottawa County Policies; 10-02 – Objectives of the Personnel Program; 20-01 Equal Opportunity Statement; 20-01a – Immigration Law Compliance; 20-01b – ADA Accommodations; 20-01c – Religious Accommodation; 20-01d – Genetic Nondiscrimination; 20-20 – Employee Performance Evaluations; 20-20a – Progressive Disciplinary Process; 20-22 – Involuntary Termination; and 30-03 – Wages and Salary Administration.

The Commission reviewed their 2025 envisioning plans and including cities within the county for future planning.

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, reminded the Commission about the upcoming Emergency Management interviews and Thanksgiving potluck.

Commissioner Grund thanked the Employee Benefit Committee for reviewing potential benefit plans and making recommendations to the Commission. She also thanked the Employee Engagement Committee for planning the Thanksgiving potluck and team building event.

The Commission adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

The Ottawa County Board of County Commissioners met on December 1, 2025, with Commissioners Carla Grund, Scott Mortimer and Duane Morris present. The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. by Commissioner Mortimer, followed by an opening prayer led by Commissioner Grund and a flag salute led by Commissioner Mortimer.

Jodee Parks, Ottawa County Health Center, discussed the reappointment of two hospital board members – Kathy Luthi and Steve Carlson. She stated the terms are for four years. Commissioner Grund confirmed with Parks that the Health Care Center is in network with United Healthcare Insurance, noting that last week the Commission approved that plan for County employees for 2026. Parks discussed having the county do their own DOT physicals and invited the Commissioners to come to a hospital board meeting. The Commission approved the appointments of Kathy Luthi and Steve Carlson to serve another term on the hospital board.

Leland Davis, Museum Board, discussed the museum board and moving to a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. The Commission and Davis agreed that museum employees will continue to be county employees at this time. It was the consensus of the Commission to write a letter of support as needed as the museum transitions to a 501c3 corporation. Davis agreed to bring a list of board members for the Commission to appoint.

The Commission agreed to discuss any plans for the Blue Store with the museum board.

Michelle Callam, Community Corrections Director, reviewed their accomplishments including RePath which is a client messaging system, and their annual conference and gave an update on staffing. She reviewed the number of incidents they have responded to in Ottawa County. Callam stated they will start Pre-Trial services in January 2026. Callam discussed the new funding formula with the state which would result in a \$292,000 loss over the next 3 years, but that has been put on hold.

JoDee Copple, County Treasurer, presented updated United Healthcare insurance costs. She stated Bukaty was able to save the county an additional 2% on the cost. Commissioner Morris stated he would like to roll back to the \$3,000 dental benefit from the \$1,500 benefit that was voted on last week. Copple stated this \$3,000 benefit has been the benefit for a long time and the recommendation of the benefits committee is to keep that benefit. Commissioner Grund asked how many employees have utilized this higher level of dental benefits. Copple did not have that information. The Commission reinstated the \$3,000 maximum dental benefit per person for county employees.

DD Malmberg, Culver Fire Department Treasurer, requested rescinding Resolution 24-10 that authorizes the county to maintain the funds on behalf of the Culver Fire Department. Malmberg stated that the Culver Fire Department now desires to maintain their own funds and presented minutes of the Culver Fire Department requesting this change. The Commission rescinded Resolution 24-10 as requested.

Tammi Cox, County Clerk, reminded the Commission about the interviews in the afternoon and no scheduled meeting next week. The Commission approved meeting December 8th to approve accounts payable and minutes at 8 a.m.

Commissioner Grund thanked the Employee Engagement Committee for organizing the staff potluck and team building exercises.

The Commission adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Commissioner Grund called the meeting to order 12:48 p.m. with Commissioner Grund and Commissioner Morris present.

Three executive sessions were held under the Non-Elected Personnel exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to interview for the Emergency Management Director position returning to the Commissioner's Room with Tammi Cox, County Clerk.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

It was the consensus of the Commission to have the County Clerk extend a job offer to one of the candidates.

The Commission adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on December 18, 2025)

ORDINANCE NO. 1980

An Ordinance, granting to Evergy Kansas Central, Inc., a Kansas corporation, its successors and assigns, an electric franchise, prescribing the terms thereof and relating thereto, and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with or in conflict with the terms hereof.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF: "City" - Kansas

SECTION 1. That in consideration of the benefits to be derived by the City of Kansas (the "City"), and its inhabitants, there is hereby granted to Evergy Kansas Central, Inc., a Kansas corporation, hereinafter sometimes designated as "Company," said Company being a corporation engaged in the business of selling and furnishing electric power throughout the state of Kansas and to the inhabitants of the City, the right, privilege, and authority for a period of twenty (20) years from the effective date of this ordinance, to occupy and use the several streets, avenues, alleys, bridges, parks, parking, and public places of said City, for the placing and maintaining of equipment and property necessary to carry on the business of selling and distributing electricity for all purposes to the City, and its inhabitants, and through said City and beyond the limits thereof, to obtain said electricity from any source available; and to do all things necessary or proper to carry on said business in the City.

SECTION 2. As further consideration for the granting of this franchise, and in lieu of any city occupation, license, or revenue taxes, the Company shall pay to the City during the term of this franchise five percent (5%) of its gross cash receipts from the sale of electric energy for use within the corporate limits of said City, such payment to be made monthly for the preceding monthly period. Gross cash receipts shall not include other operating revenues received by the Company, which are not related to the "sale of electric energy". Other operating revenues include, but are not limited to, delayed payment charges, connection fees, disconnection and reconnection fees, collection fees and return check charges. Company will use commercially reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of its records and of the determination of the amount of gross cash receipts subject to the fee provided for in this Section 2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Franchise, the fee provided for in this Section 2 shall not become effective within any area annexed by the City until 30 days after the City provides the Company with a certified copy of the annexation ordinance, proof of publication as required by law and a map of the city detailing the annexed area.

SECTION 3. That Company, its successors and assigns, in the construction, maintenance, and operation of its electric transmission, distribution and street lighting system, shall use all reasonable and proper precaution to avoid damage or injury to persons and property, and shall hold and save harmless the City, from any and all damage, injury and expense caused by the negligence of said Company, its successors and assigns, or its or their agents or servants.

SECTION 4. After the approval of this ordinance by the City, Company shall file with the City Clerk, the Company's unconditional written acceptance of this ordinance. Said ordinance shall become effective and be in force and become a binding contract between the parties hereto, their successors and assigns, from and after the first day of the first month after such acceptance is provided by said Company to the City after its final passage, approval and publication as required by law, and acceptance by said Company.

SECTION 5. That this ordinance, when accepted as above provided, shall constitute the entire agreement between the City and Company relating to this franchise and the same shall supersede and cancel any prior understandings, agreements, or representations regarding the subject matter hereof, or involved in negotiations pertaining thereto, whether oral or written.

SECTION 6. This franchise is granted pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 12-2001.

SECTION 7. That any and all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the terms hereof are hereby repealed.

SECTION 8. The Company will file this ordinance with the State Corporation Commission of Kansas. Should the State Corporation Commission take any action with respect to this franchise ordinance, which would or may preclude Evergy Kansas Central, Inc., a Kansas corporation, from recovering from its customers any cost provided for hereunder, the parties hereto shall renegotiate this ordinance in accordance with the State Corporation Commission's ruling.

SECTION 9. A franchise shall be assignable only in accordance with the laws of the State of Kansas, as the same may exist at the time when any assignment is made. In the event of such assignment to a successor, Company shall be released from all obligations which are assumed in writing by its assignee upon the signing by such assignee of an assumption of the franchise being assigned.

PASSED and APPROVED this 9th day of December, 2025.

James Bradshaw
Mayor

Attest:

Karen K. Klein
City Clerk



(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on December 4, 2025)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of)
Donald Eugene Mutschler,)
a/k/a Donald E. Mutschler,)
a/k/a Donald Mutschler,) Case No. OT-2025-PR-000028
a/k/a Don Mutschler, Deceased)

Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Megan Chase, surviving daughter and heir of Donald Eugene Mutschler, deceased, requesting:

Descent be determined of the decedent's following described real estate in Ottawa County, Kansas:
Lots 1-8, Block 2, C.C. Schur's First Addition to Lakeview, Ottawa County, Kansas,
and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death.

And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned to the decedent's heir under the laws of intestate succession.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before December 30, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Ottawa County Courthouse in Minneapolis, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

/s/ Megan Chase, Petitioner

Prepared by:
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