



GOVERNMENT

Commissioner's Desk



By Duane Morris
Ottawa County Commissioner
District #3

Please remember this is NOT an official documentation of the minutes, it is meant to be an informative synopsis of County Commissioner activities from my perspective. If you want more information on a subject I mention here, I encourage you to read the full minutes of the meetings or watch the video of the meetings. Both are online at the Ottawa County Website <https://ks1497.cicosting.com/main/>.

The January 12th commission meeting is on the internet. Go to the Ottawa County website and look under the Quick Links Tab. Click "Agendas, Minutes, and Videos."

Our January 12th meeting began with "housekeeping" items such as reorganizing the board, appointing official banks and department heads. The Minneapolis Messenger will be the official county newspaper.

Tanya Paul from the Domestic Violence Association of Kansas (DVACK) presented a proclamation declaring January as Stalking Awareness Month. She also presented a proclamation declaring January as also Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Stalking has become so much more than someone following an individual; even our phones can be used to track us. She also shared that human trafficking and slavery affects 17,000 people

STRANGE, BUT TRUE...

The U.S. Postal Service employs a sharp-eyed group of folks whose job is to determine where to send letters and packages with illegible addresses. They work their magic at the USPS Remote Encoding Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, the first facility of its kind and now the only one still standing.

annually nationwide. Chris Smith, Public Works Director, shared projects in their department. One of note is Granite Road east of 170th. The guys were trying to lay cold mix asphalt over the concrete road bed on one of the warm days last week and it wasn't working. They tried every trick they knew, but to no avail. I'm sure Chris and the crew will figure out a way to make it work.

Tuesday evening Ottawa County Emergency Management Director, Marie Ballou, hosted a "meet and greet" for incoming Emergency Management Director, Jason Gipson. There were approximately 30-40 fire chiefs, law enforcement, and EMS personnel from Ottawa County and surrounding counties present. Jason spoke about his intent to build on what Marie has established and move forward to explore how the department can improve services to Ottawa County. Welcome to the Ottawa County Family, Jason!

I've been doing some research on Small Nuclear Reactor systems. The commissioners signed and sent letters of interest to Evergy, Terra Power, and Oklo Inc. These companies are key players on the energy scene in Kansas. We believe Ottawa County is an ideal place for one of these facilities.

We're also looking into the possibilities of trying to get a data center located here. These centers require a large amount of electricity and excellent internet connections. We will do more research on data centers. We also discussed battery storage facilities.

According to the South West

Power Pool projections the demand for electrical power will increase 136% over the next ten years. That means we'll have to double all energy production: nuclear, gas and coal fired plants, as well as wind power. The timing seems right to explore this new technology to meet this need. Ottawa County could certainly benefit economically by locating a Small Modular Reactor here. There are many new safety features that have been incorporated into the design. One important feature is "walk away safety." The reactor is designed to keep functioning normally with no operator present and should an abnormality occur it will safely shutdown automatically. Of course an operator will be present 24/7/365.

Childcare and housing are two important issues we will face in 2026. We are checking on grant availability to help solve both needs. I would encourage anybody with ideas to contact a commissioner and we can get the ball rolling.

Lastly, I want to brag on Katie Vanderhoff and Choose Ottawa County. In the categories of Jobs, Housing, and Quality of life, grants in the amount of \$901,148 was awarded to projects in Ottawa County. Katie, along with cooperation from businesses, has put together a package to entice people to move here. You can help by spreading the word to your out of state family or friends about this and it's a win win! Ottawa County gains new residents and your family or friends are closer to you!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on January 22, 2026)

OTTAWA COUNTY EXPENDITURE 4th QUARTER 2025

Account	Expenses
County General	481,137.16
Road & Bridge	1,590,075.08
Special CO. Machinery	369,176.57
Special Bridge	5,592.86
Solid Waste	115,576.55
Ottawa County 911 Fund	18,801.49
Vehicle	106,723.29
Election	29,039.20
Building Fund	45,018.90
Noxious Weed	32,746.83
Aging	41,379.02
Bennington Township Road	9,780.68
Blaine Township Road	43.55
Buckeye Township Road	12,667.09
Center Township Road	9,065.01
Chapman Township Road	1,628.62
Concord Township Road	14,428.95
Culver Township Road	6,373.64
Durham Township Road	1,778.65
Fountain Township Road	12,325.01
Garfield Township Road	26,884.14
Grant Township Road	8,139.28
Henry Township Road	1,696.22
Lincoln Township Road	1,064.91
Logan Township Road	39,909.67
Morton Township Road	11,805.98
Ottawa Township Road	12,934.56
Richland Township Road	14,928.18
Sheridan Township Road	11,375.87
Sherman Township Road	16,471.14
Stanton Township Road	12,616.90
Historical	27,702.68
County Health	58,779.67
Appraiser	48,296.85
Tech Fund/ Register of Deeds	991.71
Employee Benefits	453,108.09
F.D. #1 O&L General	468.78
F.D. #2 Mpls Genral	73,765.97
F.D. #3 Del General	15,390.37
Jail Commissary	1,796.10
Law Enforcement Center	421,988.87
F.D. #4 BENN General	2,090.10

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given that Brady Nuessen has made a request for a zoning change at 104 N Rothsay Ave from a R-2 Single Family to a R-5 Multi Family.

That said Planning Commission will hold a hearing on the 11th day of February, 2025 at 12:00 o'clock, noon of said day, in the office of the City Clerk of said City, and all persons interested therein may present their views on the matter.

Dated at Minneapolis, Kansas, this 22nd day of January, 2026.

Mark Smith
City of Minneapolis Planning & Zoning

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Maria Corina Machado was given the Nobel Peace Prize because of her work - "a huge step towards a democratic transition in Venezuela." She almost certainly deserved this award. Ms. Machado has presented her well deserved prize to the current president of the United States. She has obviously paid little attention to how democracy is being attacked in the United States by this administration. She is foolish for believing that this president will use his position to promote democracy in Venezuela. More likely, this president used the considerable power of the United States to invade Venezuela for the purpose of obtaining access to oil, and further may use his resources to crush anything that might get in his way - including de-

mocracy in Venezuela. The fact that Ms. Machado has taken the ill-advised step of giving her medal to this president is icing on his cake. It hardly seems like a stretch to think that - given his obsession with obtaining the Nobel Peace Prize and his stated reasoning that he deserved it more than anyone else - this could be part of this president's ulterior motive for attacking Venezuela. The Nobel Peace Prize Center said that, "The medal can change owners, but the title of a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate cannot." This president may claim the Nobel Peace Prize as his own, but his actions have shown over and over that he is in no way a champion of peace anywhere in the world.
~Jeri Van Meter

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City of Bennington Treasurer's Annual Report For the Year-to-Date as of December 31, 2025

	Beginning Cash	Cash Receipts and Transfers	Cash Disbursements and Transfers	Ending Cash	Accounts and Payroll Payable	Ending Cash Less Payables
General Fund	56,375.54	269,942.64	199,347.61	126,970.57	2,254.04	124,716.53
Special Revenue						
Special Highway Fund	26,874.16	19,417.75	0	46,291.91	0	46,291.91
Parks and Rec Fund	45,974.44	1,810.57	19,254.68	28,530.33	1,128.00	27,402.33
Northview Addition Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sales Tax Fund	60,703.10	55,678.39	0	116,381.49	0	116,381.49
Park and Rec Grant Fund	2,938.01	1,737.58	0	4,675.59	0	4,675.59
ARPA Grant Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Improve Res Fund	85,511.39	258,765.00	286,300.24	57,976.15	0	57,976.15
Capital Equip Res Fund	47,155.22	0	17,281.00	29,874.22	0	29,874.22
Debt Service						
Bond and Interest Fund	78.82	10.66	0	89.48	0	89.48
Capital Improvement Bond Enterprise	0	0	0	0	0	0
Storm Sewer	33,068.68	3,544.87	0	36,613.55	0	36,613.55
Sewer Rehab	77,974.36	17,258.23	33,240.00	61,992.59	0	61,992.59
Water Fund	52,498.09	144,818.90	102,386.43	94,930.56	3,842.05	91,088.51
Sewer Fund	59,343.60	84,385.81	80,804.99	62,924.42	2,988.83	59,935.59
Landfill Fund	14,274.91	47,403.01	45,164.50	16,513.42	3,816.00	12,697.42
Alley Maintenance Agency	51,055.56	10,660.84	2,687.49	59,028.91	0	59,028.91
Payroll Clearing Fund	1,010.62	223,126.20	224,136.82	0	0	0
Sales Tax Clearing Fund	0	798.55	798.55	0	0	0
Deposit Clearing Fund	1,096.77	9,643.19	9,280.99	1,458.97	0	1,458.97
Penalty Clearing Fund	69.53	1,911.59	0	1,981.12	0	1,981.12
Total	616,002.80	1,150,913.78	1,020,683.30	746,233.28	14,028.92	732,204.36

Note: Payroll is encumbered only for year-end financial statement reporting.
Outstanding Debt as of Statement Date: G.O. Bonds 0
Revenue Bonds 0
Other Debt 227,031
Total Debt 227,031

**Skilled Nursing - Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy - Speech Therapy
Caaregiver Services - Med. Management
Housekeeping - Attendant Care and More!**

Accessible Home Health INC
AccessibleHH.com

Accessible Home Care LLC
AccessibleHC.com

785-407-5033
211 N Concord St., Minneapolis

Voted "Best Home Health Care" 8 Years in a row!