



GOVERNMENT

OCRPC Minutes

By Sue Black
OCRPC Secretary

The Ottawa County Republican Party met January 18, 2026, at the Minneapolis Public Library meeting room. Chairman Rick Shupe called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Jerry Ayers led the group in prayer. Chairman Shupe led the flag salute. Roll call was led by Sue Black. There were 10 precinct members present with a total of 22 persons attending. Barb Belden gave the Treasurer's report. There is \$342.30 in the treasury. Sue Black read the minutes from the November 16, 2025 minutes. Barb Belden moved to approve the minutes, and Dick Belden seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business: Rick Shupe announced that he will be stepping down, as Chairman of OCRP, no later than August

2026. Co-chair, Jennifer Vesterberg, will be taking his position. Dave Stanley, a member of the nominating committee to select District and Magistrate judges, shared how judges are selected. The selection committee consists of four citizens and four attorneys. Dave Stanley and Kathy Luthi are the two citizen members from Ottawa County. There are two citizen members from Saline County. The Ottawa County Commissioners appoints these members to the 28th district board. Our district consists of five district judges and two magistrate judges. District judges must be thirty years old or older and be attorneys. Municipal judges do not have to be attorneys. Candidates, for District Judge, apply through the Kansas Bar Association. The selection committee nominates three- five of those applicants,

to send to the Governor. From those nominees, the Governor makes the District Judge appointments. The selection committee appoints the Magistrate Judge. There was discussion on whether the District Judges should be appointed by the governor or elected by the citizens. There will be a Constitutional Amendment question on the ballot, for the Statewide election in August 2026, on whether to allow citizens to elect the Kansas Supreme Court judges or to continue allowing the selection committee to appoint the Supreme Court Judges.

Dick Belden moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Diane McKain. Motion passed. In closing, Chairman Shupe reminded us to stand firm in our values with Christian love and compassion for all.

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 online at the Ottawa County Website <https://ks1497.cichosting.com/main/>

There was no meeting on January 19th in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The January 26th meeting began in yet a brand new way. (for me at least) I haven't been feeling well and thought it was best to stay home. I am thankful for the video taping of the meetings and was able to stay up to speed.

Brandon Copple and I share an interest in energy alternatives and we were able to make a road trip to Beloit to tour their "new" solar power farm. The solar farm occupies about 19 acres. Jeremy Nulf, Beloit Power Director, was kind enough to give us the tour and explain the operation. I don't remember specific numbers as far as length of time the facility has been producing electricity, but I (think) I remember actual cost to the city of Beloit was around \$3 million. It has been in operation long enough that it will soon be paid off and plans are to more than double the size. If expanded this facility will produce about 10% of electricity for the city or 5 megawatts. Also in the expansion will be a 5 megawatt battery storage facility. The solar panels actually move to track the sun and maximize output. There are many unanswered questions about the future of energy and this is one possibility to address the projected increase need for electricity in our future.

One of my goals is to have joint meetings with commissioners and town councils from the four incorporated

cities in Ottawa County. We want to discuss goals and possible joint projects. These meetings would be one town at a time and hopefully more than once for each community. We need to get together and share our visions of what we want Ottawa County to look like 5 or 10 years down the road. We could make this an ongoing opportunity to communicate and work together to make our vision a reality.

Tammi Cox, county clerk, announced that she had received a letter from the State of Kansas informing us that the first receipts of the transient guest tax would soon be sent. Commissioner Mortimer recognized the former commissioners for their work and dedication to see this implemented.

I would like to recognize the planning and preparations that Jason Gipson, our new Emergency Management Director, put forth prior to the blizzard and extreme cold January 22nd -25th. Thankfully his planning was not needed, but "we were ready." A great big "Thank You" is severely inadequate, but

needs to go out to everyone on the road and bridge crew that kept our roads open during that extreme winter weather Mother Nature dumped on us. Thanks also to the courthouse staff who kept the doors open for business on Friday the 23rd in spite of harsh winter weather.

Friday January 30th, a retirement reception was held for Marie Ballou. She served our county "above and beyond" for 41 years in several capacities. There were many neighboring county Emergency Management Directors and many, many co-workers present to wish her well. After her first week away from the office Marie commented that she felt like she was going to enjoy retirement. We wish her and Marvin the best as they begin new adventures together!

The winners of my \$25 Choose Ottawa County gift cards were Ross Jameson and Marvin Ballou. This is my way of saying "Thank You" to those who serve our county. The cards are purchased with my own money.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!


OTTAWA COUNTY
EST. 1866

The Ottawa County Commission Meetings are now available to view online. New meetings will be uploaded weekly. Stay informed and up to date on happenings in Ottawa County. You can view the meetings via You tube or the Ottawa County Web Page.




OTTAWA COUNTY
EST. 1866

Ottawa County is seeking customer-oriented people to fill our current openings.

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Vehicle/Tax Clerk

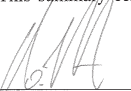
Road & Bridge Laborer

Applications available at the County Courthouse, Ottawa County Web Page, or by requesting one via email humanresources@ottawacounty.org

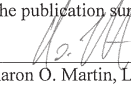
Ottawa County, Kansas ("OCK") is an equal opportunity employer.

(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on February 5, 2026)
Ordinance No. 216 Summary

On October 8, 2025, the Culver City Council passed Ordinance No. 216, an ordinance regulating traffic within the City of Culver, Kansas by adopting and incorporating by reference the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, 52nd Edition (2025), with certain changes and additions related to traffic infractions and offenses, and off-road vehicles, and the speed limit on streets within city limits. The ordinance repeals existing Ordinance Nos. 7, 14, 20, 107A, 128, 129, and 136. A complete ordinance is available at <https://www.cityofculverkansas.org/>, or at City Hall, at 205 Kansas Ave., Culver, Kansas 67484, free of charge. This summary certified by Aaron O. Martin, Legal Counsel.


Aaron O. Martin, Legal Counsel

The publication summary set forth above is certified this 16th day of January, 2026.


Aaron O. Martin, Legal Counsel

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(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on January 29, 2026)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of: Case No. OT-26 PR 03
CHRIS E. CARLSON, deceased

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS


THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Will Carlson praying for Letters of Administration, you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before March 3, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. of said day, in said Court, in the City of Minneapolis, in Ottawa County, State of Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice as provided by law and if their demands are not thus exhibited they shall be forever barred.

/s/ Will Carlson
Will Carlson, Petitioner

PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:

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(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on February 5, 2026)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of)
LINDA E. BAXTER, Deceased.) Case No. OT-2026-PR-000001

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition was filed in this Court by Matthew Baxter, as one of the heirs of Linda E. Baxter, deceased, praying for the determination of the descent of interest in the following described real property:

Lots Nine (9) and Ten (10), Block Eighteen (18), Original Town of Culver, Ottawa County, Kansas.

and all other property, real and personal, or interests therein, owned by the decedent at the time of her death; and, you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 3rd day of March, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. of said day, in said court, in the City of Minneapolis, in Ottawa County, Kansas, 307 N Concord., at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Matthew Baxter, Petitioner

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