



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 online at the Ottawa County Website <https://ks1497.cichosting.com/main/> Monday February 9th meeting, Doug Plummer and Sheila Reed were with us to discuss meals at the Golden Wheel. It is going on 4 weeks now with no meals being served and little to no communication with

North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging. We had a conference call with Linda Semple of NCFHAAA. The board of directors are exploring options to get the meal program underway again. As a community it seems to be the time to band together to help move this project forward. Please contact the Golden Wheel with ideas or offers of help.

I was able to have Paul Hughes from the Kansas Department of Commerce present an informational power point on data centers. He was able to talk about current technology and how they will or will not impact neighbors of the site and our area in general. He was very informative. He has been contacted by a couple of data center companies and contacted us to see if we are interested in hosting a data center location. There are many unanswered questions, but we are slowly moving forward. The data center companies' timeline is to have a site located and begin construction by 2030.

There was discussion about cooperating with Cloud County on a bridge replacement in the northwest corner

of the county. Chris Smith, Public Works Director, is negotiating details and will report back to the commissioners. The subject of rough railroad crossing was brought up and Chris explained that we are at the mercy of the railroad company. We, as a county, can't do anything about it.

Chris also mentioned that the solid waste committee met and discussed fees with no major changes for 2026. The annual meeting will be moved to December to make it easier for our staff to file year end reports.

Sheriff Thornton has been researching a vehicle fleet leasing option for his vehicles. It seems this is the way to go to save quite a bit of money and eliminate "surprise" expensive repairs. We have been fortunate that a couple big expenses such as a motor replacement have been covered by warranty, but there's always the uncertainty...you never know...

There will be no commissioner meeting and the courthouse will be closed Monday February 16th. Enjoy your President's Day Holiday!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

Mail Your Tax Return with USPS

Use the U.S. Postal Service to mail your tax return, get proof that you mailed it on a specific date with Certified Mail® or Registered Mail® service, and track its arrival at the IRS.

Federal Tax Deadlines:

April 15, 2026: Federal tax return filing deadline for tax year 2025.

The IRS considers a tax return to be filed on time if your envelope:

- Is properly addressed

- Has enough postage
- Is postmarked by the filing due date

As long as your envelope meets the above criteria, your tax return will be considered on time (even if it's delivered after the due date).

Important: To ensure your tax return is postmarked on the day you mail it, ask a retail associate at a Post Office retail counter to hand-cancel it for free.

Meeting to Highlight How "Big Beautiful Bill" Impacts Local Farms

Area agricultural producers will have an opportunity to learn how recent federal legislation could impact their operations during an upcoming informational meeting hosted by the Ottawa County Farm Bureau.

The meeting, titled "Big Beautiful Bill Act - How Does It Affect Your Farm?", will be held Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Central Kansas Extension District meeting room, 315 W. 3rd St., Minneapolis.

The session will focus on how provisions within The One Big, Beautiful Bill Act may influence crop insurance programs, government payments

and marketing opportunities for farmers and ranchers. Organizers say understanding these changes are key to helping producers make informed decisions and protect their bottom line.

Featured speakers Scott Ahlvers and Tiffany Larkins of AgMark, LLC will share their expertise on grain and livestock marketing strategies, along with practical insights to help producers navigate today's markets and maintain profitability.

All local agricultural producers are encouraged to attend and take part in the discussion.

(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on February 19, 2026)

City of Minneapolis Financial Statement: Q1-2025

		Beginning balance	Receipts	Checks	Ending Balance
General	01-1010	\$ 273,882.60	\$477,492.89	\$300,837.00	\$ 450,538.49
General-Surplus	01-1530	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Amb Fund	05-1010	\$ 292,848.63	\$ 457,414.50	\$165,104.23	\$ 585,158.90
Mpls Lib	10-1010	\$ 6,105.29	\$ 48,229.74	\$ 54,335.03	\$ 0.00
Recreation	12-1010	\$ 4,459.62	\$ 28,794.48	\$ 33,254.10	\$ -
Special Park/Rec	20-1010	\$ 42,394.61	\$ 1,379.00	\$ -	\$ 43,773.61
Main Trafficway	21-1010	\$ 71,486.18	\$ 12,960.04	\$ 11,228.54	\$ 73,217.68
Capitol Imp	31-1010	\$ 1,672,077.52	\$91,709.18	\$ 86,886.40	\$ 1,676,900.30
Equip Res	32-1010	\$ 126,199.83	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 26,633.99	\$ 129,565.84
Bond/Spec. Asses	40-1010	\$ 99,407.19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99,407.19
Revitalization	41-1010	\$ 41,625.66	\$ 1,299.07	\$ 4,216.48	\$ 38,708.25
Ins Fund Proceeds	45-1010	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Economic Dev	47-1010	\$ 79,767.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,767.30
Waterworks	50-1015	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating	50-1010	\$ 156,729.10	\$ 108,636.33	\$76,792.35	\$ 188,573.08
WA surplus	50-1530	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Electric	51-1015	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating	51-1010	\$ 1,621,923.53	\$ 590,520.60	\$ 597,825.01	\$ 1,614,619.12
Change fund	51-1012	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bond & Int	51-1500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
El Sys Surplus	51-1530	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sewer	52-1010	\$ 32,720.95	\$ 38,481.15	\$ 38,783.00	\$ 32,419.10
Refuse	53-1010	\$ 633.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 633.29
Housing	99-1010	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Funds					\$ 5,028,282.15
Electric CD	51-1521				\$ -
Total All Funds					\$ 5,028,282.15
Difference					\$ 0.00
Grand Total					\$ 5,028,282.15

CASH & INVESTMENT SECURITIES

Cash on hand (change fund)	\$ 2,000.00
Returned Checks	
Cash In Bank	\$ 5,026,282.15
Idle Funds	
Fire Ins Escrow	
Water Project	
Rothsay St Project	
Escrow Deposit	
Electric Fund CD	
Deposit Differential	
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	\$ 5,028,282.15

LIABILITIES & OBLIGATIONS

General Obligation Bonds	\$ 495,000.00
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 435,000.00
General Obligation Watter II	\$ 2,695,000.00
General Obligation 2006	
Electric Revenue Bonds	
Lease Purchase	\$ 404,515.02
GO Bonds Rothsay	
Sewer (state Revolvig Loan)	\$ 202,356.20
KPWSLF WTB	
KDOC&H (West Industrial)	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & OBLIGATIONS	\$ 4,231,871.22

I, Damon McKinney, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Damon McKinney

(First published in The Minneapolis Messenger on February 19, 2026)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of
JEANNE LARZALERE BLOOM, Deceased Case No. OT - 26 PR 05

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 Jonathan E. Bloom praying for Letters of Administration, you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before March 17, 2026 at 9:00 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/ Jonathan E. Bloom
Jonathan E. Bloom, Petitioner

PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:

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Legislative Coffee

SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 2026 | 10 A.M.

AVI TECHNICAL
ACADEMY
301 E. SEVENTH ST.
DELPHOS, KS

Sen. Elaine Bowers
and Rep. Dawn Wolf
will be attending.

Coffee and
donuts will be
provided!

Ottawa County Farm Bureau
The Voice of Agriculture