

GOVERNMENT

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

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS

WILLIAM R. ALLISON AND
CARREE V. ALLISON, WILLIAM R. ALLISON AND)
CARREE V. ALLISON AS TRUSTEES OF THE)
W & C ALLISON FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST)
DATED SEPTEMBER 9, 2020)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE)
Defendants)

Case No. OT-26 CV 03

NOTICE OF SUIT
(Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60-307)

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO:

Any interested party

You are hereby notified that on the 12th day of March, 2026, a Petition to Quiet Title to Personal Property, specifically the address 387 N. Pine Street, Apt C, Gardner Kansas 66030-1615 was filed in the District Court of Ottawa County, Kansas, by William R. Allison and Carree V. Allison, as trustees of the W & C Allison Family Revocable trust, praying for judgment against the above-named defendant and any interested party.

You are hereby required to plead to said Petition on or before the 4th day of May, 2026, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., in said Court, at the Ottawa County Courthouse, 307 North Concord, Minneapolis, Kansas. Said hearing shall be by zoom and any party desire to attend should request the appropriate zoom link from either counsel for the Plaintiff or the Clerk of the District Court of Ottawa County. Should you fail to plead therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course on said Petition.

/s/ William R. Allison
William R. Allison, Plaintiff

/s/ Carree V. Allison
Carree V. Allison, Plaintiff

PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:

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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/>

Our March 23rd meeting opened with the Ottawa County Fair Board on hand to discuss appointments to the fair board and the land use agreement. I want to say a big "Thank You" to the fair board! All board members work hard to make sure we have a great fair. Come check out the expanded parking lot at the fairgrounds! The Ottawa County Service Corporation (OCSC) owns, maintains, and operates all of the amusement rides and midway games. They are two separate organizations. I am a board member of OCSC and some-

times the lines get blurred about who does what at the fair. I and others, on behalf of OCSC, have been scouring the business world for insurance to cover our part of the fair operation. OCSC desperately needs this coverage to operate at the fair this summer. We have several possibilities, but nothing is certain so "stay tuned." Pray for a miracle!

We reviewed and approved the Noxious Weed Department annual report.

North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging (NCF-HAA) was to present the commissioners, our local department on aging, and Golden Wheel board members a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to define a clear path forward when the Golden Wheel needs a cook or assistance. (Don't you just love these "alphabet soup acronyms"?)

We adopted the Emergency Operations Plan that has been presented to and approved by the Kansas Department of Emergency Management.

Discussion has been ongoing about EMS funding for the county. It is shocking to me that EMS is not a service that is at least partially funded by the state. Medical products and supplies historically have been high priced, but recently prices have soared (as with everything else). I think a 1% sales tax would spread the burden across our residents and we could pick up additional dollars from those passing through or coming for a visit. We as commissioners need to know what you folks as residents and taxpayers think. Please let us know. We will be discussing department budget in days to come and if possible we'd like to keep the budget flat across all departments. Prices of doing business are going up, but we'll do the best we can.

We discussed Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for employees. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) shows a 2.7% COLA raise would be in order to keep our people up with inflation. We'll have to see how that will fit into the budget. I'd hate to see our people fall behind due to inflation. We all know our hard earned dollars don't stretch as far as they used to.

I would encourage you to shop local for your needs. If you can't buy local go online and have it shipped directly to your home. The sales tax on your purchase will be paid to Ottawa County! Last week there was a story in the paper about our sales tax declining in Ottawa County. I did not write the story, but the figures came out of Kansas Department of Revenue. I did some research on the KDOR website and found different figures. Sales tax collected in Ottawa County for the year 2024 is listed as \$424,849.14 year 2025 is \$487,469.14. I'm not a math whiz, but I figure that's about a 13% increase. Last week's figures were on a per capita basis and when that method is used Ottawa County is dead last. For me the amount coming back to our treasurer each month is the most important. Check out the link and get the info first hand: <https://www.ksrevenue.gov/prsalesreports.html#annlocalsales>

This month's winners of my \$25 Choose Ottawa County gift cards are Mark Mesecher, Jr. and Caitlyn Stirn. Thanks for all you do for Ottawa County!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

OCRCP Minutes

By Sue Black, OCRP Secretary

The Ottawa County Republican Party met March 15, 2026, at the Minneapolis Public Library meeting room. Chairman Rick Shupe called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Aaron Vesterberg 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 17 persons attending. Barb Belden gave the Treasurer's report. There is \$412.30 in the treasury. Dick Belden moved to approve the Feb. 15, 2026 minutes. Diane McKain seconded the motion.

New Business: Chairman Shupe announced that he will be stepping down as Chairman after the April 19, 2026 meeting. He encouraged us to have a dedicated and willing person in mind, to elect as our new Chairman. If that's you, please attend the 3:00 pm meeting on April 19th, at the Minneapolis Public Library. You will have an opportunity to share why you are qualified to be the next OCRP Chairman. Rick also announced that there is a Facebook page for the OCRP. It is Ottawa County Kansas Republicans. Please check it out and join the group.

Our Ottawa County Clerk, Tammi Cox, was there to discuss property tax relief, upcoming elections and constitutional amendments. The primary election is August 4, 2026. Secretary of State, Senate, Representative, Magistrate and District judges, and

State School Board positions will be on the ballot. If there is a position, that you wish to file for, the deadline is June 1st at 12:00 pm. Tammi shared that the Secretary of State is the chief election officer for the state. They oversee voter registration rolls and the overall election and are over the County Clerks of the state. Kansas can't require citizenship to vote, but we do require proof of citizenship before issuing individuals a driver's license. The county clerks have to be signature verified. For mail in ballots, there is a three-day grace period, as well as ballots must be postmarked on or by election day. SB 143 would move municipal elections to the same time as state elections. This makes the ballot longer and the envelopes different. It's an unfunded mandate that increases county expenses.

Ottawa County property taxes were also discussed. Property taxes are the main source of income to support most of the county expenditures. Revenue Neutral Rating was discussed.

The Ottawa County website has to be ADA compliant by 2027. The county will have to pay for the upgrade. As usual, Tammi is willing to take calls and listen to any concerns that constituents may have.

Dick Belden moved to adjourn the meeting. Carla Grund seconded the motion. In closing, Chairman Shupe reminded us to stand firm in our values with Christian love and compassion for all.

NEW HOURS!

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Board of Education Meeting
April 13, 2026
Meeting Time at 6:30 p.m.

- I. Roll Call
- II. Additions to and Adoption of the Agenda
- III. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
 - b. Report and Action on Bills Submitted
 - c. Approval of Treasurer's Statement
 - d. USD 239 Classified Handbook Update
 - e. Adult Entrance Lunch Price: \$1.25 to \$2.00 as recommended by OPAA to cover food cost increases.
 - f. OPAA Contract for 26-27
 - g. Enrollment Capacities for 26-27
- IV. Reports and Comments of Principals, Athletic Director, Visitors
*Recognition: Science Olympiad & MJSHS Wrestling Team on a Great Season
- V. Report of Superintendent
 - a. State Legislative Update
 - b. Update on Pilot Pre-K
 - c. Secondary Curriculum Audit & Standards Alignment Update
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Bond Refinance Resolution: Bret Shogren, Stiefel Finance
 - b. MOU with Ottawa County and John Henry Building
 - c. MGS Handbook
 - d. MJSHS Handbook
 - e. Athletic Handbook
- VII. New Business
 - a. SRO Memorandum of Understanding
 - b. Budget Update: Needs Assessment and Discussion
 - c. Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel
 - d. Employee Resignations
 - e. Employee Appointments
 - f. Supplemental Contracts
 - g. Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel
 - h. Superintendent 26-27 Contract
- VIII. May 11, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda Items: Negotiations, Budget, Bond Refinance, Elementary Social Studies Adoption, Summer Board Retreat
- IX. Board Member Updates
- X. Visitors' Comments
- XI. Adjournment

* Citizens may address the board on agenda or non-agenda items only during the "Visitor" portion of the meeting. Although comments may be made on almost any matter related to the operation of schools, comments will not be allowed concerning individual students or staff members. School board meetings are private meetings held in a public setting. All patrons are welcome to comment during this time. Please keep in mind that the board will listen, and then if there is a concern that needs to be addressed, the board president will have the building administrator or superintendent reach out to you.

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