

September 7, 2021

1. The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners held their regular scheduled meeting 9:00 A.M. on Monday, September 7, 2021 with the following members present: Chairman Russell Earls, Commissioners Mike Furnas and Steven Chasteen.

Notice of the meeting was posted at the south door of the Ottawa County Courthouse at 3:06 P.M., September 2, 2021. Commissioners' Meetings, Agendas, and Minutes can also be found online at ottawa.okcounties.org.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

5. Citizen's participation by Lyndon McKibben from Wyandotte spoke to the Commissioners about road issues on 175 Road. He presented pictures and brought up safety concerns for drivers and citizen that live in the area. District # 2 Commissioner Chasteen said he would bring more rock to area of concern and has Guy Engineering looking into a permanent fix. Bill Arnold a citizen of Wyandotte also spoke of road concerns in that same area. Valery Duere spoke about damages to her vehicle and unable to get a truck and trailer into driveway due to road washout.

6. No action

7. No action was taken on this item. Discussion from Chasteen he has no affiliation with NEO till his son started last week. Chasteen presented a copy of email from Kyle Stafford President of NEO college explains that the funds they received are different than the funds the County received. Chasteen present a request from Mr. Stafford of examples of equipment the nursing program needs. NEO doesn't get funds to help with this program. We have the money now sitting the bank drawing interest, we can wait till the federal government changes to law to use these funds. This board is in charge of doing what is best for the county. Kenny Wright has the most knowledge on how this money can be spent and he has signed off on this. I will bring issues up week after week. Earls: Spoke on we need to work on County issues that this board covers like Fire/EMS, Sheriff Deputies, Rural Water, Broadband and County Jail HVAC problems. We do have till 2026 to obligate these funds. Will not be part of giving \$1 million dollars away till County issues are dealt with. We will have to get creative to spend these dollars. Chasteen: We need to be men of action and not inaction. He will support everything in the box. This Board need to step up for the Community. Earls: We need to get information and list of cost before we give funds away, we are audited on how funds are spent. Won't act without information. The County lack of funds causes lack of action. This County is most progressive in the state, where there are funds available, we apply and act on get funds that are available to us. We are number one in the state for action. Furnas: Person elected to this position it is about the people living in this County. This board need to hear from the community. We are commissioners not Kings. This rushing into throwing money around, no urgency. We need to find ways to spend these funds by listening to the people. Lot of good people came from NEO and have made NEO great. Commissioner do the right thing with no political view. Chasteen: Parliament Rule and Procedures wants this on agenda till decided. This is not a fight we have to do this the right way. If we don't get a second motion then let's have

Dr. Stafford give us a tour of college and go see the Fire Department needs. We have to gather facts and have discussion; we want positive development. Larry Gatewood Excise board member had an informative meeting with Dr Stafford, he has a complete handle on how to spend these funds. Let's gather information give to the commissioner for discussion. He is a NEO Alumni but the commissioners have 30,000 to 40,000 citizens to take care of. Earls: We want to keep reservations for the 9 rural fire Departments, Rural Water District, EMS, Call Center, premium pay for County Employees, and HVAC units for jail. Chasteen: If we cannot do what we are supposed to do for our people we should resign. Earls: we will continue to gather information.

13. Motion by Chasteen, second by Furnas, to approve easement for vital repairs on a county bridge structure causing by 2019 flood. Legal description: SE SW SEC 18 TWP 29 RNG 25. By vote: Furnas, aye; Chasteen, aye; Earls, aye.

14. Commissioners' activity reports. District 1: Commissioner Furnas spoke with Senator Kyle Lankford about insufficient procedures flood damage system failing us implemented to help small counties to make repairs. Spray program will save money on mowing to help with line of sight issues. Working with tribe make area they have vest funds in safer and other roads in the county. Graffiti is a problem. Closing out Stepp Ford and Blue Hole Road project. Working on overlay project. District 2: Commissioner Chasteen working on E 94 road then to Long Church area. Stepp Ford Bridge was graffiti last evening kids parting on the bridge. People camping on Conner's bridge. District 3: Commissioner Earls Small paving project then large project next week. Working with the city on tearing down house in the city to help with the jail water bill. Robert Alexander courthouse security has offered to work on cannons in front of courthouse.

17. Motion by Chasteen, second by Furnas, to approve blanket PO # 1142. By vote: Furnas, aye; Chasteen, aye; Earls, aye.

18. Motion by Furnas, second by Chasteen, to approve to adjourn. By vote: Furnas, aye; Earls, aye; Chasteen, aye.

Russell Earls, Chairman

Robyn Mitchell, Ottawa County Clerk

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