

**MINUTES for December 16, 2024**  
**BOARD of CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'**  
**CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS**

**CONVENE**

Chairman Cory Moates called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (the Board), to order at 9:00 AM on Monday, December 16, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Commissioner Lorie Johnson opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, and County Road and Bridge Road Supervisor Cody Zook, County Counselor Jake Conard, Taxpayer Roger Draeger and News Report owner Larry Hiatt were present.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES**

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the minutes as presented from December 9, 2024, Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ROAD and BRIDGE**

R&B Supervisor Cody Zook came before the Board to notify them that he has purchased the equipment that will be paid for with ARPA funds which had previously been approved. He did not have a delivery date as of the meeting.

Cody stated that Ecklers currently have no fines for the county to use and so they are attempting to use fines from the county lot to see if they will work.

**ROAD ISSUE**

Roger Draeger came before the Board regarding the road being broken down near SE 30<sup>th</sup> St and Swalley Ave due to the numerous heavy trucks that are going up and down that road. Cody Zook stated that he would go and speak to Jason Smith with Environmental Quality Management as the trucks are part of his project. Commissioner Johnson stated the road use agreement is not completed and needs lots of work. She went on to say that many taxpayers of this county would not even be able to pull out of their driveway to do a job with some of the wording in the agreement. Commissioner Frazier stated that the Board needs to get it finalized and suggested a work session be scheduled for the Monday December 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT CHEROKEE COUNTY ROAD and BRIDGE**

Commissioner Moates motioned to enter into an interagency agreement with the County Road and Bridge department for the appropriation of \$112,500 in ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds for funding the Rainbow Bridge Renovation. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ARPA TRUCK PURCHASE**

Commissioner Moates motioned to purchase a 2024 F150 from Mike Carpino Ford for the Maintenance department using ARPA funds and to have treasurer Heather Sapp cut a special check for the purchase. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEXT COMMISSIONER MEETING**

The Board discussed that they would need to meet on Friday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. to approve payroll and payables due to the upcoming holiday and that they would not hold a meeting on Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**APPRAISER**

County Appraiser Delinda White presented the Board with a software contract for field mobile devices and a contract for Microsoft Pros from stronghold data.

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the field mobile software in the amount of \$15,870 to be paid from APRA funding. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the purchase of 4 Microsoft pros from Stronghold Data in the amount of \$7,337.68 to be paid from APRA funding. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board asked White about the parcel maps and where her office was with them. She stated that she is going to have the state link the ORCA maps to our links. She went on to state that she is waiting on the logins for the maps.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

County Emergency Manager Matt Haviland updated the Board on his ARPA request which had been tabled for this meeting.

Haviland explained the use of the Command One warning system for storms and tornadoes.

Haviland discussed the need for a tornado siren in the City of Scammon. There had been one at Scammon Express Lane previously but during the highway 7 renovation the siren was moved to the City of Roseland leaving the City of Scammon with only a self-controlled siren which must be set off by the Scammon Fire Department. Haviland went onto discuss the siren at Stippville which is currently only emitting sound and not spinning. Due to parts for the siren being obsolete it has become extremely difficult to fix the siren even with the county having a maintenance agreement.

Haviland presented the Board with a teaching idea for local students that would include teaching them CPR and how to correctly read a weather map. The teaching project would require a \$1400 yearly liability. Matt stated he thought he could possibly go through the local extension to do the project.

The Board discussed Haviland's requests, which also included the need for a radio for his truck. Commissioner Moates motioned to approve using ARPA funds for the new radio for the Emergency Management truck in the amount of \$540, the purchase of #12 Stippville siren in the amount of \$34,425.50 and the purchase of a new Scammon siren in the amount of \$33,230.50. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE**

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart presented the Board with an off-premise cereal malt license for Pittsburg Truck Stop. Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the cereal malt license for Pittsburg Truck Stop. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CREDIT CARD LIMITS**

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart requested to have the clerk's office credit card limit raised temporarily so that she can use the card to purchase the carts that were approved during last week's meeting. Commissioner Moates motioned to approve a temporary raise to the clerks credit card in the amount of \$13,941.64. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the raise of the maintenance credit card to a limit of \$5,000 and to leave that as its monthly limit. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **RECESS**

Commissioner Johnson requested a 10-minute recess. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **RESOLUTION 29-2024**

Discussion surrounded resolution 29-2024, which would create a planning commission in Cherokee County. Commissioner Frazier stated that the resolution doesn't allow for each commissioner to pick their person for the planning commission. She would at least like to see that the person can be nominated by each commissioner. After a quick reworking of the resolution Commissioner Moates motioned to approve resolution 29-2024, a resolution Creating the Cherokee County Planning Commission. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Frazier opposing the motion.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION NOMINATION**

Commissioner Frazier nominated Dale Scott for District 1 board seat. Commissioner Moates stated that he doesn't feel that a person who has signed an agreement with the solar company should be on the zoning board. Commissioner Moates went onto state anyone with a direct benefit should not set on the board. After much more discussion Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Johnson opposing the motion.

Commissioner Moates nominated Randy Common for District 3 board seat. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson nominated Brett Warstler for District 2 board seat. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The planning commission will need to schedule meetings, seek bids and set by-laws, among other items that will need to be handled.

### **ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE EXECUTIVE**

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 10-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 11:17 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

**RESOLUTION 30-2024**

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve resolution 30-2024, a resolution Appointing a Member of the Cherokee County Planning Commission, by appointing Dale Scott to the District 1 board seat. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Johnson opposing.

**RESOLUTION 31-2024**

Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve resolution 31-2024, a resolution Appointing a Member of the Cherokee County Planning Commission, by appointing Brett Warstler to the District 2 board seat. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 32-2024**

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve resolution 32-2024, a resolution Appointing a Member of the Cherokee County Planning Commission, by appointing Randy Commons to the District 3 board seat. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEWSPAPER BIDDING**

Commissioner Frazier has suggested that the local county newspapers should bid for who will be the county newspaper in 2025. After much discussion it was decided that the new upcoming board of County Commissioners should make that decision.

**SEKRPC BOARD SEAT**

Commissioner Johnson addressed the Board stating that she felt that the seat currently held by a County Commissioner should be held by the Economic Development. The Board agreed that it would be a good idea.

**ROAD USE AGREEMENT**

Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook stated that he will look for examples of local business exemptions.

**ARPA STIPEND**

Commissioner Moates motioned to give an ARPA stipend to all full-time employees in the amount of \$400 and part-time employees who have at least worked 100 hours for the year \$200. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

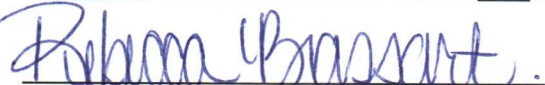
**ARPA PLANNING COMMISSION and ZONING**

The Board discussed how much money they felt would need to be set aside from ARPA funds for the planning commission and zoning. They feel they will need to set aside around \$150,000.

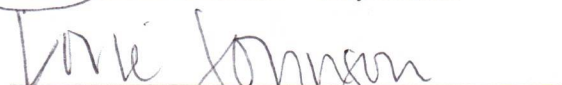
**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Moates made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 30th day of December 2024.**

  
County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart

  
Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates

  
Commissioner – Lorie Johnson

  
Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier