

MINUTES for August 19, 2024
BOARD of CHEROKEE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS'
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

CONVENE

Chair Cory Moates called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (the Board), to order at 9:00 AM on Monday, August 19, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioner Johnson opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, County Counselor Jake Conard, Deputy County Clerk Jess Frasher, Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, and Columbus News Report Owner Larry Hiatt were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the minutes as presented from August 12, 2024. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the minutes as presented from the August 13, 2024 canvass. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve payroll as presented. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PAYABLES

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve payables as presented. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion with Commissioner Johnson voting against.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook presented two notices of new employee to the Board.

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the hire of Jeffery Morisset as Utility/Operator 1 effective August 19th at a rate of \$16 an hour. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the hire of David Spatafora as Utility/Operator 1 effective August 19th at a rate of \$16 an hour. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Zook provided the Board with a sheet listing proposed changes in road designations as major and minor collectors. County Counselor Jake Conard stated that a resolution will need to be passed to make the changes in designation, and that he can have one prepared for the next meeting.

Zook informed the Board the due to a past mistaken overpayment on equipment from Fabick Cat, the county currently holds a credit amount of \$71,321.00. Zook stated that the full amount was mistakenly paid, and then a additional payment was made towards it. Zook stated that it could be paid back to the County, or that they could use it towards the purchase of a new roller, which Zook stated the county was in need off. Commissioner Johnson asked if the overpayment was made out the County Lot budget or the General Budget. Zook stated that the overpayment came out of Line item 76 Machinery/Equipment. Commissioner Moates motioned to waive the sealed bid process and use the credit through Fabick Cat for the purchase of a Cat CB2.7 at the purchase price of \$63,459.00. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Moates noted that the Road and Bridge staff did a great job dealing with the aftermath of the recent storms.

REPAYMENT OF TAX PENALTIES

County Treasurer Heather Sapp came before the Board requesting approval to repay property tax penalties to Cherokee County Sportsman. Sapp stated that the property in question was mistakenly changed from exempt to non-exempt, and that taxes were already paid under protest. Sapp explained that the taxes were already refunded, but the penalties and interest were not. Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve the repayment of penalties. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CALENDAR

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the 2025 County Payroll, Payables, and Holiday calendar excluding June 19th as a holiday. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FEMA PROPERTY

Bert Kellum who is a representative of the Bob Myers Trust came before the Board to discuss a one of the FEMA hazard mitigation properties. Kellum stated that the property in question is a small tract that is currently surrounded by other properties which the Bob Myers trust currently owns. Kellum states the trust will eventually desire to sell the properties surrounding the FEMA property and would like to alleviate potential buyer's concerns caused by the landlocked FEMA property. County Counselor Jake Conard recommended the use of a long-term lease, that would transfer to the buyers of the surrounding property.

INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLEMNT

Commissioner Moates motioned to renew the County healthcare policy, with renewal option 3, with a 5 percent increase of cost to employees. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board reviewed and discussed the County budget, and changes that have been made to it.

ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 10-minute attorney client executive session, with County Treasurer Heather Sapp, Deputy Register of Deeds Karen Johnston, and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 11:15 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

SOLAR REGULATIONS WORKSHOP

The Board discussed possible regulations of commercial solar developments. Varius regulations were discussed, including setbacks, height restrictions, privacy screening, and anti-glare measures.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Moates motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 26th day of August 2024.


County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart


Commissioner Chair – Cory Moates


Commissioner – Lorie Johnson


Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier