

MINUTES for October 20, 2025
BOARD of CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

CONVENE

Chair Myra Carlisle Frazier called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (the Board), to order at 9:00 AM on Monday, October 20, 2025, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Commissioner Myra Frazier opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Jack Garner, Cory Moates, Myra Frazier, County Counselor Jake Conard, County Deputy Clerk Michelle Mosler, Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, Sheila Price, Samantha Clevenger, Toni Spieth, Director of Building Health Ink Becky Gray, Cassie Sawyer, SEKCAP Representatives Jamey Whitney, Casey Brown, Scott Christiansen, Community Relation Manager from ideate John Terry, and Galena Sentinel Times Editor Machel Smith were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Moates moved to approve the minutes as presented from October 10, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook provided an update on current projects.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for attorney-client communication with the Board, Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, and County Counselor Jake Conard present. The session was set to return at 9:13 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

CAREVAN

Becky Gray, Director of Building Health Inc., requested a letter of support from the commissioners to apply for grants for their CareVan services.

FIBER INTERNET

Community Relation Manager from ideatek, John Terry, requested co investment to supply fiber optic internet to rural areas in Cherokee County. The commissioners agreed to sign a letter of support but declined financial participation.

SEKCAP

Casey Brown from SEKCAP requested funding from the commissioners to support their transportation program. The request was tabled until the next meeting on October 27, 2025.

FEMA LEASES

Emergency Management Director Matt Haviland presented 5 FEMA leases to be renewal.

- Commissioner Frazier moved to renew the 3-year lease to Toby VanCleave for 8314 Cherry Lane, Galena, KS 66739. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Frazier moved to renew the 3-year lease to Rick Wammack for 7486 SE PawPaw, Galena, KS 66739. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Frazier moved to renew the 3-year lease to Robert B Jones and/or Rosa M Jones for 7927 SE Watermelon, Galena, KS 66739. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Frazier moved to renew the 3-year lease to Gary and Ramona Elderidge for 7730 SE Watermelon, Galena, KS 66739. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Frazier moved to renew the 3-year lease to Ronda Walker for 00000 SE 78th Terrace, Galena, KS 66739. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for attorney-client communication with the Board present. The session was set to return at 10:03 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

TAX SALE

County Treasurer Heather Sapp informed the commissioners that the tax sale has been scheduled for November 20, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. in the county courtroom.

INTERNET UPGRADE

Commissioner Frazier moved to upgrade the Appraiser's Office internet from 100 Mbps to 1 Gbps. The upgrade will cost an additional \$45 a month, to be paid from the General Fund. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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NEW HIRE INTERVIEW EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 30-minute executive session for a new hire interview with the Board and Kurt Benecke present. The session was set to return at 10:42 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

ROAD VACATION

No action was taken.

AMBULANCE LEASES

Tabled until the next meeting on October 27, 2025.

NEW HIRE INTERVIEW EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 5-minute executive session for a new hire interview with the Board and Kurt Benecke present. The session was set to return at 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

NEW HIRE

Commissioner Frazier moved to hire Kurt Benecke as County Counselor, effective immediately. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:18 a.m., Commissioner Frazier moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 27 day of October 2025.



Commissioner Chairwoman – Myra Carlisle Frazier



Commissioner – Jack Garner



Commissioner – Cory Moates



County Clerk – Taylor Brown