

**MINUTES for July 7, 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, July 7, 2025, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Counselor Jake Conard 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, KODE/KSN Reporter Mason Bayliss, KOAM Reporter Ty Parks, Rob Harrington and Barry Matchett with Clearway Energy, Galena Sentinel Times Editor Machel Smith, and News Report owner Larry Hiatt were present.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Moates moved to approve the minutes as presented from June 30, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### APPROVAL OF PAYROLL

Commissioner Moates moved to approve the payroll as presented. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### APPROVAL OF PAYABLES

Commissioner Garner moved to approve the payables as presented. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### 457 (b) PLAN

Commissioner Frazier moved to authorize the Chair to sign the renewal of the Deferred Compensation Government 457(b) Plan. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### ROAD AND BRIDGE

Commissioner Moates moved to approve the hire of Jermy Bible as a Utility/Operator II, effective July 7, 2025, at a rate of \$17.00/hour. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates moved to increase Kevin Vanderpool's salary from \$17.50 to \$18.50 per hour, reflecting his transition from Utility Worker to Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook provided an update on current projects, noting the primary focus is on asphalt work and the beginning of work on Star Road.

### ROAD AND BRIDGE REVISED TRAINING CONTRACT

Commissioner Frazier moved to authorize the Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook to sign off on the CDL training reimbursement agreement. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel, with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard present. The session was set to return at 9:23 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

### CLEARWAY ENERGY

Craig Compton, representing Wichita State University's Center for Economic Development and Business Research, presented an economic impact analysis of the Rainbow Springs Solar Project.

### BUDGET REVIEWS

The Board, along with Auditor Gene Mense, reviewed the proposed 2026 Cherokee County budgets.

### NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 5-minute executive session for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel, with the Board, County Clerk Taylor Brown, and County Counselor Jake Conard present. The session was set to return at 11:17 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The session extended by 5 minutes to return at 11:22 a.m., and extended again by 5 minutes to return at 11:28 a.m. No action was taken.

### SEWER OPERATORS PAY

Commissioner Moates moved to increase the annual salaries of sewer operators Matt Napier and Matt Biddle from \$17,500 to \$20,500. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY FAIR NEWSPAPER AD**

Commissioner Moates moved to approve the purchase of a newspaper advertisement from The News Report for the Cherokee County Fair in the amount of \$175, to be paid from Commissioners Garner and Moates' recreation funds. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed 2-1, with Commissioner Frazier voting nay.

**NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 5-minute executive session for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel, with the Board and County Sheriff Brian Henderson present. The session was set to return at 1:50 p.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.


**ADJOURNMENT**


At 2:25 p.m., Commissioner Frazier moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**ATTEST:** Resolved and ordered this 14 day of July 2025.

  
County Clerk – Taylor Brown

  
Commissioner Chairman – Myra Carlisle Frazier

  
Commissioner – Jack Garner

  
Commissioner – Cory Moates