



CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

110 W. Maple St, Room 109, Columbus, KS 66725

Date: Monday March 9, 2026

Time: 9:00 A.M.

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, March 9, 2026, 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 Cory Moates, Jack Garner, Myra Frazier, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, County Deputy Clerk Michelle Mosler, Kathryn Harrington, Galena Sentinel Times Editor Machel Smith, and Columbus News Report employee Tanya Woolsey were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the minutes as presented from March 2, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

EMERGENCY LIGHT & SIREN PERMIT

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the vehicle red light and siren permit for James D. Johnson. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and County Appraiser DeLinda White present. The session was set to return at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for attorney-client communication with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and County Appraiser DeLinda White present. The session was set to return at 9:42 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.
- Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 5-minute executive session for attorney-client communication with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and County Appraiser DeLinda White present. The session was set to return at 9:48 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

KANSAS NATIONAL RESOURCE COALITION

Executive Director Tracy Barton with the Kansas Natural Resource Coalition presented the Board what their organization has to offer and asked if the county would be interested in joining their coalition. The Board will take it under advisement.



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ROAD AND BRIDGE

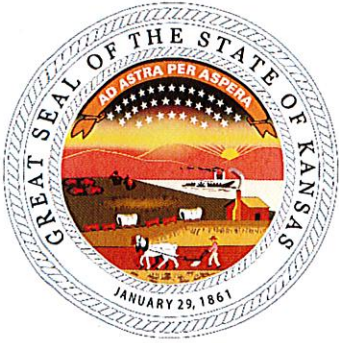
- Road and Bridge Supervisor JR Neal provided an update on current projects.
- Commissioner Moates moved to increase Kevin Vanderpool's salary from \$19.00 to \$22.00 per hour and change his job title from Mechanic Shop Supervisor to Shop Foreman, effective March 9, 2026. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**
Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and Road and Bridge Supervisor JR Neal. The session was set to return at 10:09 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.
- **NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**
Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and Road and Bridge Supervisor JR Neal. The session was set to return at 10:20 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.
- Commissioner Moates moved to approve the hire of Cory Christiansen as Utility Operator 1, effective March 9, 2026, at a rate of \$17.00 per hour. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to increase Rick Martin's salary from \$16.75 to \$17.00 per hour, effective March 9, 2026. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to increase Evert England's salary from \$16.75 to \$17.00 per hour, effective March 9, 2026. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to increase Robert Baumann's salary from \$16.75 to \$17.00 per hour, effective March 9, 2026. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to approve the hire of Travis Nickle as Utility Operator 1, effective March 9, 2026, at a rate of \$16.00 per hour. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Moates moved to approve the hire of Andrea Lansford as RN, effective March 23, 2026, at a rate of \$22.50 per hour. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 20-minute executive session for attorney-client communication with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and Health Department Director Peyton Kessler present. The session was set to return at 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.
- Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 5-minute executive session for attorney-client communication with the Board and Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke present. The session was set to return at 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.



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ADJOURNMENT

At 10:51 a.m., Commissioner Garner moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 16 day of March 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Cory Moates", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jack Garner", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner – Jack Garner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Myra Carlisle Frazier", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Taylor Brown", written over a horizontal line.

County Clerk – Taylor Brown