



CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

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

Date: Monday March 16, 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 16, 2026, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Commissioner Cory Moates opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Jack Garner, Myra Frazier, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, County Clerk Taylor Brown, Road and Bridge Superintendent JR Neal, Health Department Director Peyton Kessler, Kathryn Harrington, Galena Sentinel Times Editor Mabelle Smith, and Columbus News Report employee Tanya Woolsey were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the minutes as presented from March 9, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL

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

APPROVAL OF PAYABLES

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

ROAD AND BRIDGE

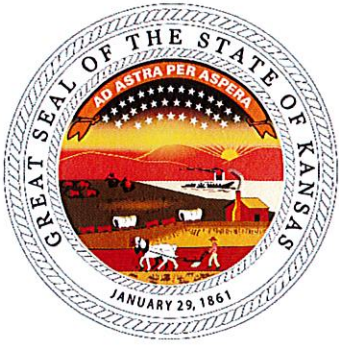
- Road and Bridge Supervisor JR Neal provided an update on current projects.
- Commissioner Moates moved to approve the hire of Chad McFarling as Utility 1 Operator, effective March 16, 2026, at a rate of \$16.00 per hour. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- JR Neal presented a Supplemental Agreement for HRRR (High Risk Rural Roads) to be signed by the Commissioners and County Clerk. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Peyton Kessler provided an update on grant paperwork and requested approval for an ACH transaction.
- Commissioner Moates made a motion to allow the chairperson to sign the grant application for \$128659.51. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates made a motion to allow the Treasurer to make a wire transfer in the amount of \$6995 to Plus Optics. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Moates moved to enter a 25 minute executive session for non elected personnel with Commissioners, County Counsel and Lyle Grandy. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



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NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Moates moved to enter a 25 minute executive session for non-elected personnel with Commissioners, County Counsel, and Shawn Cearnal. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADD, ABATE, ESCAPES

- Commissioner Moates moved to approve all AAE's as presented. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Frazier moved to enter a 15 minute executive session for non elected personnel with Commissioner and County Counsel. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Fraizer moved to enter a 12 minute executive session for attorney client privilege with Commissioners and County Counsel. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Frazier moved to enter a 10 minute executive session for non-elected personnel with Commissioners, County Counsel, and Deanna Fitz. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 10 minute executive session for attorney client privilege with Commissioners and County Counsel. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Frazier moved to enter a 15 minute executive session for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

RECESS

- Commissioner Moates moved for a 5 minute recess. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Moates for a 5 minute executive session for attorney client privilege with Commissioners and County Counsel.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Commissioner Moates moved to appoint Lyle Grandy as the new Cherokee County Emergency Management Director effective March 30, 2026. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



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ADJOURNMENT


At 11:45 a.m., Commissioner Garner moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 23 day of **March 2026**.


Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates


Commissioner – Jack Garner


Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier


County Clerk – Taylor Brown