

**MINUTES for January 5, 2026**  
**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, January 5, 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 Jack Garner, Cory Moates, Myra Frazier, Assistant County Counselor Addison Tucker, Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, County Deputy Clerk Michelle Mosler, Health Department Director Peyton Kessler, Kathryn Harrington, Toni Speith, Galena Sentinel Times Editor Machel Smith, Columbus News Report employee Shawn Churchill, and News Report owner Larry Hiatt were present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Garner moved to approve the minutes as presented from December 29, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed with Commissioner Moates abstaining.

**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.

**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 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Addison Tucker, and Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook present. The session was set to return at 9:25 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

**ROAD AND BRIDGE**

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve pay raises as presented to Road and Bridge employees. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed 2-1, with Commissioner Garner voting against the motion.

**VEHICLE TRADE IN**

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 Addison Tucker, and Appraiser Delinda White present. The session was set to return at 9:43 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

**APPRAISER OFFICE RAISES**

- Commissioner Frazier moved to approve pay raises as presented to the Appraiser's Office employees. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed 2-1, with Commissioner Garner voting against the motion.

**FEMA PROPERTY**

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the FEMA lease for the property located at 7641 SE Watermelon Lane, Galena, KS 66739, to Josh and/or Monica Delmont for the term of December 22, 2025 through December 22, 2028.. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**NRP**

No action was taken.

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**CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE RENEWALS**

- Commissioner Moates moved to approve the Cereal Malt Beverage renewal for on-premises consumption for The Shack Again LLC. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to approve the Cereal Malt Beverage renewal for sales to The Shack Again LLC. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to approve the Cereal Malt Beverage renewal for sales to Quik Stop. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the proposed change to Section 1-3(b) of the Employee Handbook. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD REORGANIZATION**

- Commissioner Frazier moved to appoint Commissioner Moates as Board Chairman. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to appoint Commissioner Frazier as Board Vice Chairwoman. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Frazier moved to appoint Mense CPA as County Auditor. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to appoint Kurt Benecke as County Counselor. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Emergency Management: No action was taken.
- Commissioner Moates moved to appoint Peyton Kessler as Health Department Director. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to appoint JC Parsons as Noxious Weed Director. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to appoint Cody Zook as Road and Bridge Supervisor. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **RESOLUTION 01-2026**  
Commissioner Moates moved to approve Resolution 01-2026, a resolution by the Cherokee County, Kansas Board of Commissioners waiving generally accepted accounting principles. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **RESOLUTION 02-2026**  
Commissioner Moates moved to approve Resolution 02-2026, a resolution by the Cherokee County, Kansas Board of Commissioners designating a depository for public funds. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**ELECTED RAISES**

- Commissioner Garner moved to increase County Treasurer Heather Sapp's salary from \$45,988.80 to \$52,000.00 annually, effective January 2026. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Garner moved to increase County Register of Deed's salary from \$45,988.80 to \$52,000.00 annually, effective January 2026. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed 2-1, with Commissioner Frazier voting against the motion.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Moates moved to accept the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency award in the amount of \$69,939.00. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**NON-ELECTED RAISE**

Commissioner Frazier moved to increase Administrative Assistant Lori Gabrielson's salary from \$20.00 per hour to \$21.00 per hour, effective January 2026. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**MEETING CHANGE**

The January 19 meeting was rescheduled to January 16 at 8:00 a.m. due to January 19 falling on a holiday.

**NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board and Assistant County Counselor Addison Tucker present. The session was set to return at 10:43 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

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**NON-ELECTED RAISES**

- Commissioner Moates moved to increase Human Resource Director Deana Randall's salary from \$23.08 per hour to \$25.00 per hour, effective January 2026. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to increase Maintenance Director Mike Thomas's salary \$43,680.00 to \$50,000.00 annually, effective January 2026. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Frazier moved to increase Noxious Weed Director JC Parson's salary from \$18.54 per hour to \$19.54 per hour, effective January 2026. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 30-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board and Assistant County Counselor Addison Tucker present. The session was set to return at 11:37 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

**NEWSPAPER APPOINTMENT**

Commissioner Frazier moved to appoint the Galena Sentinel Times as the county's official newspaper. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed 2-1, with Commissioner Garner voting against the motion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:56 a.m., Commissioner Frazier moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**ATTEST:** Resolved and ordered this 12 day of January 2026.

  
Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates

  
Commissioner – Jack Garner

  
Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier

  
County Clerk – Taylor Brown