

MINUTES for January 12, 2026
BOARD of CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

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, January 12, 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, Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, County Deputy Clerk Michelle Mosler, Kathryn Harrington, Ron Lea, Galena Sentinel Times Editor Machel Smith, and Columbus News Report employee Shawn Churchill.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the minutes as presented from January 5, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

- Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook provided an update on current projects.
- Cherokee County citizen Ron Lea complimented the Road and Bridge Department on the condition of roads in the county. He also expressed concerns regarding roads near Sportsman Pit Road.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INTERVIEWS

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 30-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and interviewee Shawn Cearnal present. The session was set to return at 9:45 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.
- Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 30-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and interviewee Nicholas Grotheer present. The session was set to return at 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

11th JUDICIAL DISTRICT UPDATE

Chief Judge Kurtis Loy provided a summary of caseload filings and updates occurring within the 11th Judicial District.

TOURISM GRANT

Chamber of Commerce President Rebecca Spooner presented an application from Gracefully Managed LLC for a tourism grant. The grant will assist with the cost of developing a new digital tourism app designed to help visitors and residents discover local businesses, community events, attractions, and Route 66 destinations throughout the county. Commissioner Moates moved to approve Gracefully Managed LLC for the \$500 Cherokee County Tourism Grant. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

TRASH CONCERN

Concerned citizen Stephen Rossman addressed the Board regarding a trash problem on his property.

PLANNING AND ZONING EXPIRED TERM APPOINTMENT

Commissioner Frazier moved to reappoint Roger Draeger to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a four-year term, as his current appointment expires this month. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Commissioner Moates moved to amend the policy regarding severe thunderstorms. The Employee Handbook currently requires all phones and computers to be unplugged during a severe thunderstorm warning. The amended policy will no longer require phones and computers to be unplugged during a severe thunderstorm warning. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 10:54 a.m., Commissioner Moates moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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




Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates



Commissioner – Jack Garner



Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier



County Clerk – Taylor Brown