

CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

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

Date: Monday April 20, 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, April 20, 2026, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioner Corey 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, County Deputy Clerk Michelle Mosler, Road and Bridge Supervisor Jr. Neal, Health Department Director Peyton Kessler, John Beitzinger, Galena Sentinel Times Editor Machel Smith, and Columbus News Report owner Larry Hiatt, and employee Tanya Woolsey were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Garner moved to approve the minutes as presented from April 13, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

Road and Bridge Supervisor Jr. Neal provided an update regarding recent storm damage and ongoing projects.

SPYGLASS

County Clerk Taylor Brown discussed the potential use of SpyGlass to conduct an audit of county contracts. She also informed the Board that the county received the \$25,000 grant for Rainbow Bridge.

WIRE TRANSFER

Commissioner Moates moved to approve a wire transfer to Security Bank of Kansas City for a bond payment in the amount of \$30,228.90. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

AAE APPROVALS

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

SOLAR ELECTION

County Clerk Taylor Brown discussed with the Board the possibility of holding an election regarding solar zoning. After consulting with the Secretary of State's Office, she explained that there is no statutory authority to place this issue on a ballot, and any such vote would be considered an opinion poll only.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING

The Board opened sealed bids for the Health Department building project, as follows:

- Crossland Construction submitted a bid ranging from \$1,776,547.00 to \$2,318,404.00.
- McDaniel Construction Services submitted a bid of \$1,793,611.00.
- Cook's Services submitted a bid of \$1,149,058.18; however, the bid did not include demolition and was not submitted as a sealed bid. Therefore, it will not be considered.



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ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 9:47 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

- Commissioner Moates moved to approve the purchase of ten thermal ticket printers from the Tech Fund in the amount of \$5,490.00. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the purchase of a Thermo Scientific TruNarc Delta Handheld Narcotics Analyzer from the Opioid Settlement Fund in the amount of \$44,232.15. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

GRADUATION ADVERTISEMENT

News Report owner Larry Hiatt discussed with the Board the possibility of purchasing an advertisement recognizing county family members who are graduating.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 7-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.

FLAGPOLE

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve payment of \$150.00 for repairs to the flagpole, to be paid from the Courthouse Fund. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RADIO

Commissioner Moates moved to approve the purchase of a new portable radio and pager from Niagara Signal Radio Solutions, to be paid from the Tech Fund, in the amount of \$5,700.00. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for attorney-client communication with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and County Clerk Taylor Brown present. The session was set to return at 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 Clerk Taylor Brown present. The session was set to return at 11:15 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.



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HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING

The Board discussed inviting Crossland Construction and McDaniel Construction Service to a future commission meeting to review and discuss their bids.

AAE APPROVAL UPDATE

The Board discussed AAE matters by phone with Appraiser Delinda White. The Board also agreed to establish a weekly agenda item with the Appraiser and the Board to review AAE updates.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:35 a.m., Commissioner Frazier moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 27 day of April 2026.




Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates



Commissioner – Jack Garner



Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier



County Clerk – Taylor Brown