



# CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

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

Date: Monday April 27, 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 27, 2026, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. 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, Road and Bridge Supervisor Jr. Neal, Health Department Director Peyton Kessler, 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 April 20, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF PAYROLL**

Commissioner Moates 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 Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **ROAD AND BRIDGE**

- Road and Bridge Supervisor Jr. Neal provided an update regarding storm damage from the previous night and ongoing projects.
- Commissioner Moates moved to increase Mike Reed's salary from \$17.00 to \$18.00 per hour, effective April 27, 2026. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to approve the hire of Sam Smith as Utility Operator, effective April 27, 2026, at a rate of \$16.00 per hour. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 15-minute executive session for attorney client communication with the Board and Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke present. The session was set to return at 9:32 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING BIDS**

The Board met with representatives from the two companies that submitted bids for the new Health Department building.

- Crossland Construction submitted a bid of \$2,318,404.00. VP Midwest Tad Johnson answered questions from the Board regarding their proposal.
- McDaniel Construction Services submitted a bid of \$1,793,611.00. Owner Shane McDaniel answered questions from Board regarding their proposal.



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## NRP AMENDMENT

Commissioner Moates moved to refund Kale Kitterman \$25.00 for his NRP application fee for parcel quick reference R7941. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## SHERIFF DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Sheriff Brian Henderson provided an update on the activities of the department's detectives, including the number of search warrants executed and drug seizures conducted to date this year.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING BIDS

- Commissioner Frazier moved to accept the bid of \$1,793,611.00 from McDaniel Construction Services for the new Health Department building, contingent upon counsel approving the contract. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to authorize County Counsel Ethan Manke and Health Department Director Peyton Kessler to negotiate a rental agreement for the Health Department. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## PUP--COUNTY APPRAISER DELINDA WHITE

- County Appraiser Delinda White discussed with the Board a payment under protest that had been received.
- Commissioner Moates moved to approve the AAE's as presented. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## UNPAID INVOICES

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve payment of three unpaid 2025 invoices for autopsy transports to Derfelt Funeral Home in the amount of \$10,500, to be paid from the Courthouse Fund. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.


## ADJOURNMENT


At 10:59 a.m., Commissioner Garner moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**ATTEST:** Resolved and ordered this 4 day of May 2026.

  
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Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates

  
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Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier

  
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Commissioner – Jack Garner

  
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County Clerk – Taylor Brown