



# CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

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

Date: Monday February 23, 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, February 23, 2026, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Deputy Clerk Michelle Mosler opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Jack Garner, Myra Frazier, County Counselor Kurt Benecke, Road and Bridge Administrative Assistant Joni Hicks, County Deputy Clerk Michelle Mosler, Health Department Director Peyton Kessler, Sheriff Brian Henderson, Carey Spoon, Toby VanCleave, Denise Titus, 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 February 13, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed with Commissioner Moates abstaining.

## **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sheriff Brian Henderson reported to the Board that the county was given a Mobile Command Bus to use throughout the county at no cost. Sheriff Henderson also updated the board on current activities within the Sheriff's office.

## **NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, County Counselor Kurt Benecke, and Sheriff Brian Henderson present. The session was set to return at 9:15 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

## **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Commissioner Moates moved to increase Sheriff Brian Henderson's annual salary from \$63,437.92 to \$73,437.92, effective March 1, 2026. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **EPA SUPERFUND UPDATE**

Thomas Kaley and Rachael Puleo from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gave the Board an update on projects currently underway throughout the county.

## **RESOLUTION 05-2026**

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve Resolution 05-2026, a resolution authorizing application for CDBG Large Community Facilities funding for a childcare facility project and authorizing grand administration services. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **INVENTORY**

Commissioner Moates moved to approve the 2025 inventories for the County offices as presented. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



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## **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT MEMBERS**

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the 2026 Cherokee County Solid Waste Advisory Committee members: Jim Burton, Sue Drennan, Linda Phipps, Jennifer Fagan, Richard Mallatt Jr., Michelle Murphy, and Michael Robinson.

Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **TREASURER'S OFFICE**

County Treasurer Heather Sapp discussed a bankruptcy with the Board. Commissioner Frazier moved to override the taxes at the advice of County Counsel. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUILDING**

Maintenance Director Mike Thomas will advertise requests for proposals and open bids for the Cherokee County Health Department building. Bids must be submitted no later than March 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

## **ROAD AND BRIDGE**

Road and Bridge employees Joni Hicks, JR Neal, and Kevin Vanderpool provided the Board with an update on current projects.

## **NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 20-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, County Counselor Kurt Benecke, and Road and Bridge employee JR Neal present. The session was set to return at 10:35 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

## **NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board and County Counselor Kurt Benecke present. The session was set to return at 10:43 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

## **NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

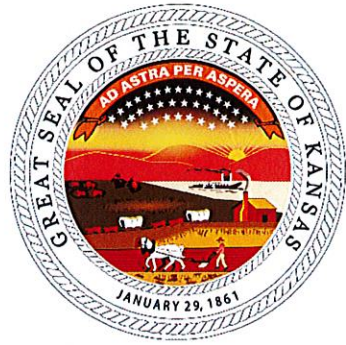
Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board and County Counselor Kurt Benecke present. The session was set to return at 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

## **NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board present. The session was set to return at 11:40 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

## **NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 20-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board present. The session was set to return at 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.



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## ADJOURNMENT

At 12:03 p.m., Commissioner Frazier moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**ATTEST:** Resolved and ordered this 2 day of March 2026.

  
Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates

  
Commissioner – Jack Garner

  
Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier

  
County Clerk – Taylor Brown