

**MINUTES FOR AUGUST 26, 2019**  
**BOARD OF CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS**

Chairman Cory Moates called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (The Board), to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 26, 2019 in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 West Maple, Columbus, Kansas. Commissioner Cory Moates opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Cory Moates, Neal Anderson, Myra Carlisle Frazier, County Counselor Barbara Wright, and County Clerk Rodney Edmondson were present.

Members of the press present: Larry Hiatt

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2019 BOCC meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frazier. The motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Moates stated that the County was the winning bidder of the ditcher. He has obtained shipping quotes of \$1,200 to \$1,350 to bring it from Butler County, MO. The Board approved the shipping expense.

Leonard Vanatta, County Road Supervisor, and Louis Schreiner, County Lot Supervisor, appeared before the Board on county road business. Leonard stated that KDOT has a 90/10 grant program for short span bridge replacement. There is a \$150,000 limit for 20' to 50' bridges. The bridge must be in bad condition in order to be submitted for consideration and there is no guarantee of acceptance. The Board asked Leonard to select a bridge to submit for consideration.

Counselor Wright updated the Board on the condemnation proceedings for the railroad project in Neutral. There is a consideration hearing in court on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. and notice has been published. She has three appraisers lined up and ready to go subject to the judge's order.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to approve the payroll for the period ending August 16, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to approve the accounts payable for the period ending August 20, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frazier. The motion carried 3-0.

Undersheriff Terry Clugston appeared before the Board to present photographs showing the condition of a property located at 6924 SE 72<sup>nd</sup> Terrace in Riverton that is going to be discussed later in the meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates for an executive session for county policy purposes with the Board, Counselor Wright, and Clerk Edmondson. The meeting will reconvene in the commission room at 10:20 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0 at 10:04 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Motes to renew the lease agreement with Glenn Helms for the property located at Lot 1, Scott's second sub-division. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Moates updated the Board on the sewer lift station in Riverton. He stated that Bill's Electric has submitted a bid not to exceed \$5,500 to place a grid of ground rods that will be fused to the copper line at that location. Commissioner Moates agreed to donate his time and equipment to dig the trenches. Commissioner Moates stated that it was discovered that the contractor at the time filled the conduit full of water and sealed it inside. He stated that is the cause of the shorting in the electrical system.

The Board discussed ways of being more aggressive in the collection of delinquent sewer bills and the need to consider a rate increase in the near future.

Counselor Wright stated that there has been no response from Stockton Restoration and the green card from the certified mailing has not been returned.

Brenda Shallenburger and a group of concerned citizens appeared before the Board regarding the condition of the property located at 6924 SE 72<sup>nd</sup> Terrace in Riverton. Commissioner Moates stated that there are pending charges in court for the residents. Counselor Wright stated that there needs to be a written statement from a public official in order to begin condemnation proceedings due to the condition of the property. She stated that there would need to be a blight and safety hazard for a condemnation. The Board stated that they would speak with sheriff Groves regarding the issue.

Ralph Houser appeared before the Board regarding the condition of the courthouse. He stated that he has had no contact with Stockton Restoration. He stated that Joplin Roofing inspected the roof and they believe that the water is coming in through the cracks in the walls, not the roof. Some of the area is where Stockton has already done repair. He is waiting on two recommended companies to give a bid to repair the walls. He is waiting on two companies to provide estimates to replace the exterior front door to the courthouse. He also has contacted three companies to get bids for rewiring the electrical system in the courthouse.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to cancel the contract with Stockton Restoration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frazier. The motion carried 3-0.

Jason Allison reported that the SEK Regional Planning Commission is talking with the State about the Riverton drainage issue and the possibility of getting funds for the project. He stated that Rebecca Brassart had offered the assistant position to two different people and they both turned it down. Jason presented paperwork to hire Dustin Groves for the assistant position in the 911 Mapping Department at a beginning wage of \$12 per hour. He stated that Dustin has emergency management and floodplain experience as a part time person before the hiring of Art Mallory. Commissioner Frazier stated that she was unaware that the position was still vacant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to hire Dustin Groves as office assistant in 911 Mapping and Emergency Management. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Frazier voting no.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frazier to recess until 11:45 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0 at 11:26 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates for an attorney client executive session for neighborhood blight purposes with the Board, Counselor Wright, Undersheriff Terry Clugston, Detective Gavin Britton, and Clerk Edmondson. The meeting will reconvene in the commission room at 12:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0 at 11:45 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

No action will be taken at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to recess until 12:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frazier. The motion carried 3-0 at 12:03 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

Jason Allison appeared before the Board regarding the condition of the property in Riverton that was discussed earlier in the meeting. The Board asked him to contact KDHE for guidance on options to clean up the property.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates for an attorney client executive session for a policy issue with the Board, Counselor Wright, and Clerk Edmondson. The meeting will reconvene in the commission room at 1:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0 at 1:13 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

No action will be taken at this time.

Jason Allison presented a list of properties that were in the flood buyout program in 2016. He stated that he spoke with the State of Kansas and there is no limit to the dollar amount that can be put on the lease. He stated that the contracts would need to be redone if the taxes are going to be paid by the lessee.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting set for Monday, September 9, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moates. The motion carried 3-0 at 1:43 p.m.

The Board will not meet on Monday, September 2, 2019 in observance of Labor Day.

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019**



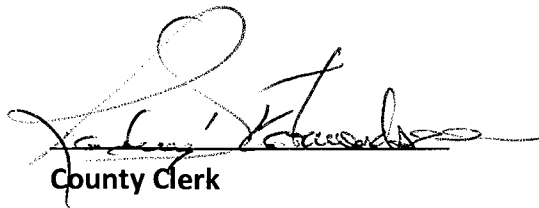
Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner



County Clerk