

MINUTES for May 20, 2024
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, May 20, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Commissioner Lorie Johnson opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, and County Road and Bridge Road Supervisor Cody Zook, Emergency Manager Matt Haviland and News Report owner Larry Hiatt were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the minutes as presented from May 13, 2024, as corrected. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 14-2024 PREMISE LICENSE

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve resolution 14-2024, a resolution approving the issuance of a permanent premise license. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 15-2024 REGARDING PREVIOUS PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve resolution 15-2024, a resolution correcting the date of the previous proclamation of state of local disaster for Cherokee County. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

WATERMELON LANE SEPTIC ISSUE

Emergency Manager Matt Haviland notified the Board that he had been in contact with the landowner of the property in question regarding the septic's on the shad houses that the lessee built. According to Haviland the owner is leasing the land to own. There is one house that currently has a septic installed. The owner stated that he would contact the lessee and will have him contact Matt. Commissioner Frazier recommended that Matt should deal directly through the landowner and not the lessee.

ROAD and BRIDGE

R&B Supervisor Cody Zook came before the Board to present a new hire for Johnathan Wheelen as a utility one operator at a rate of \$15/hr who will only be employed for 16 hours a week with no benefits. Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the hiring of Johnathan Wheelen as a utility one operator at a rate of \$15/hr. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody informed the Board that he has received an offer from SANY regarding the last 36 tires for the 6 remaining road graders. Cody stated that SANY has stated that in consideration of Cherokee County being one of their valuable customers that would be willing to send us 30 of the tires for free if we would be willing to purchase 6 of the tires from them at a cost of \$8100, which is \$1350 a tire. The county purchased 18 tires from Purcell in 2023 with the governmental discount and the tire cost \$2300 each tire. Cody asked if he would need to get a quote from anywhere else since the Board has placed the new procurement policy in place. The Board stated that they could override the procurement policy if Cody came before the Board, and they felt that they county would not receive a better quote from any other company. Commissioner Moates motioned to allow Cody to purchase the 6 tires from SANY America at a cost of \$8100 to finish up the remaining replacement of tires for the road graders. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NON-ELECT PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 45-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 10:25 am. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

RWY ROAD USE POLICY

Discussion surrounded the road use policy, Cody discussed with the Board and County Counselor Conard the changes that he would like to see made and the Board agreed with the changes. County Counselor Conard stated that he would make the necessary changes and submit it for approval by the Board.

SEWER PAYMENT ISSUES

County Road & Bridge office manager Joni Hicks came before the Board to discuss the 119 property lien letters that she sent out to all those who had past due sewer balances. She stated that so far, she has collected around \$5,000 of the original \$40,000 that was delinquent. She presented the Board with bills that she had received calls on and wanted to know if it would be okay to make a payment plan with these individuals. Commissioner Frazier requested an executive session before deciding. Commissioner Moates motioned for a 5-minute attorney client executive session with the Board, R&B office manager Joni Hicks and County Counselor Jake Conard. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

Regarding discussion surrounding on how to handle those who had requested to be worked with, the Board stated that if Joni was okay with doing the extra work, then they would be okay with her working with those who have been paying regularly, but has previous past due balances, but would not waive the late fees. If a person has a past due balance and has not been paying regularly then they would be subject to having a property lien placed until the past balance paid in full.

Joni also presented the Board with a new software program for sewer billing that would allow for online payments of the sewer bills, along with other features such as an email module which would save on postage and paper billing. In all the program would cost \$4575 and would allow Joni to get away from the outdated system that she is currently using.

ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE EXECUTIVE

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 25-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, Labette County Appraiser Delinda White, and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 11:35 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 15-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, Labette County Appraiser Delinda White, and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 12:05 pm. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

Commissioner Frazier motioned for a 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 12:15 pm. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 10-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 12:30 pm. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 10-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, Labette County Appraiser Delinda White, and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 12:50 pm. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE EXECUTIVE

Commissioner Johnson requested an attorney client executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard. Commissioner Moates motioned for a 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 1:35 pm. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

Commissioner Moates motioned to extend the attorney client privilege executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard for an additional 5-minutes, to return at 1:40 pm. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

Commissioner Moates motioned to extend the attorney client privilege executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard for an additional 5-minutes, to return at 1:45 pm. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

Commissioner Moates motioned to extend the attorney client privilege executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard for an additional 5-minutes, to return at 1:50 pm. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

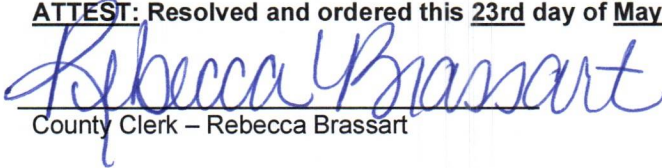
Commissioner Moates motioned to extend the attorney client privilege executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard for an additional 5-minutes, to return at 1:55 pm. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Moates made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 23rd day of May 2024.


County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart


Commissioner Chair – Cory Moates


Commissioner – Lorie Johnson


Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier