

MINUTES for April 29, 2024
BOARD of CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

CONVENE

Chairman Cory Moates called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (the Board), to order at 9:00 AM on Monday, April 29, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Commissioner Myra Frazier opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, County Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, and County Counselor Jake Conard, were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve the minutes as presented from April 22, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL of PAYROLL

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the payroll as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL of PAYABLES

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the payables as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ROAD and BRIDGE

R&B Supervisor Cody Zook came before the Board to present a new hire for Shannon Taft as a utility 2 operator at a rate of \$17/hr. Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the hiring of Shannon Taft as a utility 2 operator at a rate of \$17/hr. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody stated that he is still needing a road right away application and a road right away use agreement. Commissioner Johnson stated that while the discussion was on road use right away that she has been contacted by some farmers who are having issues with Liberty Utilities. Liberty has yet to fix the entrance to their fields nor have they paid for the crops that were damaged due to them working on the overhead electric lines. Commissioner Johnson asked Cody if he remembered what the agreement with Liberty stated regarding road use and farmers entrances. Cody stated he could not really remember but would go back through his emails and see if he could find anything and he would forward everything to County Counselor Conard.

Zook stated that he has the graders out working in the NE and NW part of the county since that is where they will be placing rock.

Commissioner Moates advised Zook that while out storm watching he had noticed the graders were not grading all the way up to highway 69. Commissioner Johnson stated that she is having the same issue in her district, she stated they are stopping about 50-60 feet from the highway. Cody stated the issue is they are trying to avoid the grader hanging off onto the highway. He went on to say that he would have a discussion with his grader operators.

Cody stated that he has the excavator and back hoes out reclaiming rock from the ditches.

Zook stated that there is an upcoming auction this week that will have a Lathe and an End Mill that he would like to purchase for Road and Bridge. He stated that he would like to put in a bid of \$2,000 on each piece of equipment. The Board and Cody further discussed the need for the equipment. The Board gave Cody the okay to place a bid on each piece not to exceed \$2,000.

Commissioner Johnson discussed with Cody and the Board the recent purchase of a new truck from Enterprise for Cody. Commissioner Johnson stated that there was to be a check issued to the County for \$40,000 for the trade in but that the County Treasurer was told that if she receives the check to just tear it up as the \$40,000 was rolled back into the lease agreement. Commissioner Johnson asked Zook why the county only received \$40,000? Commissioner Johnson stated that when the original lease agreement was signed Zook had told the Board that Enterprise would give the county back more money in trade than what the trucks were originally purchased for. Commissioner Johnson stated that obviously that was not the case and after speaking to both dealerships in the county they had both stated that they would have given between \$46,000 and \$48,000. She stated that she felt we had left an additional \$6,000 to \$8,000 on the table when trading. Zook stated that the dealerships probably knew what he was given and that was why they were stating they could have beat the trade value. Commissioner Johnson stated that was not the case. Zook stated that the reason for the trade-in value being less is since truck values have come down since the original agreement was signed. Zook also stated the reason for trading in 2022 was because it was out of warranty. Commissioner Johnson stated that is was her understanding that Zook had ordered two new F550 from Enterprise. Zook stated that was correct. Commissioner Johnson wanted to know if there would be a way to stop the current purchases and get bids locally first. Zook stated that he would speak to Enterprise but that he was sure that he could cancel the order. Commissioner Johnson asked that Zook give the two local dealerships the same specs as the trucks that he ordered. Zook asked who he should direct the bids to at each dealership. Commissioner Johnson stated

that at Mike Carpino Ford he should give it to Robbie Carpino and at Jay Hatfield Chevrolet he should give it to Brian Wellmeier.

Cody informed the Board that he had spoken to Emergency Manager Matt Haviland regarding disaster funds for the county. Haviland stated that to file for disaster funds that the county must have over \$87,500 in damages. Zook stated that the county is currently at \$75,000 and that he looks for that to rise in the next few days. Haviland requested for the Board to declare a declaration of disaster for the county. Commissioner Moates motioned to declare Cherokee County a disaster area. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SEWER BOND PAYMENT

County Treasurer Heather Sapp presented the Board with the Sewer Bond payment in the amount of \$56,204.65 to be paid by wire transfer. Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the wire transfer in the amount of \$56,204.65 for the Sewer Bond payment. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SEWER LIENS

County Counselor Jake Conard advised the Board and office manager Joni Hicks at R&B that he has drafted the letter for the lien statements for Joni to send out and that all the liens have been prepared as well.

CERTIFICATION of PPP 2024 INVOICES

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart presented the Board with the invoice cost certification which will need to be certified by the Board so that the Cherokee Clerks office can be reimbursed for the expenditures of the PPP 2024 Election. Commissioner Moates motioned to Certify the PPP 2024 Election cost. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

JUVENILE DETENTION BUDGET

Commissioner Moates notified the Board that he had attended the meeting of the juvenile detention board. Commissioner Moates informed the Board that Cherokee County will be required to raise their juvenile detention budget an additional \$13,632. Commissioner Moates also informed the Board that during the meeting he also received numerous positive comments about County Attorney Kurt Benecke.

PROCUREMENT POLICY

County Counselor Jake Conard presented the proposed procurement policy for the county to the Board. The Board requested that some changes be made. Conard stated that he would send it out for the office heads to review once he has made the necessary changes and then the Board should be ready to make the final approval on May 6, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 20-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, Labette County Appraiser Delinda White, and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 10:20 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Moates motioned to extend the current non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, Labette County Appraiser Delinda White, and County Counselor Jake Conard for an additional 10 minutes to return at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

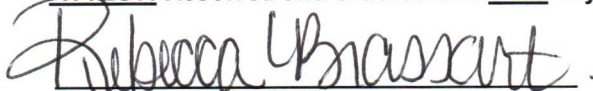
Commissioner Moates motioned to extend the current non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, Labette County Appraiser Delinda White, and County Counselor Jake Conard for an additional 5 minutes to return at 10:35 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

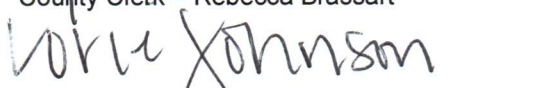
No action was taken.


ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 22nd day of April 2024.


County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart


Commissioner – Lorie Johnson


Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates


Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier