

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 11, 2010
COLUMBUS, KANSAS CHEROKEE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
CRYSTAL L. GATEWOOD

The Cherokee County Commission met January 11, 2010 in the Cherokee County Courthouse in Columbus, Kansas at 9:00 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Collins and those present were Commissioners Garner and Hilderbrand. Commissioner Hilderbrand made a motion to approve the minutes for January 4, 2010 as presented by Cherokee County Clerk Crystal Gatewood, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and all voted in favor. County Clerk Gatewood presented the January mid-month accounts payable. Commissioner Garner made a motion to approve the payments, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hilderbrand and all voted in favor. Commissioners Garner, Hilderbrand, and Collins, County Attorney John Bullard, and County Clerk Crystal Gatewood signed off on the documents to be paid.

County Appraiser Nancy Herrenbruck came in to request that she use her personal vehicle to take several employees and herself to an ORION Class being held in Erie, Kansas during the week of the 25th of January. The commission gave their approval.

County Auditor Gene Mense came before the commission to discuss various types of audits. He also set a date for the month of May 2010 to begin his audit for Cherokee County. The commission thanked him.

Supervisor of Road & Bridge Leonard Vanatta and County Lot Supervisor Gene Langerot came before the commission and gave an update on the work the county has been doing. They reported that clearing the ice and snow from roadways has been a priority in the county. General maintenance has been slow due to inclement weather. The commission thanked them for their hard work. Gene Langerot noted the public should be aware to stay at least 500 feet behind the county spreaders for safety reasons. Gene also reported they bought the new truck and they are preparing it for service use in the county.

Emergency Preparedness Director Jason Allison came before the commission to discuss teaming up with Jasper County in Missouri for the Reverse 911 System. The system would provide quicker notification during an emergency and would reach more citizens. He also reported that money would be saved by the county by joining efforts with Jasper County, MO. He discussed the bids that were received for the storm sirens for Treece, Kansas and the Mineral Townships. He had received bids from Washington Electronics, American Signal, Storm Sirens Incorporated, and Blue Valley. He went over the specifications with the commission and it was decided to wait until January 19, 2010 to go any further with the project, until they get more information from the companies that placed bids.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to break for lunch, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and all voted in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Commissioner Collins made a motion to go into **Executive Session for Attorney/Client Privilege (Transient Guest Tax Law)** for twenty minutes with himself, Commissioners Garner and Hilderbrand, County Counselor Kevin Cure, and County Attorney John Bullard. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and all voted in favor. They went in at 11:25 AM and returned at 11:55 AM.

Commissioner Hilderbrand made a motion to go into **Executive Session for Non-Elected Personnel** for five minutes with himself, Commissioners Collins and Garner, Sheriff David Groves, and Undersheriff Terry Clugston. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and all voted in favor. They went in at 1:27 PM and returned at 1:32 PM.

CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSION RE-ORGANIZATION FOR 2010

Commissioner Collins read a statement from the book, The Real America, written by Glenn Beck and Citizens in a Republic, which were remarks by former President Theodore Roosevelt from his speech at the Sorbonne in Paris, France on April 23, 1910. (These are attached to the January 11, 2010 minutes). Commissioner Collins looks forward to 2010 and he reflected on his service as Chairman of the County Commission for 2009.

Commissioner Garner made a motion to nominate Commissioner Hilderbrand as the Chairman of the County Commission for 2010, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. Commissioners Garner and Collins voted "yes" and Commissioner Hilderbrand abstained from voting.

Commissioner Collins nominated Commissioner Garner for Vice-Chairman for the Cherokee County Commission for 2010, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hilderbrand and all voted in favor.

Commissioner Hilderbrand made the motion to make the Galena Sentinel Times the official newspaper for Cherokee County for 2010, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and all voted in favor.

Commissioner Collins made a motion designating the American Bank of Baxter Springs, Columbus, and Galena as the working banks for Cherokee County for 2010, and all other banks would serve as depositors, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and all voted in favor.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to appoint the following individuals for the year 2010 for Cherokee County:

**County Appraiser - Nancy Herrenbruck
Emergency Preparedness and Safety Director - Jason Allison
County Weed Director - Cecil Brown
County Health Administrator - Betha Elliott
County Road & Engineer - Leonard Vanatta
County Counselor - Kevin Cure
County Environmentalist for the Health Department - Carl Hayes**

Commissioner Garner seconded his motion and all three commissioners voted in favor.

Commissioner Hilderbrand made a motion to purchase flags and say the Pledge of Allegiance before commission meetings, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and all voted in favor.

**VOUCHERS AND OTHER COUNTY BUSINESS SIGNED OFF ON BY
COMMISSIONERS COLLINS, HILDERBRAND, AND GARNER:**

**VOUCHER #2933 - ETTINGER'S OFFICE SUPPLY CO. - \$695.23 - COUNTY
APPRAISER'S OFFICE**

**THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZED AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE FOR A FIRST
RESPONDER IN THE CITY OF WEIR - CALVIN J. DUGGAN**

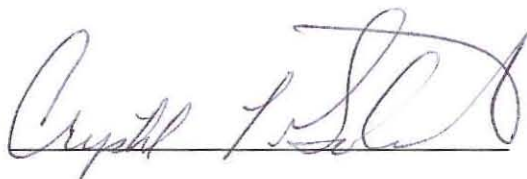
**THE COMMISSION APPROVED AN EMPLOYEE DEPARTMENT CHANGE WITHIN
THE CHEROKEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Collins made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Garner seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The next Cherokee County Regular Commission meeting will be held January 25, 2010 at 9:00 AM in the Cherokee County Courthouse in Columbus, Kansas. Due to Martin Luther King Day, the Cherokee County Courthouse will be closed on January 18, 2010. The Cherokee County Commission will meet for a Special Meeting on January 19, 2010 to approve accounts payable and county payroll for January 2010 at 9:00 AM and will adjourn at 12:00 PM.

Resolved and ordered this day:

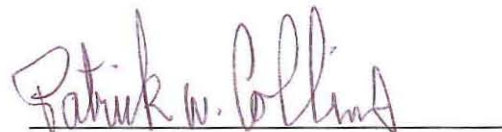
25th day of January 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crystal L. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

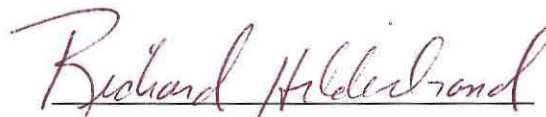
Cherokee County Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Garner", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick W. Collins", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Hildebrand", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner

“Citizenship in a Republic”
Remarks by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt in a
Speech at the Sorbonne in Paris, France on April 23, 1910.

“It is not the critic who counts, but the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, because there is not effort without error and shortcomings, but who does actually strive to do the deed, who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly. So that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

CHAPTER 11

The Flame That Burns in the Real America

It was a beautiful fall morning on the edge of the land created through divine providence: Coffee shops were open, children were on their buses and people were easing into another typical workday, when suddenly the children and grandchildren of America's greatest generation heard the call. Several times before we ignored that call and drifted back to sleep, muttering, "I know, I know, I'll get up in a minute." But on September 11, 2001, we finally awoke and realized that there is work to do.

The things that we valued on September 10 are not the things we valued on September 12.

After 9/11, we instinctively shed our garish values. We were, for a short period of time, the Real Americans. The fireman's boots were full at every stoplight, yet we still rolled our windows down to give the firemen more. We stood in line at the blood drives, we said hello to people, we looked them in

The Real America

the eye, we hugged those we didn't know and we actually listened to the answer when we asked, "How are you?"

We didn't have to try to be these people . . . we just *were*. We reached into the bottom drawers of our souls and put on our most comfortable faded jeans.

I too had a change of perception during those days shortly after September 11. I now believe that the greatest generation is always the one that is living in the here and now. It isn't just the generation of our parents and our grandparents. The only question is when are we going to wake up and recognize our greatness?

The spirit of our parents and our grandparents hasn't died out—it's a flame that flickers in all Americans. It is there and is ready to blaze to life as soon as we are ready to face the challenges that lie at our feet.

That flame is what sets us apart, it is what built us, it is why our borders still teem with the poor, the tired and those yearning to breathe free.

That flame burned with zeal in the hearts of millions of immigrants from every corner of the earth who come in search of a better way of life.

The flame that Lady Liberty holds is the American spirit, which burns deep within all of us no matter what our race, our gender or our religious background.

Since September 11, the world has been watching us. That's nothing new, it always has. Since the dawn of man, people have dreamed of a better life, a better way—of freedom—but it was Americans who finally found a way to build it.

Out of that freedom, we have built powerful machines, computers and, yes, weapons of mass destruction—hardware

and software that we spend millions on every year to protect and keep secret. But our biggest secret—the one the world wants most of all—isn't a secret at all. It's something we freely give to the rest of the world, and while it seems simple to us, for some reason it can't be duplicated. It can only be passed on from person to person, torch to torch. It is our spirit.

Those of us who weren't trapped in one of the towers that fall morning or on a plane or in the Pentagon have a reason to humbly give thanks. Not for our lives but because we are truly the lucky ones.

God has *not* forsaken us. He's awakened us.

Standing at the bottom of the stairs, he's gently called out, "Kids, it's time to wake up."

We have been given another chance.

Thousands of years ago, in Babel, a great civilization in its arrogance built a tower to reach the sky. It crumbled and the people were scattered. Our hard and steely symbols of power and wealth may have crumbled, but we were not scattered.

Let the world recognize through our actions here and now that those firefighters in New York were not the exception. They are the rule.

Americans don't run from burning buildings. We run *into* them.

The task before us may be daunting, but we are a stronger, more prepared nation. The torch has been passed, and we **are** now the greatest American generation. The American **spirit** is alive and well, and our flame has not burned out. It had **just** been dimmed a little while we were asleep.

That flame still burns in the Real America.