

**MINUTES for June 17, 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, June 17, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Commissioner Myra Carlisle Frazier opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, Deputy County Clerk Jess Frasher, County Counselor Jake Conard, and Columbus News Report Owner Larry Hiatt were present.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES**

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the minutes as presented from June 10, 2024. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-2024 FEMA PROPERTY LEASING**

County counselor Jake Conard reviewed changes being made to the FEMA property leasing process in this resolution. Commissioner Moates motioned to approve Resolution 17-2024, a resolution establishing rates and policy related to FEMA flood property leases. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ROAD and BRIDGE**

Cody Zook, Road and Bridge Supervisor came before the Board to brief them of the activities. Zook stated that he doesn't have much to report on. Commissioner Moates asked if Zook has received asphalt quotes back. Zook stated that he has only one quote that was emailed. Commissioner Johnson asked if Zook could email the quotes to the Board. Commissioner Johnson brought up a section of road that nearby residents have asked to have looked at. Commissioner Johnson stated that there is concern that drainage is insufficient. Zook discussed issues caused by creeks on private property causing issues with drainage.

**NON-ELECT PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 15-minute non-elected personnel executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 9:40 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

**SPRING RIVER HEALTH BUDGET**

Stacy Manbeck Executive Director of Spring River Mental Health and Wellness came before the Board and submitted the budget for Spring River Mental Health & Wellness. Manbeck introduced Karena Evans, the Corporate Finance Director for Spring River. Manbeck briefed the board of the impacts made during 2023 and provided a statistical overview of services offered and patients served. Manbeck states that Spring River employs 62 full-time staff. Commissioner Frazier asked how many of the 62 full time staff were residents of Cherokee County. Manbeck responded, stating that 35-40 of their full-time staff are residents of the County.

**NRP APPEAL – DON BAGDRIWICZ**

Don Bagdriwicz came before the Board to appeal the decision to terminate his Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP) tax rebates due to the late payment of property taxes. Bagdriwicz listed multiple items that he credited as the cause of his delinquent payment. Commissioner Frazier stated that while she sympathizes with Bagdriwicz, applicants are responsible for complying with the terms set in the NRP. Commissioner Frazier motioned to deny the appeal of Don Bagdriwicz. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NRP APPEAL – BRUSH CREEK**

Drew Richards with Crossland Construction, who is responsible for the bookkeeping for Brush Creek, came before the Board to appeal the decision to terminate their Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP) tax rebates due to the late payment of property taxes. Richards stated that someone else was doing the bookkeeping when the tax statement was delivered, and that there was no notation made indicating that the second half would need to be paid. Commissioner Frazier noted that this is not the first time that this NRP participant has appealed termination due to late taxes. Commissioner Moates motioned to deny the appeal of Brush Creek. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



**NRP APPEAL – MARK FRENCH**

Mark French came before the Board to appeal the decision to terminate his Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP) tax rebates due to late payment of property taxes. French stated that his property tax statements were being mailed to an address he no longer lives at, and that the correct mailing address was listed on his NRP application. The Board reviewed his NRP application and confirmed that he did list his current address as the mailing address. Commissioner Frazier motioned to deny the appeal on Mark French. Motion died due to lack of second. Discussion continued regarding the appeal. Commissioner Moates motioned to grant the appeal of Mark French's NRP termination. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 2 to 1 with Commissioner Frazier against.

**RECESS**

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 5-minute recess, to return at 10:23 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN INQUIRY – TONI SPEITH**

Toni Speith came before the Board and thanked them for allowing her to be on the agenda. Speith began by recounting a series of events that took place after the announcement of Sheriff David Groves Resignation. Speith questioned the Board on actions taken by both Sheriff Groves, and the County Republican Committee. County Councilor Conard asserted that the Board is sitting as the Board of County Commissioners and not as party officials, and that this is not a matter for the Board to discuss. Speith stated that she has been unable to reach Sheriff Groves. Commissioner Johnson responded, stating that Sheriff Groves is an elected official, and does not answer to the Board, and that this matter is between Speith and Groves. Speith questioned the Board, asking if the commissioners are concerned about the dual employment of Sheriff Groves, stating that the State has stringent regulations regarding such. Commissioner Johnson asked if Speith could direct her to the statute she is referring to.

**NON-ELECT PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 15-minute non-elect personnel executive session, with the Board, County Councilor Conard, and Labette County Appraiser Delinda White, to return at 10:55 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

**NON-ELECT PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 5-minute non-elect personnel executive session, with the Board, County Councilor Conard, and Labette County Appraiser Delinda White, to return at 11:00 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

**RECESS**

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 15-minute recess, to return at 11:18 am. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION**

The commissioners reviewed the submitted departmental budgets.


**ADJOURNMENT**


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

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 24th day of June 2024.**

  
County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart

  
Commissioner Chair – Cory Moates

  
Commissioner – Lorie Johnson

  
Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier