

MINUTES for July 15, 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, July 15, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioner Johnson opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, Deputy County Clerk Jess Frasher, Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, KDOT Area Engineer Jeffrey Fischer, Extension Office Employee Kylie Ludwig, and Columbus News Report Owner Larry Hiatt were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the minutes as presented from July 8, 2024. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 19-2024 – COUNTY APPRAISER

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve Resolution 19-2024, a resolution appointing Delinda White to serve the unexpired term of County Appraiser expiring June 30th, 2025. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ROAD and BRIDGE

Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook came before the Board to provide an update. Zook stated that work being done on Star Rd will be finished today, and work on 100th will be finished tomorrow. Zook stated they concrete work can begin depending on the weather. Commissioner Johnson stated that the area that was dug up on Tamco is beginning to break down. Commissioner Moates asked if ditching was going alright. Zook stated that it was.

KDOT UPDATE

Kansas Department of Transportation Area Engineer Jeff Fischer came before the Board to introduce himself and discuss KDOT projects. Fischer shared his background, stating that he was a County Commissioner in Bourbon County. Fischer told the Board of a tool called the Clip, which can be used that allows you to track bridge conditions. Fischer distributed a list of projects and discussed their rates of completion. Fischer discussed additions of signage, and how signage placement is determined. Commissioner Johnson brought up drainage issues off K7, discussing the installation of drainage pipes, which Johnson stated will only create further problems for County Residents. Commissioner Johnson asked if the funds that were used overlaying Highway 69 would be wasted with the expansion project. Fischer responded, stating that there will not be anything done for 5 years. Fischer stated that they are currently trying to determine the needs of the community. Commissioner Johnson stated that we do need another highway, and the county cannot afford to have land taken off the tax rolls and being given an expensive highway to maintain as a result.

FEMA LEASE

Emergency Manager Matt Haviland came before the Board to discuss one of the FEMA hazard mitigation properties. Haviland stated that FEMA is in opposition to transferring the property in question to the Riverton school district. Haviland stated that a someone from KDEM suggested using a long-term lease as solution. Haviland asked how long they would recommend. Commissioner Frazier stated that maybe a 100-year lease, but they would need to consider it.

EXTENSION OFFICE BUDGET

Cherokee County Extension Agent Kylie Ludwig came before the Board to address matters of the Extension Office budget. Ludwig stated that shat she does not feel it is right for the Board to not come to the extension office with questions, and that she would appreciate it if future questions would come directly to the extension office. Commissioner Johnson explained the budget process, stating that is a multiple-week long process. Johnson told Ludwig that if they have any questions, they will call her. Commissioner Johnson asked Ludwig to explain the \$60,000 difference under the wages line. Ludwig specified that the difference is \$59,778.24. Ludwig stated that they are basing the 2025 budget off the 2023 budget, when the office was fully staffed. Ludwig stated that they had a program assistant at the time, of which the benefits and salary would have totaled close to the difference amount. Ludwig stated that she heard there was a question about the \$40,000 amount listed under other and stated that she is still trying to figure that out, and that she is talking to the extension offices auditor. Ludwig states that their best guess is that it was grant money that was subsidizing their employees.

STORM SIREN FCC LICENSE

Emergency Manager Matt Haviland came before the Board with an invoice from TBS Electronics for the FCC license to operate the storm sirens. Haviland stated that he was told that it cannot be paid from 911 funds. Commissioner Moates motioned to pay the invoice amount of \$460.00 to TBS Electronics to come out of Courthouse funds. Commissioner Johnson Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BUKATY INSURANCE

Bukaty Benefits Consultant Joe Holdenried came before the board. Holdenried discussed the upcoming renewal of the medical plan and reviewed the performance of the medical plan.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Gene Mense and Matt Mense came before the Board to answer questions regarding and assist in the preparation of the County Budget. Mense reviewed specifics of the budget. Mense stated that the proposal they have would utilize a mill levy of 41.077, which is up 6.795 over the previous levy. Mense credited a decrease in sales tax revenue and in carryover as some of the factors for the proposed mill increase. The Board further reviewed departmental budgets and discussed possible adjustments to the budget which would allow for a lower mill levy.

BUDGET & RNR HEARING

Commissioner Moates motioned to schedule a budget and revenue neutral rate hearing for August 19th at 11am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ARPA FUNDS – AMBULANCE PURCHASE

Commissioner Moates motioned to designate \$303,550 of ARPA funds to the Cherokee County Ambulance Association for the purchase of a new ambulance. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.


ADJOURNMENT

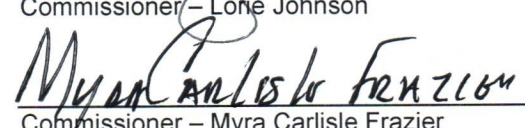
Commissioner Frazier motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 22th day of July 2024.


County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart


Commissioner Chair – Cory Moates


Commissioner – Lorie Johnson


Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier