

**MINUTES for July 31, 2023**  
**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, July 31, 2023, 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, Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, Road & Bridge Superintendent Bryan Williams, County Counselor Nathan Coleman, Taxpayer Jared Tanner, and News Report owner Larry Hiatt were present.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES**

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the July 24, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ROAD & BRIDGE**

Taxpayer Jared Tanner with T6 Farms came before the Board to request that the trees be trimmed back on SE 10<sup>th</sup> between Messer RD and Clem RD, SW 5<sup>th</sup> between Messer RD and Clem RD, SW 10<sup>th</sup> between Messer RD and Clem RD, and there is a tree on SW Messer RD between the SW 5<sup>th</sup> and the railroad tracks. Tanner stated he had called last year on June 17, 2022, requesting for the trees to be cut back, Tanner went on to state that he called again a year later and was told it would be put on the Board. Jared stated the trees are causing damage to his farming equipment and he would really like to see the issue resolved. R&B Superintendent Bryan Williams stated that the tree cutter had broken down and R&B Supervisor Cody Zook stated that is a less traveled road therefore it was not a priority. Commissioner Johnson stated she was tired of hearing about priorities and requested that the trees on the mentioned roads be taken care of before harvest. Johnson asks Williams if he could make that happen and he stated that he wasn't sure due to the trimmer needing a part. Johnson asked when the part came in if it was possible and Zook stated R&B will be needing to clear the right of way on Wyandotte first. Johnson stated that its been a year and that Tanner has already gone through two harvests while waiting for the trees to be cut back so that Tanner can get his equipment through.

County Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook presented the Board with a new hire sheet for William Bauer as a utility 1 operator at a rate of \$16.00.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the new hire of William Bauer as a utility 1 operator at a rate of \$16.00. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE ROAD & BRIDGE**

Cody stated he needed a non-elect executive session.

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 25-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, County Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, County Road & Bridge Superintendent Bryan Williams, and County Counselor Nathan Coleman to return at 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AMBULANCE**

Doug Mogle and Terry Clugston with the Cherokee County Ambulance Association came before the Board to discuss their funding needs for 2024. Mogle stated that the work comp premium took a large jump, and they will be needing to replace ambulances in the future.

**COUNTY SHERIFF**

County Sheriff David Groves, County Deputy Sheriff Terry Clugston and Chief Deputy Nate Jones came before the Board to discuss the 2024 budget. Groves presented the Board with a modified proposal for the 2024 budget.