

**MINUTES for October 7, 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, October 7, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioner Cory Moates 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, Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook and News Report owner Larry Hiatt were present.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES**

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the minutes as presented from September 30, 2024. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Moates abstaining.

**ROAD and BRIDGE**

Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook came before the Board to provide an update. Zook provided information on projects being worked on currently. Commissioner Johnson stated that she had spoken to someone with the City of Columbus and stated that the City of Columbus is doing asphalt work on Park Drive. Johnson asked if the remaining District 2 asphalt funds could go towards finishing the project. Zook stated that he will find out. Commissioner Moates noted an increase in traffic on old Highway 66. Commissioner Moates informed Zook of a hole on Star east of 82<sup>nd</sup> St. Zook stated that it will be taken care of. Commissioner Moates commented that it looks like the crew has been mowing ditches. Zook stated they are mowing wherever they are at. Zook discussed different types of mowers that he has look into for the county.

**ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 10-minute attorney client privilege executive session, with the Board and Count Counselor Conard, to return at 9:30am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

**DISPOSITION OF VEHICLE**

Commissioner Moates motioned to find the 2016 Ford Explorer, VIN ending in 42019, is no longer needed, pursuant to K.S.A. 19-211, and the value of the property is less than \$50,000. Accordingly, the vehicle should be transferred to the City of Columbus, Kansas to be utilized by their fire department. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**KHIN AGREEMENT**

Health Department Administrator Peyton Kessler came before seeking permission to sign a provider participation agreement through the Kansas Health Information Network (KHIN). Kessler described the purpose of the agreement, stating that it allows the department to access additional information shared by other entities. Commissioner Moates motioned to allow Health Department Administrator Peyton Kessler to sign the KHIN agreement. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Dale Helwig came before the Board to provide an update. Helwig introduced Holly Johnson, a new part time staff member. Helwig provided an update on activities of economic development, including the applications for multiple grants. Helwig informed the Board that he has been in contact with a Matt Hass, the zoning administrator for Labette County. Helwig stated that Hass is working with Labette County to write regulations regarding wind and solar energy developments and is very knowledgeable. Helwig said he could provide Hass' information to the Board.

**PRELIMINARY PLAT**

Columbus City Administrator Jake Letner came before the Board with a preliminary plat. Letner stated that the property is currently owned by Columbus Housing Inc, and that the owner wished to sell a portion of the parcel to a developer who plans on building new housing. After discussion, it was determined that the preliminary plat was not something that needed the Boards approval.

**CITY OF COLUMBUS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Commissioner Johnson stated that she and Commissioner Moates have both received calls from residents concerned by potential annexation into the City Columbus. Columbus City Administrator Jake Letner explained that this was regarding the Columbus Comprehensive Plan, which sets a potential planning boundary, but that does not mean that they will be annexing any land. Commissioner Johnsonson asked what the purpose of the public hearings regarding would be for. Letner explained that it would be to allow residents to come with concerns or questions. Commissioner Johnson expressed concerns over the notification process.

**FORUM SPEAKING GUIDELINES**

The Board discussed how to structure the upcoming October 15<sup>th</sup> forum. Multiple solutions were suggested, including having questions submitted prior, or requiring those wishing to speak to sign up as they enter. It was the consensus of the Board, that they would ask those wishing to speak or ask questions to signup as they enter.

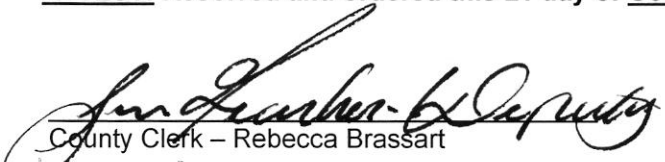
**SEWER BILLING SYSTEM**

Road and Bridge Office Manager Joni Hicks came before the Board. Hicks presented a contract for the new sewer billing system. County Counselor Jake Conard requested that she be placed on the next meeting agenda so that he would have time to review it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 21 day of October 2024.**

  
County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart

  
Commissioner – Lorie Johnson

  
Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates

  
Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier