

**MINUTES FOR MAY 2, 2016**  
**BOARD OF CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS**

**CONVENE**

Commissioner Collins called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (The Board), to order and led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance at 9:00 AM on Monday, May 2, 2016 in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioners Robert Myers, Pat Collins, Charles Napier, County Counselor Barbara Wright, and County Clerk Rodney Edmondson were present.

Members of the press present: Larry Hiatt, Jordan Zabel, and Machel Smith

**Leonard Vanatta - County Road Supervisor**

He appeared before the Board on routine county road business. He also reported that the geology report on W 5<sup>th</sup> St. in Baxter Springs went well.

Counselor Wright informed the Board that an attorney from Hillsboro, Kansas has made an open records requests under K.O.R.A. for the Highway Department. The records include job description, pay scale, and wages, etc., being paid to employees of the Highway Department. She will be sending that information to the attorney.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to approve the Minutes of the April 25, 2016 BOCC meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0.

**Barbara Wright - County Counselor**

She presented two Resolutions that were given to the Board last week for review.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to approve Resolution 09-2016, establishing permanent stop signs for North-South traffic at NE 10<sup>th</sup> and Center Star Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Myers. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to approve Resolution 10-2016, a continuance of the condemnation proceeding for Mary Mae Sitton for property located at 8511 SE 71<sup>st</sup> St., Baxter Springs, until May 23, 2016 at 10:00 AM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Myers. The motion carried 3-0.

Counselor Wright reported that she has reviewed the request by attorney Gene Barrett on behalf of his client to turn over a road to the County. It has been determined that the road is platted and established and it is within the city limits of Galena. Therefore, his request would not involve the County, it's a city street in Galena.

A motion was made by Commissioner Napier to recess for 10 minutes, to reconvene at 9:55 AM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0.

## Department Heads - Monthly Reports

They met with the Board for their routine monthly meeting for the purpose of updating the Board on happenings within each department, with the following Department Heads present: Barbara Bilke, Register of Deeds; Betha Elliott, Health Department; Cecil Brown, Noxious Weeds; David Groves, Sheriff; Jason Allison, Emergency Management; Nathan Coleman, Attorney; Ralph Houser, Maintenance; Rodney Edmondson, Clerk/Election; Wayne Elliott, 911 Addressing & Mapping; and Leonard Vanatta, Road & Bridge.

Barbara Bilke - She provided a written report to the Board.

Betha Elliott - She reported that her conference in Dallas went well.

Cecil Brown - He reported that Logan is waiting on the results of his test from last week.

David Groves - He reported that he took a group of students from Riverton and Columbus schools to Topeka for a traffic safety conference. He stated that the Drug Take-Back program on Saturday brought in 447 pounds of prescription drugs. He informed the board that School Resource Officer Deb Brooks is retiring May 16th. She has been in Law Enforcement in Cherokee County since 1989. They want to continue the program, so he is working with the Galena school officials on a replacement.

Jason Allison - He reported on storm damage in the county from last Tuesday. During a recent test it was discovered that two storm sirens have been hit by lightning and he is getting estimates for repair. He is still waiting on final approval from FEMA for the flood buyout grant.

Nathan Coleman - He reported that his office will begin using electronic filing with the District Court. He is working with Stronghold Data to establish a more secure email setting to be used in conjunction with the Court's new system.

Ralph Houser - He reported that he has been doing plumbing repairs in the courthouse. He's waiting on the Board's approval to begin the outside maintenance of the building.

Rodney Edmondson - He reported that his office is still working on the mass mailing for voter registration. The goal is to have all returned cards worked by mid-July. He reminded everyone that June 1<sup>st</sup> at noon is the candidate filing deadline for the August Primary Election.

Wayne Elliott - He reported the sale of \$67.50 in maps, the issuance of one new address, and that he made four new street signs.

The Board discussed the sale of vacation time by employees with the Department Heads. Commissioner Myers stated that the Personnel Policy Handbook stated that the only time it is allowed is in December, with the final pay period of the year, and that we need to follow the policy. He stated that a request needs to be made to the Board prior to including it in the payroll report. Betha Elliott stated that she thought she has something in writing that might be different from what was stated. She will look into it and report back to Counselor Wright.

The Board signed the Supplement Agreement No. 1 for the Exchange of Funds Agreement with KDOT.

**Sheriff David Groves, Jim Hanni - AAA of Kansas Award**

Jim Hanni of AAA of Kansas appeared before the Board to present Sheriff Groves and the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department with the 2015 AAA Kansas Community Traffic Safety Award. The awards are given to communities that demonstrate an effort to address local traffic safety concerns. This is the fifth year in a row that Cherokee County has won an award, and only two Sheriff's Departments have won an award in their first five years in the program. Cherokee County is awarded the platinum level award, the highest level possible, for the third straight year. They are one of only three platinum awards this year. He commended Cherokee County as having one of the finest Sheriff's Departments in Kansas.

A motion was made by Commissioner Myers to enter an Executive Session with the Board and Counselor Wright for a period of 10 minutes for the purpose of Non-Elected Personnel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0 at 10:45 AM.

The meeting reconvened at 10:55 AM.

No action was taken during the Executive Session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Myers that effective with the next billing cycle on the cell phone bills that the county currently pays the full cell phone, to convert to a \$25 per month stipend and no longer continue to pay the full cell phone bill amount. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0. The Board agreed to review and consider for payment, any additional charges over the limit that might occur from Emergency Management.

**Carl Hayes - Chairman, County Solid Waste Committee**

He appeared before the Board with an updated list of members to the Cherokee County Solid Waste Committee. He stated that Taylor Gravett is a new member to the committee that needs Board approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to approve the appointment of Taylor Gravett to the Cherokee County Solid Waste Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0.

Carl also presented two purchase orders for expenses to the recycling trailers. The Board signed the request for purchases.

**Brian Hillier - Benefit Health Advisors**

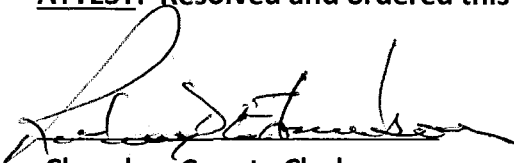
He appeared before the Board, along with employee members of the insurance committee to bring an update on the health insurance plan. This review covers claims for the first four months of the year. He reported that the plan was in good shape, and claims are down from the same period of 2015.

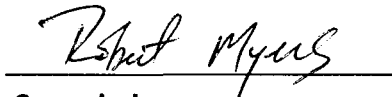
Commissioner Myers asked the committee to keep in mind enhanced benefits for the employee if costs continue on the current downward trend.

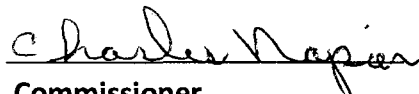
The importance of participation in the wellness checks was also discussed. Participation is low and they would like to see that improved. Brian stated that a premium increase of up to 5% of the Cobra rate per month could be charged to employees that won't participate.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting set for Monday, May 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0 at 12:06 p.m.

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016**

  
Cherokee County Clerk

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

RESOLUTION NO. 09-2016

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PLACEMENT OF PERMANENT ROAD SIGNS**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS, THAT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED:**

**SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.** K.S.A. 19-101 *et. seq.*, and K.S.A. 19-212 authorize the Board of County Commissioners to transact all County business and perform all powers of local legislation deemed appropriate, and to make all contracts and do all other acts in relation to the property and concerns of the county, necessary to the exercise of its corporate or administrative powers.

**SECTION 2. PROJECT.** To control traffic and provide traffic safety at the intersection of County Roads NE 10th and Center Star Road, the Board of County Commissioners authorizes permanent placement of stop signs for North-South traffic.

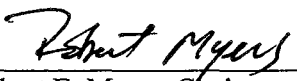
**SECTION 3. ADMINISTRATION.** The Board of County Commissioners of Cherokee County, Kansas, directs the County Road and Bridge Department to place permanent stop signs for North-South traffic at the intersection of County Roads NE 10 and Center Star Road in the interests of traffic control and safety.


**SECTION 4. PUBLICATION.** The County Clerk shall cause this resolution to be published in the official county newspaper.

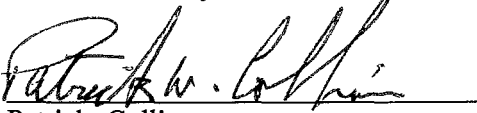
**SECTION 5. CONFLICT.** That all resolutions, County policies or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed insofar as they conflict herewith.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 2 day of May, 2016, by the Governing Body of Cherokee County, Kansas.

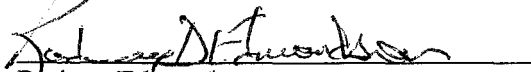
APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Myers, Chair  
Cherokee County Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Napier  
Cherokee County Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Collins  
Cherokee County Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rodney Edmondson  
Cherokee County Clerk  
Executed: May, 2, 2016.  
by the Board of County Commissioners

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-2016**

**A RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE THE MATTER OF PROGRESS AND REPAIRS OF THE STRUCTURE(S) SUBJECT TO THIS CONDEMNATION ACTION, AND FIXING A TIME AND PLACE FOR THE OWNERS, HIS OR HER AGENT, LIENHOLDERS OF RECORD, OCCUPANTS AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS, AND REPORT THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STRUCTURE(S).**

**WHEREAS, the property owner, Mary Mae Sitton, appeared before the Board of County Commissioners on Monday, April 18, 2016, and requested a continuance of the condemnation proceeding in order to proceed with her plan to make remedial repairs, remove debris, and make improvements to the structure(s).**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS:**

**That a continuance is granted, and a follow-up hearing will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2016, before the Board of County Commissioners of Cherokee County, Kansas, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at Cherokee County Courthouse, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Commission Room, 110 West Maple, Columbus, Kansas 66725, at which the owner, his or her agent, any lienholders of record, any occupant and any other parties in interest, as that term is defined by law, of the structure(s) located at:**

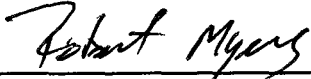
**8511 SE 71<sup>st</sup> STREET, BAXTER SPRINGS, CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS, CONSISTING OF LOT 10, BLOCK 10 IN THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF LOWELL,**

**may appear and report progress of remedial repairs, removal of debris, and improvements to the structure(s).**

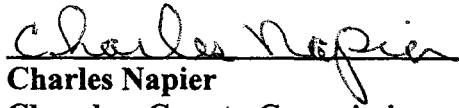
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk shall cause this resolution to be published and shall give notice of the aforesaid hearing in the manner provided by law.**

**PASSED AND APPROVED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2016, by the Board of County Commissioners of Cherokee County, Kansas.**

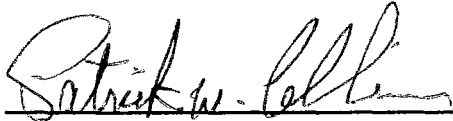
**APPROVED:**



**Robert E. Myers, Chair  
Cherokee County Commissioner**

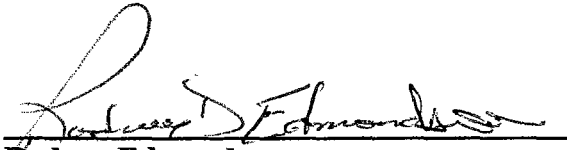


**Charles Napier  
Cherokee County Commissioner**



**Patrick Collins  
Cherokee County Commissioner**

**ATTEST:**



**Rodney Edmondson  
Cherokee County Clerk**

**Executed: May, 2, 2016,  
by the Board of County Commissioners**

Capitol Building  
Room 241-South  
300 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, KS 66612



Phone: (785) 296-3232  
Fax: (785) 368-8788  
governor@ks.gov

Sam Brownback, Governor

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Robert Meyers  
Chairman, Cherokee County Commission  
PO Box 14  
Columbus, KS 66725

RE: Grant No. 16-IT-001

Dear Chairman Meyers:

I am pleased to award Cherokee County an Urgent Need Community Development Block Grant for \$385,090. This grant will be used to buyout homes damaged in the December 2015 flooding.

The Department of Commerce will be contacting you concerning appropriate contractual agreements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Brownback". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam Brownback  
Governor of the State of Kansas

SB:SD:cav



## Cherokee County Solid Waste Committee Members

**Carl Hayes (Chairman)...**

Cherokee County.....110 E. Walnut, Columbus, KS.  
(620) 429-3087.....chayes@cherokeecountyks.org

**Dr. Jim Triplett**

Advisor/SEK Recycling.....615 S. Joplin, Pittsburg, KS.  
(620) 231-8930.....jtriplett@pittstate.edu

**Tausha Ritz**

Advisor/SEK Recycling.....615 S. Joplin, Pittsburg, KS.  
(620) 231-8930.....tausha\_ritz@sekr.kscoxmail.com

**Terry Proffitt**

Advantage Metals Recycling LLC.....2466 NW Hwy 7, Columbus, KS.  
(620) 674-3800.....tjp@djj.com

**Jennifer Fagan**

Republic Services.....1715 E. Front St., Galena, KS.  
(417) 499-3739.....jfagan2@republicservices.com

**Michael Robison**

Robison Environmental Services (C&D).....2801 SE Treece Rd., Baxter Springs, KS.  
(620) 249-7572.....michaelrob38@yahoo.com

**Chris Palmer**

Palmer Trash Service.....PO Box 157, Crestline, KS.  
(620) 389-2505

City of Baxter Springs....1445 Military Ave., Baxter Springs, KS  
(620) 856-2114

**Jim Burton**

City of Columbus.....300 E. Maple, Columbus, KS.  
(620) 762-0168.....jburton@columbuscityhall.com

