

MINUTES for August 12, 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, August 12, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioner Moates opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, County Counciler Jake Conard, Deputy County Clerk Jess Frasher, Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, and Columbus News Report Owner Larry Hiatt were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the minutes as presented from August 5, 2024. 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 the SE Wyandotte bridge was opened on Thursday and noted that some ditching work that was missed in the original design will be needed. Zook stated that the Road and Bridge staff will be attending a half-day training session tomorrow morning. Zook stated that he is considering percentage-based raises for Road and Bridge staff depending on the amount available in the budget. Commissioner Frazier commented that she prefers performance based raised vs departmental wide. Commissioner Moates shared Commissioner Frazier's opinion regarding performance-based raises. Commissioner Johnson asked if rock could be added to an area of road around 70th and Clem, and stated the area is currently very muddy. Commissioner Frazier informed Zook of a complaint she had received regarding a collapsing culvert. Commissioner Johnson stated that she is working with Dale on a matching grant that could be used on old 96. Commissioner Moates informed the Board of an inquiry regarding designating a private drive as a minimum maintenance road. Commissioner Moates stated that he was contacted by an individual asking if they were to bring a private drive up to county specs, if the commission would designate it as a minimum maintenance road. Commissioner Frazier questioned why the county would take on a private drive. Zook stated that the Board would need to pass a resolution if they were to do so. No decision was made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 15-minute non-elected personnel executive session, with the Board, County Counselor Conard, and County Appraiser Delinda White, to return at 9:55 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

PAY RATE CHANGES

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the pay rate change for Appraiser's Office employee Sara Goff, from a rate of 15/hr to \$17/hr to take effect the next payroll period. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the pay rate change for Appraiser's Office employee Robbi Shilts from a rate of 16.31/hr to \$17.31/hr to take effect the next payroll period. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the pay rate change for Appraiser's Office employee Deann Norris, from a rate of 16.31/hr to \$17.31/hr to take effect the next payroll period. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the pay rate change for Appraiser's Office employee Taylor Brown, from a rate of 19.38/hr to \$20.38/hr to take effect the next payroll period. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Bukaty Benefits Consultant Joe Holdenried joined the meeting via phone call. Holdenried discussed possible changes to the plan that would result in higher savings for the County.

CONTRACT AMENDMENTS

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve amendments 3 and 5 of the Cherokee County benefit plan. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

JANITORIAL POSITION APPLICANTS

The Board reviewed applications received for the open courthouse janitorial position. The Board gave the applications to Maintenance Coordinator Mike Thomas with the intent that he makes his recommendation for hire at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION 21-2024 – SOLAR MORATORIUM

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve resolution 21-2024, a resolution re-enacting a moratorium on commercial solar energy projects, to expire on September 12th, 2024. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PAY RATE CHANGE

Commissioner Johnson brought to the attention of the Board that HR Manager Deanna Randall was not being paid the salary amount that they had budgeted for. After discussing the matter Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the pay rate change for HR Manager Deanna Randall, from a rate of 21.23/hr to \$23.08/hr to take effect the next payroll period. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION

Commissioner Moates suggested the Board hold a work session to discuss solar regulations. Commissioner Frazier suggested that the Board hold the work session next week after the Board has had an opportunity to review the matter.

ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

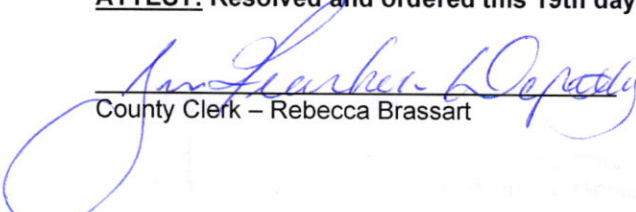
Commissioner Moates motioned for a 10-minute attorney client privilege executive session, with the Board and County Counselor Conard, to return at 10:50 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.


ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 19th day of August 2024.


County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart


Commissioner Chair – Cory Moates


Commissioner – Lorie Johnson


Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier