

**MINUTES for December 2, 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, December 2, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Counselor Jake Conard 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 November 25, 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 that the exact Dynapak paver that was quoted to the County will be in Carthage today or tomorrow if someone wanted to see it. Zook stated that he plans to go to Hallowell and address the concerns that were brought up by a resident, after he has finished some projects. Zook discussed issues surrounding an alley way, stating that there is someone who owns bordering property who is encroaching into the alley way. The Board discussed potential solutions and decided to simply ask the owner to relocate the property before escalating. Commissioner Johnson asked Zook if he will be opening Bryan's position for interviews. Zook stated that he has distributed information to employees and said that he wanted to hire from within. Zook noted that Bryan's last day was in February, which should allow time to train his replacement.

**SKIDMORE**

County Counselor Jake Conard provided the Board with an update on the Skidmore property boundaries issue. Conard stated that he has met with the County Treasurer Heather Sapp, and that she is comfortable with the suggested tax agreement solution. Conard stated that he will begin preparing the agreement.

**ZONING**

Labette County Zoning Administrator Mel Haas came before the Board to provide more information on the process of zoning. Haas described his previous experience with renewable energy projects, and his experience with the zoning of Labette County. Haas stated that last year, 54 out of the 105 counties in Kansas were zoned, and noted that there are counties with smaller populations that are zoned. Haas stated that he thought Barton County was a good example to look to. Haas stated that since Labette County has been zoned, multiple projects have been proposed that can now be regulated. Haas stated that over time, the need for Zoning has become clearer. Haas discussed the required Boards that would need to be appointed if the County was to become zoned.

**RESOLUTION 28-2024 – HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve Resolution 28-2024, a resolution by the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners adopting the Kansas Homeland Security Region H hazard mitigation plan. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Roger Draeger came before the Board to address the matter of regulating solar energy. Draeger expressed his desire to hold more meetings with the Board and representatives of the solar companies but asked if they could be private and not a public meeting. Draeger stated that himself and the solar companies have concerns about making details of their contracts public. County Counselor Jake Conard stated that he would be concerned with violating the Kansas Open Meetings Act. Discussion continued. Draeger said that he would still be interested in having the meeting and sharing some of the information.

**CHRISTMAS BONUS**

Commissioner Moates motioned to give all county employees a \$60.00 stipend on the next paycheck, excluding the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ARPA WORKSHOP**

The Board reviewed the total amount of ARPA funds requested for purchases to determine the amount remaining. The Board called Carey Spoon with Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission to determine the remaining administrative fees