

**MINUTES for October 21, 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 21, 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, News Report owner Larry Hiatt, Building Health Inc. Director Becky Gray, and County residents Dale Scott, Jinger Scott, and Danielle Murphy were present.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES**

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the minutes as presented from October 7, 2024. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES**

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the minutes as presented from October 10, 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 informed the Board that a county boom mower was hit and stated that it was not the fault of the operator. Zook stated that he thinks it will be totaled. Zook stated that another boom mower will be out of the shop today. Zook reviewed the risk of fire associated with mowing during the drought. Zook stated that he would like staff to focus on smaller projects instead of mowing for the time being. Zook asked the Board for direction. Commissioner Frazier stated that she thought he had a good plan. Commissioner Johnson asked Zook if he had asphalt totals. Zook stated that the department still has not received all the bills from Bettis yet. Zook stated the department is still doing limb cleanup from the August storms. Zook stated that had emailed a citizen in the Northeast part of the County, who had would like speed limit signs placed on a portion of NE Coal Valley from 30<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board discussed posting signs and placing a 35-mph speed limit. County Counselor Conard stated that it would require the Board to pass a resolution.

**CHC TRANSPORTATION**

Building Health Inc. Director Becky Gray came before the Board. Gray explained the Building Health Inc. (BHI) is a non-profit subsidiary of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (CHC). Becky stated that she was there to talk about the care van, and provided statistics regarding the services it provides, as well as the portion of the population that relies on it. Gray stated that she was applying for a KDOT grant to fund the care vans operations, and that she would like to ask for a letter of support from the Board. Gray told the Board that she had a letter drafted that she could provide them if they were willing to sign it. The Board expressed support and said that she could forward it to the County Clerk to provide them.

**DISTRICT COURT BUDGET**

The Board examined the submitted annual 2025 District Court budget. Commissioner Frazier motioned to authorize Commissioner Moates to sign the 2025 annual District Court budget. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SOLID WASTE REVIEW**

Jim Burton came before the Board with the Solid Waste Management Plan 2024 Annual Review. Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the 2024 annual review. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**COURTHOUSE PHONES**

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart came before the Board to provide an update on the replacement of the courthouse phone system. Brassart informed the Board that the district court requested two additional lines, which will have a cost of \$28.70 a month.

**WEBSITE UPDATE**

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart updated the Board on the status of the County website. Brassart stated that the problem that caused the website to be down originated with the service who hosts the website, CIC. Brassart stated that CIC was not addressing the cause of the issue, and that it required the county IT provider, Stronghold, to step in and solve it. Brassart stated the stronghold informed her of other services that could potentially host the County website.