

MINUTES FOR March 7, 2022

BOARD OF CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

CONVENE

Chairman Cory Moates called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (The Board), to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 7, 2022, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commission chair Cory Moates opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, Cody Zook Road and Bridge Supervisor, County Counselor Nathan Coleman and Columbus News Report Reporter Jacob Spencer were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Frazier to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022, meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson. The motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL of PAYROLL

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the payroll as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL of PAYABLES

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the accounts payable as presented. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

ROAD & BRIDGE

Cody Zook, County Road Supervisor, appeared before the Board regarding county road business. Cody apprised The Board of action that the county lot is taking to remedy an issue with standing water in the Crestline area.

Cody informed The Board that he had been in touch with Terry Clugston and along with Michelle from the Sheriff's Office they had went through items at the lot county lot in the den. There was really nothing that could be sold. The lot either threw things away or scraped it and anything of value was locked up.

Zook consulted with The Board on possibly getting a better idea of the needs of each commissioner regarding gravel and paved roads so that he can get a plan together for this year.

Cody notified The Board that he has been approached by the city of Scammon to print their road signs. Cody stated we don't have the correct material needed to make the signs. It was discussed that Cody could either have the city of Scammon purchase the material or have them speak to the City of Baxter Springs who has a new sign machine.

Cody voiced his concerns regarding all the beaver dams in county. Zook told The Board that we have a beaver issue in the county.

Zook ask for a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel. Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 5-minute executive session over non-elected personnel with the 3 commissioners, Cody and Counselor Coleman to begin at 9:20. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson. The motion carried 3-0.

The meeting reconvened at 9:25 a.m.

As a result of the Executive Session no action was taken.

STRONGHOLD SERVER

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart presented The Board with an option to purchase an extended warranty for the main server as it is now 5 years old. Brassart was able to get Chris Oaks with Stronghold on the phone so that The Board could ask him some questions. The Board inquired as to the cost of a new server should this one fail. Oaks stated currently they would be looking in the range of 4-5K, but with today's market it's hard to give an exact quote for the future. The Board stated that they would decline the option of the extended warranty, and should the server fail, they would purchase a new one.

CHAMBER GRANT

Jean Pritchett with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce came before The Board to notify them of the Cherokee County Tourism Grant which would help with the expenses for the upcoming Big Kansas Road Trip that brings the public to selected counties in Kansas to learn about rural communities through firsthand experience. The Kansas Sampler Foundation for 2022 has selected Bourbon, Cherokee, and Crawford Counties. Pritchett stated she was asking The Board to give \$500 for the Cherokee County Tourism Grant Program. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the \$500 request for the Cherokee County Tourism Grant. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

County Counselor Nathan Coleman asked for a 20-minute executive session over attorney client privilege with himself and the 3 Commissioners. Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 20-minute executive session over attorney client privilege with the 3 Commissioners and Counselor Coleman to begin at 9:45 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

The meeting reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

As a result of the Executive Session no action was taken.

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

Jim Burton chairman of the Cherokee County Solid Waste Committee came before the board to ask that The Board to approve the list of Solid Waste Committee names as presented to The Board. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the Cherokee County Solid Waste Committee. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-0 with Commissioner Johnson abstaining. The Cherokee County Solid Waste Committee is made up of the following who were approved by the above motion:

Jim Burton (Chairman)

Jenifer Fagan

Michelle Murphy

Michael Robison

Sue Drennan (Secretary)

Angela Feldkamp

Jim Tunnell

Richard Mallatt, Jr.

Linda Phipps

Burton discussed with The Board the cost to the county to have Noble Earth pickup e-waste. Commissioner Johnson stated that online that Noble Earth shows they buy e-waste.

Burton stated it was time for the 5-year plan to be updated and he also inquired to whether The Board would be opposed to seeing if a private contractor or another company would be interested in handling the recycle trailers for the county. After a very lengthy heated discussion Commissioner Frazier stated she would like to see the committee attempt to find an outside source for the trailers. Commissioner Johnson encouraged Burton to locate an outside contractor or private company to handle the recycle trailers.

OFFICE HEADS

Allison

Jason Allison County Emergency Manager presented The Board with a lease for the Maxton Tower lease in the amount of \$3000. Jason stated he had spoken to 911 Coordinator Dusty Groves who was checking to see if this payment could be paid out of the 911 fund.

Allison informed The Board that it was Severe Weather Awareness week and that at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday 3/8/2022 the weather sirens would be tested.

Allison updated The Board on septic permits taken in and contractor licenses received to date.

Jason notified The Board that the surveyors would be in the Skidmore area all week.

Allison presented The Board with FEMA 3-year leases for William T. VanCleave, and Bob Jones for signing. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the 3-year lease for Bob Jones. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the 3-year lease for William T. VanCleave. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Frazier stated she would like to have a discussion over how the open FEMA leases are handled going forward.

Elliott

Betha Elliott Cherokee County Health Department Director presented The Board with updated Covid-19 numbers for January 2022 and February 2022 according to KDHE. She also reminded The Board that this was the two-year anniversary of the first reported covid positive in the SE Kansas area. Elliott went on to give a general overview of Covid-19 and total vaccines given in Cherokee County according to CDC as of Jan 3, 2022.

Elliott presented The Board with the signature page for the Grant Applications for SFY23, ELC IP Infrastructure and IAP 3SFY23 for The Boards signature. Commissioner Moates ask The Board if they were okay with him signing the Grant and they stated they were. Commissioner Johnson did however state that she would like to see what is required of the county when the Grant is signed.

Elliott discussed the possibility of logo branding with The Board. It was mentioned to possibly have a contest between the art departments of the schools in Cherokee County.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Commissioner Moates brought to The Board that he is unsure if we are saving money by participating in the yearly health screening for employees. The Board discussed the cost to the county for the health screenings with Deana Randall with HR. The Board ask Randall to contact Brian Hillier so that they can gain a better understanding of the cost. Randall stated she would go contact him. Hillier called towards the end of the commission meeting to speak to The Board. Brian explained the health screening benefits to The Board and answered questions provided by them.

MAC YOUNG MILEAGE

County Clerk Brassart notified The Board that she had spoken to Terry Cezirle in District Court regarding the mileage for Mac Young. Terry stated that anytime Young must travel out of his home area that the mileage is split 3 ways between Cherokee, Labette, and Crawford counties no matter which of the 3 counties he travels too. Girard is considered Youngs home area. Commissioner Frazier stated that she would just prefer that from now on that he send his contracts in by email and he contact The Board by phone should he need to speak to them. She went on to state that he has been ask questions on more than one occasion in which he has never answered to date. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve paying the mileage for Mac Young in the amount of 49.05 and 72.68 which was billed on 1-31-2022. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

GAS CONTRACT

The Board asked if Clerk Brassart had heard from Mr. Williams with Hamlin Energy. Brassart stated she had not but had received a letter in the mail from Pro-Energy regarding their departure from the Natural Gas industry and that Deana had received an email dated 3-4-2022 from them as well. After some discussion The Board ask Brassart to contact Crawford County to see who they are currently using as a gas provider. Commissioner Johnson reached out to the USD 493 Superintendent who stated they use Woodriver Energy. Once The Board reconvened after executive session at 11:45 Brassart informed The Board that both Labette County and Crawford County use KGS-Kansas Gas Service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

County Counselor Nathan Coleman asked for a 15-minute executive session over attorney client privilege with himself and the 3 Commissioners. Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 15-minute executive session over attorney client privilege with the 3 Commissioners and Counselor Coleman to begin at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

The meeting reconvened at 11:45 a.m.


As a result of the Executive Session no action was taken.


OLD BUSINESS**NRP Payments**

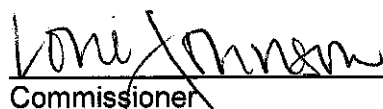
Commissioner Frazier asked Commissioner Johnson for an update on the NRP letter. County Clerk Brassart presented The Board with the letter which was drafted by Commissioner Johnson. Brassart stated anything in red were suggestions she or Treasurer Elmore had made. The letter was reviewed by The Board, Coleman and Brassart. After some discussion on wording The Board felt the letter should have a second draft to look over for approval. Commissioner Johnson asked Coleman if she should make a signature line on the letter for The Board once it was approved. Coleman stated he would review that and get back to them with an answer.

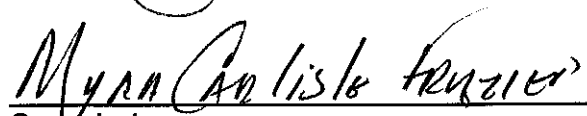
Commissioner Frazier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 14th day of March, 2022


Cherokee County Clerk


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner