

**MINUTES FOR February 14, 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, February 14, 2022, 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 Counselor Nathan Coleman, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, County Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook 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 14, 2022 meeting with an amendment to reinstate DeBeard Investment back on to the NRP program and reimburse them their Tax Rebate. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**ROAD & BRIDGE**

Cody Zook, County Road Supervisor, appeared before the Board regarding county road business. Cody presented the Board with job descriptions for the human resource position with the County Lot, County Maintenance Coordinator Position, janitor position and will bring the maintenance technician description to the next regular meeting. He also informed the Board that the janitor position will be advertised three times in the paper being with the February 14, 2022 addition. He also let the board know that he will need a starting wage by the next regularly scheduled meeting for the janitor position. Cody will be checking to see what funds are available out of the Sheriffs budget.

Cody updated the board to let them know that he had completed the reviews on the County Lot employees except for Chris Johnson and Nathan Davis as he did not feel they had done their new jobs long enough to review them yet.

Cody apprised the Board that he and JC Parsons met with the Woodson County noxious weed director on February 8, 2022 and that he had decided that JC should be the noxious weed director for the county. JC will be attending a training course in March of 2022 for the noxious weed department. Cody stated to the Board that he wanted them to know that during the recent snow and ice event that that he was appreciative for the outside help he had received Commissioner Moates and county taxpayer Jay Justice.

Cody then gave a brief update on Owens Corning.

Cody notified the commissioners that the county lot would be helping with equipment day that will take place at Park School in the spring.

Commissioner Johnson notified Cody that NW 30<sup>th</sup> ST between Highway 160 and Bethlehem Rd had a large pothole that needed fixed as it is a driving hazard. She also let him know that taxpayers had thanked her for the work done on Lostine RD.

**OLD BUSINESS**

With 25 minutes remaining before the scheduled time with office heads at 9:50 a.m. Commissioner Moates ask County Clerk Brassart if she had anything to bring before the Board, she stated that she did have old business regarding the Federal Protection contract cancelation. Brassart stated that she had received an email from Denise with Federal that there would be a charge to cancel. The charges would be \$761.40 which is 60% of the remaining balance on the contract and then \$270 plus tax on the Maintenance/Lease Agreement. After a small amount of discussion Commissioner Frazier made a motion to proceed with the termination of Federal Protection and pay the associated fees. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Brassart then gave a brief update on the NRP, she stated that on Friday she had met with County Appraiser David Thornton and Daisy Mooney as well regarding the NRP. Brassart then stated that was all the business she had except for the Salamanca Township Clerk appointment of which Commissioner Johnson stated would need to wait till its scheduled time at 10:40 a.m.

**ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates ask County Counselor Coleman if he had anything to bring before the Board. He stated he would like a 10-minute attorney client executive session for legal liability issues. Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 10-minute attorney client executive session for legal liability issues with the three commissioners and County Counselor Coleman present. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

The meeting reconvened at 9:42 a.m.

Commissioner Moates again made a motion for a 10-minute attorney client executive session for legal liability issues with the three commissioners and County Counselor Coleman present. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

The meeting reconvened at 9:52 a.m.

There was no action taken because of the Executive Session.

**OFFICE HEADS**

County 911 Coordinator Dusty Groves updated the Board regarding the recent activity in his office and the possibility of upcoming training opportunities.

Deana Randall head of Human Resources informed the Board of the upcoming KPERS audit that is due by March 4<sup>th</sup> and she also let the Board know of the CIC issues she has been having.

Raven Elmore was unable to attend. Commissioner Moates stated her office was busy with taxpayers and trying to get the amended tax statements and refunds taken care of.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Moates gave the Board an update on the Industrial Wind Turbines, he let them know that he has spoken to taxpayers in both Neosho and Labette Counties. Moates stated he would like to continue moving forward with having another meeting for the taxpayers of Cherokee County.

Commissioner Johnson updated the board of the updates with SB 353. Johnson stated she had

listened to both the opponent and proponent testimony for the bill. Johnson informed the Board that KDWP took a neutral stance but did recommend a setback of 3 miles from wildlife areas because of how the vibrations effect the wildlife, she also stated that the Kansas Livestock Association is in favor of SB353 and the setbacks for wind turbines.

Commissioner Moates ask that the Board begin their review of applicants for the Indigent Representation opening. Moates stated that there were two applicants for the opening. Moates stated the applicants were Attorney Melanie Bingham and Attorney Kevin Cure. Commissioner Johnson stated that she had received complaints on both applicants. After some discussion between the Board, Commissioner Frazier made a motion to extend the application period to March 4, 2022 with another review of applicants on March 7, 2022. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

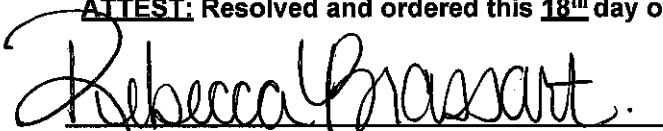
**OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED**


Commissioner Moates ask if there were any other applicants for the vacated position of Salamanca Township Clerk besides that of Waycee Brassart? Clerk Brassart stated she had not received any others. Commissioner Moates made a motion to appoint Waycee Brassart to the open position. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

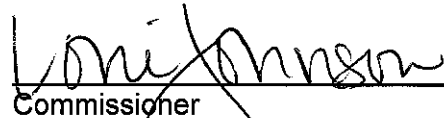
Commissioner Moates stated there was no other business other than the Board needing to see how much of the salary would remain out of the courthouse salary line after the retirement of Ralph Houser and Janice Sandberg. The Board collaborated with Clerk Brassart to obtain all the numbers they needed to get an accurate figure.


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

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022**

  
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 Cherokee County Clerk

  
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 Commissioner

  
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 Commissioner

  
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 Commissioner