

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2019
BOARD OF CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

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, September 9, 2019 in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 West Maple, Columbus, Kansas. Jim Tunnell opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Neal Anderson, Myra Carlisle Frazier, County Counselor Barbara Wright, and County Clerk Rodney Edmondson were present.

Members of the press present: Larry Hiatt

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Minutes of the August 26, 2019 BOCC meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frazier. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to approve the payroll for the period ending August 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frazier. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frazier to approve the accounts payable for the period ending September 4, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

Leonard Vanatta, County Road Supervisor appeared before the Board on county road business. The Board discussed the need for a stop sign at SW 10th & Beasley Rd. They will get with Sheriff Groves for his opinion. Leonard reported that they are doing some maintenance on the new ditching machine, repairing some wiring, and they are waiting on a new filter for the return hydraulics. Leonard stated that he hasn't decided on who will operate the ditcher. He stated that he still has openings for two brush cutters, a backhoe operator, and a truck driver.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates for an executive session for the discipline of non-elected personnel with the Board, Counselor Wright, and Leonard Vanatta. The meeting will reconvene at 9:45 a.m. in the commission room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0 at 9:32 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

No action will be taken at this time.

Counselor Wright stated that there is a court hearing today at 2:30 p.m. on the eminent domain action for the neutral railroad project. One party has agreed to settle for the original offer, but she hasn't heard anything from the other party.

Department Heads – Monthly Reports

Officials met with the Board for their routine monthly meeting for the purpose of updating the Board on happenings within each department, with the following department heads present: Barbara Bilke, Register of Deeds; Betha Elliott, Health Department; David Groves, Sheriff; Hope Brittain on behalf of Jacob Conard, County Attorney; Janet Miller, Economic Development; Mark Hixon, Appraiser; Ralph Houser, Maintenance; Raven Elmore, Treasurer; Rodney Edmondson, Clerk & Election; and Rebecca Brassart, 911 Addressing & Mapping.

Hope Brittain reported that the County Attorney's Office filed 66 cases in August with 46 being felonies.

Janet Miller provided a copy of the Development Opportunity Profile for Cherokee County for the Board to review.

David Groves reported that they passed the Juvenile Justice Authority inspection last week without issue. He reported that October 26th will be the next DEA Drug Take-Back. He stated that the Weir Homecoming is this weekend and the Baxter Springs Fall Festival is October 5th. He will use inmates to help set up and then clean up following the events.

Ralph Houser provided one bid to replace the front doors to the courthouse. He stated that he had contacted four companies, but only one submitted a bid. He stated that he has three companies preparing bids to upgrade the electrical wiring in the courthouse.

Raven Elmore reported that 35 properties were sold at the tax foreclosure sale last Friday. The properties sold for \$56,900. There were six additional properties that did not sell.

Betha Elliott presented pay increase requests for three R.N.'s in order to hire another nurse at a higher wage.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to increase Janet Haynes from \$16.50 to \$18.00 effective September 16th. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to increase Lori Ferraro from \$17.44 to \$18.44 effective September 16th. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frazier. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to increase Debra Murray from \$20.10 to \$21.10 effective September 16th. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

Jerry Martin appeared before the Board regarding his property on Watermelon Lane. He stated that Bob Jones is building berms of dirt that is diverting water and debris onto his property. He has spoken with Jason Allison about the problem but hasn't heard anything from him in three months. Commissioner Moates stated that the issue has been reported to the Department of Natural Resources and we are waiting on a response from them. Commissioner Moates stated that he would check into it and get back to him.

Commissioner Moates reported that the electrical wiring at the Riverton sewer lift station needs to be corrected before the motor can be brought back online.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates for an attorney client executive session for a contract issue and for a nuisance issue with the Board, Counselor Wright, and Clerk Edmondson. The meeting will reconvene in the commission room at 11:15 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0 at 10:54 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates for an attorney client executive session for contract and nuisance issues with the Board, Counselor Wright, and Clerk Edmondson. The meeting will reconvene in the commission room at 11:27 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0 at 11:16 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:27 a.m.

No action will be taken at this time.

Rebecca Dobyms from Riggs Chiropractic in Riverton appeared before the Board regarding their Give Back Movement. The program provides a no-cost program for employee awareness for maintaining healthy lifestyles along with a spinal screening. If an employee schedules an in-office visit the \$25 fee is donated back to an organization in the county. The Board took it under advisement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to pay Jack Garner \$500 out of the sale proceeds from the September 6th tax foreclosure sale for his auctioneering services for the sale. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to move forward with canceling the contracts with Attorney Robert Myers and Attorney Gene Barrett and to get an updated list of properties that have not been redeemed and have the Wichita law firm begin the process for another tax sale.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Counselor Wright agreed to contact both attorney's regarding their list and to get a status of where they are in the sale process. She will also ask them to agree to a deadline for a tax sale and sign off on it. The Board agreed on a deadline of December 13, 2019 for each attorney to complete a tax foreclosure sale or the Board will move forward with the Wichita Law Firm.

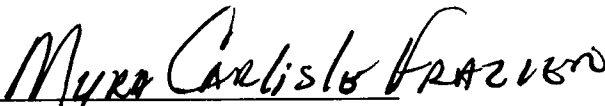
Clerk Edmondson presented a recommendation from the solid waste advisory committee to accept resignations from William Woolston and Josh Cahoon. The committee submitted the name of Gregg Klumper from Jordan Disposal as a member of the committee for the Board's approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to accept the resignations of William Woolston and Josh Cahoon from the solid waste advisory committee and to appoint Gregg Klumper as the replacement for Josh Calhoun. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

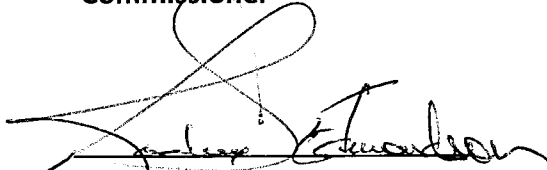
Commissioner Moates made a motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting set for Monday, September 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frazier. The motion carried 3-0 at 11:53 a.m.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 16th day of September, 2019


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner


County Clerk