

MINUTES for February 3, 2025
BOARD of CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

CONVENE

Chair Myra Carlisle Frazier called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (the Board), to order at 9:00 AM on Monday, February 3, 2025, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Commissioner Cory Moates opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Myra Carlisle Frazier, Jack Garner, Cory Moates, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, County Road and Bridge Road Supervisor Cody Zook, County Counselor Jake Conard, and Noxious Weed Director JC Parsons were present.

Members of the press present: News Report Larry Hiatt and Galena Sentinel-Times Machele Smith

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from January 27,2025 meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL of PAYROLL

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the payroll as presented. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL of PAYABLES

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the payables as presented. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEWSPAPER SEALED BIDS

Commissioner Frazier opened the sealed bids that were left with the county clerk. The bid from the Galena Sentinel-Times consisted of a font style of minion pro, font size of 9 point and leading of 9 point with a price per column inch of \$4.00. The cost for publication of an attached sample was \$39.00. The bid from the News Report consisted of a font style of news, font size of 10 point and leading of 10 point with a price per column inch of \$4.60. The cost for publication of an attached sample was \$55.00. After some discussion regarding the bids commissioner Garner made a motion to make the News Report the official paper for the county. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed with commissioner Frazier voting nay.

NEW BUSINESS:

NOXIOUS WEED

Noxious Weed director JC Parsons came before the Board to request their signatures on his annual report which he is required to submit to the state yearly. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Holly Johnson, with economic development came before the Board to present the advisory committee appointments which consisted of the following for approval.

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Position 1 (Weir) | Amy Zortz |
| Position 2 (Scammon) | Bob Norris |
| Position 3 (Columbus) | Jake Letner |
| Position 4 (Baxter Springs) | Brian Smith |
| Position 5 (Galena) | Neil Oglesby |
| Position 6 (Commissioner District 1) | Jeremy Strup |
| Position 7 (Commissioner District 2) | Thomas Niegisch |
| Position 8 (Commissioner District 3) | Bert Kellum |
| Position 9 (County Commissioner) | Myra Carlisle Frazier |

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the economic committee appointments as read. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ROAD and BRIDGE

R&B Supervisor Cody Zook came before the Board to present a new hire for Mike Reed as a utility operator II at a pay rate of \$17.00/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the new hire. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for William Bauer from a rate of \$16.00/hr to \$17.00/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Craig Biancarelli from a rate of \$16.75/hr to \$17.25/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Stanley Burton from a rate of \$16.00/hr to \$16.50/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Joe Carlson from a rate of \$17.00/hr to \$17.50/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Calvin Carrico from a rate of \$17.00/hr to \$18.00/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Mike Dainty from a rate of \$16.25/hr to \$16.50/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Jeremy Erwin from a rate of \$17.00/hr to \$17.75/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for James Hale from a rate of \$16.00/hr to \$17.00/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Mike Handshy from a rate of \$16.50/hr to \$17.00/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Joni Hicks from a rate of \$17.00/hr to \$18.00/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Michael Moore from a rate of \$16.50/hr to \$17.00/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Cloyd Ray from a rate of \$17.00/hr to \$18.00/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Lynn Shallenburger from a rate of \$16.00/hr to \$17.00/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Michael Shockley from a rate of \$16.50/hr to \$17.00/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody presented the Board with a pay raise for Kevin Vanderpool from a rate of \$17.00/hr to \$17.50/hr. Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the raise. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Zook asked the Board if it would be okay to work with BNSF railroad regarding some work on the crossings on Clem RD. The Board stated that they had no issue with working with BNSF.

Commissioner Moates let Cody know that the new signs for the Lowell turnoff look good.

NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE SESSION ROAD and BRIDGE

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 10-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and Cody Zook with R&B to return at 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 15-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and Cody Zook with R&B and county counselor Jake Conard to return at 10:20 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

NRP

County Appraiser Delinda White came before the Board to discuss how the NRP should be handled regarding the application process. After discussion it was determined that the NRP paperwork would still be obtained from the clerk's office due to the NRP paperwork stating such. Then the appraisers office will pick the paperwork up from the clerk's office.

NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE SESSION PLANNING and ZONING

Commissioner Frazier motioned for 15-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and county counselor Jake Conard to return at 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

TAX SALE UPDATE

Commissioner Frazier asked for an update on the tax sale. Treasurer Heather Sapp stated the sale had been filed with the courts on January 27, 2025, and that the firm handling the sale is waiting on First American Title to get the research back to them.

HANDBOOK WORK SESSION

Commissioner Frazier requested that the Board begin having work sessions on the handbook. The work session will begin on February 24, 2025.

CONTRACT ATTORNEY AGREEMENT

County Counselor Jake Conard presented the Board with agreements for the contract attorney positions and an update to a name change. Commissioner Frazier motioned to allow Chair Frazier to sign the contract agreement for Barbara Wright. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Frazier motioned to allow Chair Frazier to sign the contract agreement for JoAnna Derfelt. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Frazier motioned to allow the name change for contract attorney Keith Pennock to Pennock Barton LLC. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BAXTER SPRINGS ZONING

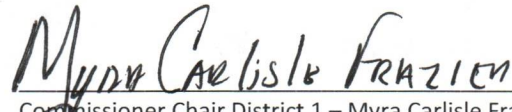
Commissioner Moates asked if clerk Brassart had received an email from the city of Baxter Springs regarding Zoning Spere of Influence. Brassart stated she had not received an email as of present.

ADJOURNMENT


Commissioner Fraizer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 10th day of February 2025.


County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart


Commissioner Chair District 1 – Myra Carlisle Frazier


Commissioner District 2 – Jack Garner


Commissioner District 3 – Cory Moates