

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 25, 2016
BOARD OF CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

CONVENE

Chairman Myers called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (The Board), to order and led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance at 9:00 AM on Monday, January 25, 2016 in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioners Robert Myers, Pat Collins, Charles Napier, Counselor Barbara Wright, and County Clerk Rodney Edmondson were present.

Members of the press present: Larry Hiatt, Jordan Zabel, Sarah Okeson, and Machel Smith

A motion was made by Commissioner Napier to pay the dues for the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission in the amount of \$5,640.45. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to approve the Minutes of the BOCC Meeting for January 11, 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to approve the Minutes of the BOCC Special Meeting for January 13, 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Myers. The motion carried 2-0 with Commissioner Napier abstaining.

Leonard Vanatta - County Road Supervisor
Gene Langerot - County Lot Supervisor

They appeared before the Board on routine county road business. They reported that they are continuing to make repairs to the damaged roads caused by the flood. They reported that Columbus Telephone is installing a new router to boost their internet signal, eliminating the need for hotspots.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to purchase three used tractors and cutters, one for each district, at a cost for each of \$133,735 from Murphy Tractor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0. #40,205-

Janet Miller - Economic Development

She appeared before the Board regarding two invoices that were questioned by the Board during last week's approval of the accounts payables. In question was the Joplin Regional Partnership invoice in the amount of \$5,500 for the first half annual pledge, and the invoice from Columbus Telephone Company in the amount of \$190.75 for refreshments for holiday gathering.

She stated that the Economic Development Corporation voted to commit to another five years with the Joplin Regional Partnership at a cost of \$11,000 each year payable in two payments of \$5,500. She stated that by pooling money regionally Cherokee County has access to things that we otherwise would not have. Commissioner Myers asked her to check and see how many Cherokee County cities are still a part of the Partnership.

She stated that in regards to the holiday gathering, there were seven Board members present, along with spouses. Approximately 16 people attended the gathering.

Nathan Coleman - County Attorney

He appeared before the Board regarding the County Attorney payroll. He stated that he had presented a letter to the Commissioners last week regarding the 2016 budget and funds for the County Attorney's Office.

He stated that procedurally he will be fine with his budget for 2016.

He reminded the Board that the salary and wage increase was presented during the 2016 budget workshop last year that was approved by the Board.

The Board stated that they would consult with Counsel and get back with him later today.

Shawn Turner - TranSystem

He stated that he conducted the opening of bids last week on the Varck Lift Station Upgrade Project. There were three bids received. Warstler Excavating was the low bid in the amount of \$387,800. He stated that Warstler completed the last two lift station upgrades and his work was complemented by KDHE. He suggests a change order during the project to upgrade to a CAT generator at a cost of \$11,000. It is his recommendation to award the bid to Warstler Excavating.

A motion was made by Commissioner Napier to accept the bid from Warstler Excavating for improvements to the Varck Lift Station in the amount of \$387,800. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 2-0 with Commissioner Myers abstaining.

A motion was made by Commissioner Myers to recess for 15 minutes, to reconvene at 10:30 AM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0.

The meeting reconvened at 10:30 AM.

Betha Elliott - Health Department

She presented a change order for one of her nurses from part time to full time. There is no wage change.

Cecil Brown - Noxious Weed Director

He submitted his annual report for the Board's review. The Board signed the report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Myers to enter an Executive Session with the Board and County Counsel Barbara Wright for the purpose of Attorney/Client Privilege for a period of 20 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0 at 10:43 AM.

The meeting reconvened at 11:03 AM.

A motion was made by Commission Myers to enter an Executive Session with the Board and Counselor Wright for the purpose of Attorney/Client Privilege for another 10 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0 at 11:03 AM.

The meeting reconvened at 11:13 AM.

No action was taken during the Executive Sessions.

Sarah Tyree, Vhonda Meeks - All God's Creatures

They appeared before the Board representing All God's Creatures Animal Rescue. They stated that they are under the direction of new Board members with Vhonda as President and Sarah as Treasurer. They stated that they are still taking care of the animals in Cherokee County, but on a limited basis while they look for a new home for their program. They have averaged 400 unwanted, abandoned, and stray animals each year. They are asking the Board for their continued financial support for the program. The Board stated that they would attempt to help.

Nathan Coleman - County Attorney

Commissioner Myers stated that Mr. Coleman had submitted notice of pay rate change forms on three individuals. At the last payroll approval those requests were held due to questions on how those were tied into his budget. Commissioner Myers asked the Board if the Commission had any motions to address or resolve those issues.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to authorize those pay changes as requested pursuant to Mr. Coleman's approved budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion increases Kiersten from \$10.75 to \$14.00, the Assistant Attorney from \$54,000 to \$65,000, and Mr. Coleman from \$65,000 to \$75,000. The motion carried 2-0 with Commissioner Myers abstaining. Commissioner Myers stated that an adjustment would be made for the last payroll that was withheld by the Board for those employees.

Ralph - Maintenance

He reported that Home Pro was here this morning and they will be back on Friday to fix the windows at no cost. He stated that they will estimate for new doors and the two small roofs on the back of the courthouse. He also stated that the fire escape would need to be removed before the roofs can be fixed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Myers to enter an Executive Session with the Board, Counselor Wright, Ralph Houser, and Kori Thomas for the purpose of Non/Elected Personnel for a period of 10 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0 at 11:32 AM.

The meeting reconvened at 11:42 AM.

No action was taken during the Executive Session.

Barbara Wright - County Counselor

She appeared before the Board regarding legal matters concerning Cherokee County.

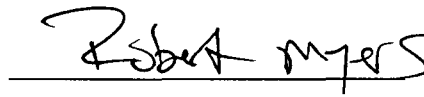
She stated that regarding the contracts for the Appraiser and the Economic Development Director, a contract revision would need to be completed to allow for the \$1 per house pay increase that was given to all county employees. The Board asked her to revise the contracts.

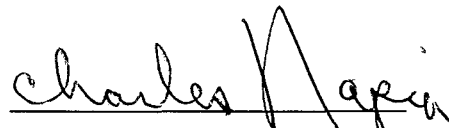
Commissioner Collins made a motion to adjourn until the Special Meeting set for Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 9:00 AM for the purpose of approving Payroll and Accounts Payable. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0 at 11:45 AM.

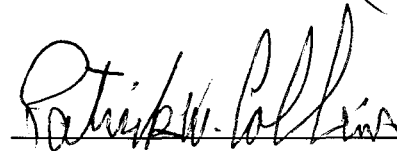
The Board will meet in regular session on Monday, February 1, 2016.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 1st day of February, 2016


Cherokee County Clerk


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner

SEKRPC

Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission

Serving the Counties of:

**Allen
Anderson**

**Bourbon
Cherokee**

**Coffey
Crawford**

**Labette
Linn**

**Montgomery
Neosho**

**Wilson
Woodson**

January 13, 2016

Rodney D. Edmondson, County Clerk
PO Box 14
Columbus, KS 66725

RE: Invoice for 2016 SEKRPC Dues: \$5,640.45

Dear Crystal:

The SEKRPC Bylaws provide for annual dues to be approved in June each year by the General Commission, but not payable by each county until after the beginning of the following year. Please accept this correspondence as our invoice for 2016 dues. The SEKRPC Executive Committee and General Commission voted to accept the 2015-2016 budget. The formula for the dues has not changed for more than twenty years, and includes a base amount of \$2,400 plus \$.15 per capita (from the 2010 Census). Therefore, the amount of dues for Cherokee County will be **\$5,640.45**.

SEKRPC has an excellent reputation for providing technical assistance to counties, communities, companies and water/sewer districts. SEKRPC staff maintains certification in the various CDBG grant/loan programs. Staff is capable of developing projects for the CDBG community improvement, water, sewer, urgent need, KanStep, SCIP and economic development programs. Grant writing services are offered to member counties at no charge by the SEKRPC. We also work with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant programs, Historic Preservation grants, KDHE Solid Waste Management, Department of Homeland Security and the development of applications for the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund. Lead-based paint and housing quality standards inspections are new services being provided.

The SEKRPC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is available to assist qualified businesses that create jobs with start-up or expansion needs. SEKRPC currently has over \$4 million invested in businesses in southeast Kansas. Businesses in your county are encouraged to contact SEKRPC about eligibility for low-interest loan funds. Funds are presently available.

Thanks for helping SEKRPC help Southeast Kansas. Please contact the SEKRPC if you have any questions regarding our organization and its service functions. Our office hours are Mon-Thurs 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. We do appreciate your active involvement and continued support.

Please remit **\$5,640.45** to:
SEKRPC
P.O. Box 664
Chanute, KS 66720-0664

Once again, thank you for your continued support in 2016.

Sincerely,
Dennis Arnold
Executive Director

Along with your remittance, please indicate who was appointed as your commission chairman for this year.

**Vark Lift Station Improvements
Riverton, Cherokee County, Kansas**

Bid Items	Unit	Quantity	Warstler Excavating		Tri Star Utilities		TC Underground	
			Unit Cost	Total	Unit Cost	Total	Unit Cost	Total
1 Clearing and Grubbing	LS	1	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
2 Excavation and Embankment	LS	1	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
3 Lift Station Renovation	LS	1	\$ 349,000.00	\$ 349,000.00	\$ 395,000.00	\$ 395,000.00	\$ 425,200.00	\$ 425,200.00
4 Continuation of Service	LS	1	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 24,325.00	\$ 24,325.00
5 Erosion Control	LS	1	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
6 Surface Restoration	LS	1	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,300.00
7 Mobilization	LS	1	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 23,225.00	\$ 23,225.00
8 Construction Staking	LS	1	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Total Bid Amount				\$ 385,900.00		\$ 462,500.00		\$ 477,950.00

CHEROKEE COUNTY NOTICE OF PAY RATE CHANGE

EMPLOYEE: Nathan Coleman

FROM:

RATE 65,000

TO:

RATE 75,000

* Approved with 2016 budget

EFFECTIVE PAYROLL MONTH: January 2016

WILL EMPLOYEE BE WORKING 35 HRS OR MORE PER WEEK? Y N

WILL EMPLOYEE BE WORKING 20 HRS OR MORE PER WEEK ON A REG BASIS?
(Eligible for Kpers) Y N

OFFICIAL/DEPUTY [Signature] DATE 1-9-16

COMMISSIONER _____ DATE _____

COMMISSIONER _____ DATE _____

COMMISSIONER _____ DATE _____

*USE THIS FORM WHEN EMPLOYEE REMAINS IN SAME POSITION BUT IS GIVEN A RAISE IN PAY AND/OR CHANGES FROM PART TIME TO FULL TIME OR VISE VERSA.

This notice must be signed by the official and the Board of County Commissioners BEFORE rate change starts.

CHEROKEE COUNTY NOTICE OF PAY RATE CHANGE

EMPLOYEE: Jacob Conrad

FROM:

RATE 54,000

TO:

RATE 65,000

** Approved 2016 BUDGET*

EFFECTIVE PAYROLL MONTH: JANUARY 2016

WILL EMPLOYEE BE WORKING 35 HRS OR MORE PER WEEK? Y N

WILL EMPLOYEE BE WORKING 20 HRS OR MORE PER WEEK ON A REG BASIS?
(Eligible for Kpers) Y N

OFFICIAL/DEPUTY 

DATE 1-4-16

COMMISSIONER _____

DATE _____

COMMISSIONER _____

DATE _____

COMMISSIONER _____

DATE _____

*USE THIS FORM WHEN EMPLOYEE REMAINS IN SAME POSITION BUT IS GIVEN A RAISE IN PAY AND/OR CHANGES FROM PART TIME TO FULL TIME OR VISE VERSA.

This notice must be signed by the official and the Board of County Commissioners BEFORE rate change starts.

CHEROKEE COUNTY NOTICE OF PAY RATE CHANGE

EMPLOYEE: Kiersten Kramer

FROM:

RATE 10.75

TO:

RATE 14.00

* Approved 2016 BUDGET

EFFECTIVE PAYROLL MONTH: January 2016

WILL EMPLOYEE BE WORKING 35 HRS OR MORE PER WEEK? Y N

WILL EMPLOYEE BE WORKING 20 HRS OR MORE PER WEEK ON A REG BASIS?
(Eligible for Kpers) Y N

OFFICIAL/DEPUTY [Signature] DATE 1-4-16

COMMISSIONER _____ DATE _____

COMMISSIONER _____ DATE _____

COMMISSIONER _____ DATE _____

*USE THIS FORM WHEN EMPLOYEE REMAINS IN SAME POSITION BUT IS GIVEN A RAISE IN PAY AND/OR CHANGES FROM PART TIME TO FULL TIME OR VISE VERSA.

This notice must be signed by the official and the Board of County Commissioners BEFORE rate change starts.

