

Minutes
Special Meeting Tuesday February 16, 2021
Cherokee County Commission
Cherokee County Kansas

Commissioner Moates called to order the Special Meeting of the Cherokee County Commission at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday February 16, 2021 in room #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 West Maple, Columbus, Kansas.

District #1 Commissioner Myra Frazier, District #2 Commissioner Lorie Johnson, District #3 Commissioner Cory Moates, County Counselor, Nathen Coleman, County Clerk, Kyle Rennie, Deputy County Clerk Kaden Wimmer, and Cherokee County Appraiser Mark Hixon in attendance. Proprietor and reporter of the Columbus News Report also in attendance.

Mercy Hospital Executives Jeremy Drinkwitz and Joseph Caputo in attendance.

Chairman Moates opened the meeting by welcoming the Mercy executives. Commissioner Moates also expressed the concern of Mercy claiming property tax exemption of the Galena Hospitals as a non-profit organization resulting from a merger and or sale of the Galena Hospitals with the Mercy organization. The exemption by law can be retroactive back to January 26, 2020. This exemption if approved by the State Board of Tax Appeals would make mandatory, Cherokee County refunding 2020 property taxes back to January 26, 2020.

County Appraiser Mark Hixon added how mill levies would be dramatically affected and a loss of property tax revenue to the county and cities would be very noticeable.

THE COMMISSION expressed hopes of working with Mercy to replace a portion of loss tax revenue.

Jeremy Drinkwitz gave an account of Mercy's long history of being good corporate neighbors for many years. One that residents count on more than most.

The Cherokee County Commission and Mercy both expressed an interest in maintaining very friendly relationship into the future.

Commissioner Frazier moved to adjourn until the next regular session February 22, 2021. Commissioner Johnson 2nd, motion passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

These Minutes authored by County Clerk Kyle Rennie.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this February 22, 2021



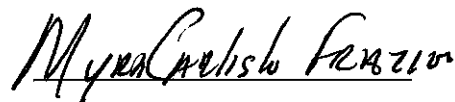
County Clerk



Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner