

Cherokee County Commission Meeting Minutes for January 24, 2022

At 9:00 a.m. on Monday January 24, 2022, Commissioner Cory Moates called to order the regular session of the Cherokee County Commission in room #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 West Maple, Columbus, Kansas. Commissioner Lorie Johnson opened with Prayer to Father God the Creator and leading all attending in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

District #1 Commissioner Myra Frazier, District #2 Commissioner Lorie Johnson, District #3 Commissioner Cory Moates, County Council to the Commission Nathan Coleman, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, Emergency Management Jason Allison, and Jacob Spencer reporter for the Columbus News Report were all in attendance for the opening.

Commissioner Moates moved to accept and approve the January 10, 2022, Commission Minutes for publication. Commissioner Frazier 2nd the motion, motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve Payroll, Commissioner Moates 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Moates moved to approve Accounts Payable, Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Johnson said to continue to watch for additional fraud charges on one of the county credits cards because that card has already had fraudulent charges in California.

Cody Zook with Road & Bridge gave commissioners an update on the survey of the Skidmore area. A discussion was held regarding the vacating of some roads within that area. Cody will do some more research to determine ownership of New Castle Rd.

In addition to that he stated he needed to correct some raises for Mark Clark, Dennis Boyes and that he had omitted a raise for Gary Robnett. Commissioner Moates made motion to approve raise corrections for Clark and Boyes and to give a raise to Robnett. Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Cody then discussed the SE Wyandotte bridge with commissioners regarding whether to make a shoefly around the bridge project on SE Wyandotte near the cemetery.

Cody stated there has been complaints regarding the removal of a light pole at SE Highway 166 and SE 74th. Commissioner Johnson stated concern over Crestline Junction light being gone and that she had received complaints about semis blowing the stop sign. Cody recommended that letters be written to KDOT about these concerns.

Cody notified the commissioners that the new trucks for the county lot were set to arrive on Jan. 26th an Jan. 28th, he stated that he would double check the invoices against the trucks to make sure that all the trucks were being billed as ordered.

Cody let the commissioners know that he had a meeting with Labette County Commissioners regarding the hauling of river rock across Labette County roads. He stated that the Labette Commissioners had stated that the CKCO lot trucks were not going to be allowed to haul on the Labette County roads. Commissioner Johnson stated it is in the best interest of both counties to work together.

Cody then let the commissioners know that between SE 30th ST and SE 32nd Ter on SE Clem Road that the bridge weight has been changed to 5 tons by state.

Commissioner Johnson received complaints on NW 50th by West Mineral about the road again. Cody then stated he is looking at a different way to seal roads which could hopefully stop fix the road issue. He is looking into a crack seal machine.

Cody brought to commissioners' attention that the dump truck fleet is around 10 yr. old. He suggested that they start planning to replace the trucks and beds.

Jim Burton came into the commissioners and let them know that the parts had come in for recycle trailer and it is down at City of Columbus for them to fix it.

Jean Pritchett with Chamber of Commerce in Columbus brought in 2022 tourism pamphlets and presented the commissioners with budget information for 2021, she also asks for the commissioners to renew the guest tax. She presented a list of 2021 accomplishments by the Chamber of Commerce. She also asks if the commissioners would renew their contract for the coming year with the Chamber. Commissioner Moates asked Commissioner Johnson and Frazier if they were okay with him signing the contract to renew and both stated they were.

Nathan Coleman county attorney and county counsel discussed with commissioners about the student loan repayment program. He suggested that the County Commissioners use a document which he had prepared to make a resolution for the program. Commissioner Moates made the motion for this resolution and Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0. The resolution number will be 01-2022.

Nathan also discussed with commissioners about NSP Second Mortgage Loan Agreement program. Nathan let commissioners know that he had been contacted and was asked to prepare a release of second mortgage or lien for Meghan Williams who had been part of the NSP Second loan agreement program. Nathan asks Cory to please sign the release. Commissioner Moates made a motion to allow the release and Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve a cereal malt beverage license and Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Daisy Mooney presented Commissioner Moates with a new hire for the County Appraisers Office. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the hiring of the new employee, Commissioner Frazier 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Janet Miller with Economic Development visited with the commissioners about position #5 on Economic Development Advisory Committee, the position is currently held by Joe West Sr. who is unable to participate at this time. She asked the Commission to appoint Neil Oglesby fill the position. Commissioner Frazier made motion to accept Neil Oglesby to fill the position and Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Barbara Bilke Register of Deeds gave a brief update on her office from the year of 2021.

Ralph Houser maintenance and janitor said company is trying to get parts for boiler to get heat back up and going. We have two separate boilers each have a different issue. Parts are hard to come by. He is working on some projects in the court currently. After 25 years of employment with the county Ralph gave his resignation to the commissioners.

Janice Sandberg, assistant janitor stated she comes in 4 days a week at 9:00 am and is parttime. She stated she will continue until March and possibly work later; she will just have to see how it goes.

Due to Ralphs resignation the commissioners decided to postpone the Prebid walk through for the HVAC and the bidding process on the Prebid for the HVAC. Commissioner Moates made the motion for the Prebid walk through and bidding process to be postponed Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Mac Young with court services brought in the fiscals for 2021 for Community Corrections Review. He also presented the 2022 contract for the commissioners to approve and sign. The commissioners all approved of the contract signing and Commissioner Moates signed it.

Raven Elmore County Treasurer, Gene Mense County Auditor, Trey Moller with USD 499, Renae Charles and Candice Gayoso with the City of Galena were all present to discuss the Mercy Hospital refund and how to handle it. Galena USD 499 does not have money to refund back in current 2022 year. City of Galena stated the same. One option is to issue no fund warrants or take out loan and another option would be to schedule a meeting with the Mercy representative and attorney to make a possible agreement on the payback. Nathan Coleman and all the entities will set up time to meet with Mercy.

Nathan Coleman asked for a 15-minute executive session for attorney client. He stated he would need would the 3 commissioners and himself in the executive session from 11:35 to 11:50. Commissioner Moates made motion for executive session and Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Commissioner Moates made motion to break for lunch and Commissioner Frazier 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner meeting reconvened at 1:00 pm.

Myra asked that the Commissioners table the KCAMP discussion until the January 31st meeting.

Commissioner Johnson addressed with the board that she felt that all current duties that Dusty Groves has been doing for the Emergency Management Office should be transferred back to that office since Dusty is now the only employee in the 911 Mapping Office. All Commissioners agreed with Commissioner Johnson. Commissioner Moates then moved to appoint Dusty Groves as 911 coordinator due to the vacancy left by Rebecca Brassart when she was appointed as the County Clerk, Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0. The current salary for this position is \$36,000 a year. Commissioner Moates made motion to approve the salary at 36,000 and Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Commissioner Johnson then ask for Dusty Groves to come to the commission meeting. The commissioners then let Dusty know of the appoint and salary. He was grateful for the opportunity and thanked the commissioners for the appointment.

Commissioner Johnson then ask for Jason Allison to come to the commission meeting. Once present the commissioners let Jason know that Dusty would no longer being doing any duties for him as they felt that Dusty would be plenty busy with his new position. Jason acknowledged their request to bring those duties back to his office. Commissioner Johnson then made a motion to appoint Jason Allison as Emergency Manager, Commissioner Frazier 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Raven Elmore County Treasurer, Nathan Coleman County Attorney and County Counsel for the Commission and Rebecca Brassart County Clerk were in to discuss the current levy issue with the Baxter, Columbus, Galena and Riverton school districts and the need to correct the capital outlay for each district back to 8 mills due to a previous error.

Commissioner Moates made motion for clerical errors to be fixed for Galena School District per their resolution and Columbus, Baxter, Riverton districts capital outlay to also be corrected. Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Johnson spoke about moratorium asking what needs to happen next. Nathan stated he would suggest a public comment session. Commissioner Johnson made motion to have public comment session on Feb. 7th at 6:00 pm in district courtroom. Commissioner Moates 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

The commissioners ask Nathan Coleman to look over Touchton alarm contract.

NBHD revitalization discussion was tabled.

Commissioner Johnson ask for 15-minute executive session for non-elect personnel with 3 commissioners, county counsel and Cody Zook with Road and Bridge from 2:05 to 2:20, Commissioner Moates 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Commissioner Johnson again ask for a 15-minute executive session for non-elect personnel with 3 commissioners, county counsel and Cody Zook with Road and Bridge from 2:20 to 2:35, Commissioner Moates 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Commissioner Johnson again ask for a 5-minute executive session for non-elect personnel with 3 commissioners, county counsel and Cody Zook with Road and Bridge from 2:35 to 2:40, Commissioner Moates 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0. As a result of the executive session Cody Zook made a recommendation to bring Chris Johnson to the courthouse for 3 weeks temporarily to learn the maintenance position. The commissioner asked for County Clerk Rebecca Brassart to send out an email to all Courthouse Office Officials and ask them if they could put together a list of maintenance items that need to be fixed in their offices.

Commissioner Moates moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Johnson 2nd the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

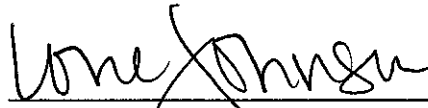
ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this January 24, 2022



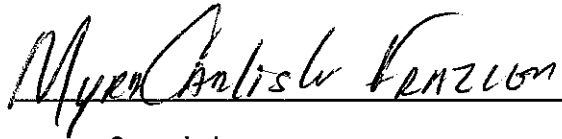
County Clerk



Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner