

MINUTES for February 12, 2024
BOARD of CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

CONVENE

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, February 12, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Commissioner Lorie Johnson opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier (by phone), County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, Road and Bridge Superintendent Bryan Williams, Emergency Manager Matt Haviland, County Counselor Jake Conard, and News Report Owner Larry Hiatt were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the February 5, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ROAD and BRIDGE

Road and Bridge Superintendent Bryan Williams notified the Board that he sent 4 snowplows south this morning due to the heavy snow.

Williams informed the Board that the NE Wyandotte Rd bridge work will begin on the 15th of February and that he plans to finish up some ditching in that area this week and will them laydown rock in the ditching area.

FEMA LEASE APPROVALS

Emergency Manager Matt Haviland came before the Board to present a FEMA Lease for approval. The lease was that of Jim Adams, who had recently passed away and Mr. Adams son would like to retain the lease under his name due to the extenuating circumstances. Commissioner Frazier stated that during the meeting last week that the Board felt the property should go up for a lease bid and that the resolution that was written does not allow for Mr. Adams son to take over the lease. She went on to state that if a vote is to be taken, she already knows how she will vote. Commissioner Moates stated that he saw no issue allowing Mr. Adams' son Jimi Adams to retain the lease in his name. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the lease agreement on 7658 SE Watermelon Ln, Galena, at the rate stated in the resolution and to allow Jimi Adams to take over the lease in his name. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-1 with Commissioner Frazier voting no.

Matt informed the Board that Charlie McGonigle with KDEM has requested that he receive a formal request from the Commissioners to transfer the Hazard mitigation properties to USD 404. The properties to be transferred are QRef 9544 and QRef 9543.

2023 TOWNSHIP BUDGETS and COUNTY INVENTORY

Commissioner Moates reviewed the township budgets from 2023 which had been turned into the County Clerk's Office. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the 2023 township budgets as presented. Commissioner Fraizer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates reviewed the personal property owned by Cherokee County from 2023 which had been turned into the County Clerk's Office. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the 2023 personal property as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VACATE 428 SW 90th ST, COLUMBUS

Taxpayer Bruce Parker per letter has requested to vacate two alley ways and a portion of Heron Ln that adjoins his property. County Counselor Jake Conard stated that he had drawn up a petition to vacate which needs to be signed by Mr. Parker before the Board can continue with any action regarding the vacate.

CLEARWATER GAS CONTRACT

Rhonda Hamlin of Hamlin Energy emailed County Clerk Rebecca Brassart a notice of amendment to the gas sales agreement dated May 1, 2024. Brassart presented the email to Commissioner Moates. The amendment shows that the estimated usage for the County was less than had originally been agreed upon therefore Clearwater is adjusting the estimated usage for the County

SOIL CONSERVATION MEETING

Paul Bone District Manager of the Cherokee County Conservation District sent County Clerk Rebecca Brassart invitations for the Board, herself and staff to attend the 78th Annual meeting and dinner of the Conservation District on Monday, February 26, 2024.

MOTOR COACH RAINBOW BRIDGE

Commissioner Frazier asked Commissioner Johnson if she had found anything out regarding the weight limit of the bridge that sets directly south of Rainbow Bridge. Commissioner Johnson stated that she has received the number of a KDOT employee, and she plans to call him today.

RECESS

Commissioner Moates made a motion to recess the meeting until 10:00 a.m. at which time County Clerk Rebecca Brassart will call Commissioner