CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

110 W. Maple St, Room 109, Columbus, KS 66725
Date: Monday May 18, 2026
Time: 9:00 A.M.

CONVENE

Chair Cory Moates called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (the Board), to order at 9:00 AM on Monday, May 18, 2026, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioner Myra Frazier opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Jack Garner, Myra Frazier, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, County Deputy Clerk Michelle Mosler, Road and Bridge Supervisor Jr. Neal, Health Department Director Peyton Kessler, Head of External Affairs for Clearway Barry Matchett, Kathryn Harrington, Jim Oberbeck, Emergency Management Director Lyle Grandy, Galena Sentinel Times Editor Machelle Smith, and Columbus News Report employee Tanya Woolsey were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the minutes as presented from May 11, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

- Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the hire of Brent Perry as Utility Operator, effective May 18, 2026, at a rate of $17.00 per hour. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Road and Bridge Supervisor Jr. Neal provided an update on current projects, including a bridge project on SW 30th.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and County Appraiser Delinda White present. The session was set to return at 9:29 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

SEKAAA

Kathy Brennon updated the Board on services and where funds are being spent.

RAINBOW SPRINGS SOLAR

Barry Matchett, Head of External Affairs for Clearway, reviewed the Rainbow Solar project and answered questions from the Board.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and County Appraiser Delinda White present. The session was set to return at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and County Appraiser Delinda White present. The session was set to return at 11:06 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

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NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 4-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and County Appraiser Delinda White present. The session was set to return at 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

APPRAISER/AAE APPROVALS

Commissioner Moates moved to approve the Chair signing the AAE's as presented. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

RECESS

The Board recessed for five minutes.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, Emergency Management Director Lyle Grandy, and Register of Deeds Karen Johnston present. The session was set to return at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 5-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, Emergency Management Director Lyle Grandy, and Register of Deeds Karen Johnston present. The session was set to return at 11:35 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

KDOT

Jeff Fischer with KDOT gave a report on accidents at K26 and Old Highway 166.

RESOLUTION 09-2026

Commissioner Moates moved to approve Resolution 09-2026, a resolution authorizing the transfer of expired payment under protest fund balance pursuant to K.S.A. 79-2005 and K.S.A. 79-2958. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

AMEND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Commissioner Moates moved to amend the current holiday schedule to include Juneteenth. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 12:23 p.m., Commissioner Moates moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 22 day of May 2026.

Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates

Commissioner – Jack Garner

Myra Carlisle Frazier

Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier

County Clerk – Taylor Brown