CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

110 W. Maple St, Room 109, Columbus, KS 66725
Date: Monday August 10, 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, August 10, 2026, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioner 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, Kathryn Harrington, Loren Harding, Rachel Schnelle, Roe Parsons, Chad Siler, Jessica Siler, Thomas Niegisch with the Columbus News Report, and Galena Sentinel Times Editor Machelle Smith were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the minutes as presented from the August 3, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

Road and Bridge Supervisor Jr. Neal provided an update on current projects.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 7-minute executive session for attorney-client communication with the Board and Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke. The session was set to return at 9:15 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

APPRAISER BUDGET

Appraiser Delinda White reviewed her proposed updated 2027 budget with the Board.

DRAINAGE ISSUES

West Mineral Mayor Michael Knowlin discussed drainage issues in West Mineral with the Board and requested assistance from Road and Bridge. The Board will investigate the matter.

TREASURER BUDGET

Treasurer Heather Sapp reviewed her proposed 2027 budget with 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 Maintenance Director Mike Thomas present. The session was set to return at 9:50 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Frazier moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and Health Department Director Peyton Kessler present. The session was set to return at 10:03 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

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BUKATY INSURANCE

County Attorney Kurt Benecke updated the Board on the Bukaty application. He will contact Bukaty for further clarification and report back to the Board.

DISTRICT COURT BUDGET

Commissioner Frazier moved to approve the Board Chair to sign the 2027 District Court Budget. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 10-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board and Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke present. The session was set to return at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 25-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, Health Department Director Peyton Kessler, and Maintenance Director Mike Thomas present. The session was set to return at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

PUBLIC HEARING/CDBG APPLICATION

- The public hearing was opened at 11:00 a.m. Director of Regional Planning Commission Carey Spoon provided an overview of the project. With no comments or questions, the public hearing was closed at 11:05 a.m.
- Commissioner Moates moved to approve submission of Cherokee County's 2026 Kansas Community Development Block Grant application for the Galena USD 499 nonprofit childcare center; approve and adopt the related Statement of Assurances and Certifications, Legal Authority Resolution, Operation and Maintenance Resolution, HUD-2880 Disclosure Report, Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, and Environmental Review Determination commit $306,335 in local cash fund to the project; and authorize Commission Chair Cory Moates to sign and submit the application and all related documents on behalf of Cherokee County. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 13-2026

- Commissioner Moates moved to approve Resolution 13-2026, a resolution certifying legal authority to apply for the 2026 Kansas Community Development Block Grant Program from the Kansas Department of Commerce and authorizing the commissioner to sign and submit such an application. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 14-2026

- Commissioner Moates moved to approve Resolution 14-2026, a resolution assuring the Kansas Department of Commerce that funds will be continually provided for the operation and maintenance of improvements to the childcare system to be financed with community development block grant funds. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Commissioner Moates moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Statement of Assurances and Certifications.

Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- Commissioner Moates moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Disclosure/Update Report. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Moates moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Environmental Review Record. Commissioner Frazier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates moved to enter into a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the Board, Assistant County Counselor Ethan Manke, and Appraiser Delinda White present. The session was set to return at 11:35 a.m. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:53 a.m., Commissioner Moates moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Garner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 17 day of August 2026.

Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates

Commissioner – Jack Garner

Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier

County Clerk – Taylor Brown