

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 25, 2010

COLUMBUS, KANASAS, CHEROKEE COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

CRYSTAL L. GATEWOOD

The Cherokee County Commission met January 25, 2010. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richard Hilderbrand and those present were Commissioners Garner and Collins. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the minutes for January 11, 2010 as presented by Cherokee County Clerk Crystal Gatewood, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and all voted in favor. Commissioner Garner made a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Meeting on January 19, 2010 as presented by Clerk Gatewood, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and all voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Collins made a motion to accept the bid from Washington Electronics for \$15,302.00 for the storm sirens for Treece, Kansas, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and all voted in favor.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to accept the bid from Washington Electronics for \$28,606.46 for the Mineral Township storm sirens, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and all voted in favor.

Leonard Vanatta, Supervisor of Road and Bridge, and Supervisor of the County Lot Gene Langerot came before the commission and reported that FEMA would be at the Courthouse today at 2:00 PM for a meeting about the conditions of the county roads; Leonard said he plans to attend the meeting. **Commissioner Garner made a motion to go into Executive Session for Non-Elected Personnel with himself, Commissioners Collins and Hilderbrand, Leonard Vanatta, and Gene Langerot for ten minutes, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and all voted in favor. They went in at 9:48 AM and returned at 10:03 AM.**

TRANSIENT GUEST TAX DISCUSSION

Those attending were:

- Jean Pritchett of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce
- Ron Steele of the City of Baxter Springs
- Roger McKinney of the Joplin Globe
- Marva Holt of the Country Loft Bed and Breakfast
- Sam and Frieda Lancaster of Claythorne Lodge
- Kathy Anderson of the Galena Chamber of Commerce
- Sheryll Vogel of the Galena Chamber of Commerce
- Renee Charles of the Galena Chamber of Commerce
- Paul Grand of the Baxter Inn
- Amy Sanell of the Little Brick Inn of Baxter Springs
- Mel Green of Maple Uncommon in Columbus
- Laura Lowery-Green of Maple Uncommon in Columbus
- Evan Capron, the City Administrator of Columbus
- Marie Nepple, the Mayor of Columbus
- Huey York, the Mayor of Baxter Springs
- Bert Kellum of the Baxter Chamber of Commerce

The commission and County Counselor Kevin Cure discussed raising the current county Transient Guest Tax. The current businesses located in the county will remain the same; the change would only affect new businesses coming into the county. New hotel business will pay six percent if they are located in the county. New hotels located in cities in Cherokee County will pay the city transient tax and two percent to the county. Baxter Springs currently charges eight percent for the transient guest tax. Columbus currently charges four percent for the transient guest tax. The commission listened to comments from those present regarding the fairness of the tax but the commissioners are proposing what they believe is making the tax equal across the board for all businesses that charge the tax. Mayor Huey York asked if the new tax was fair due to the increase that would be put on new businesses and with the added taxes charged, it could possibly reduce the number of possible new businesses coming into Cherokee County. Commissioner Hilderbrand said that the board was trying to give more consideration to the local businesses that have already established the time and investment into Cherokee County. Many voiced concern over the increase and explained that they thought the increase should not be made and it should be left alone for the cities to decide. Jean Pritchett of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce said that the county offers Tourism Grants for businesses in the county and she has the applications in her office in Columbus - these are up to \$300.00 and she brings them to the Cherokee County Commissioners to approve and sign off on. Commissioner Collins asked Gene if the commission has ever refused to sign these and she said the commissioners have always signed off on them. The commissioners thanked everyone for coming and giving them their input, and no decision was made on the Transient Guest Tax.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to break for lunch and his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and all voted in favor.

VOUCHERS SIGNED BY COMMISSIONERS COLLINS, HILDERBRAND, AND GARNER TO BE PAID

VOUCHER #2945 - \$5,767 - EATON CORPORATIONS - BATTERY BACK-UP (TO BE TAKEN OUT OF ACCOUNT #225 - \$1,326.41 AND ACCOUNT #226 - \$4,440.59)

VOUCHER #9928 - \$3,115.55 (TO BE TAKEN OUT OF ACCOUNT #179 - \$1,390.55 AND #128 - \$1,725.00)

VOUCHER # 9804 - \$476.20 - MARSHALL & SWIFT - (SUBSCRIPTION UPDATE) COUNTY APPRAISER

ADJOURNMENT

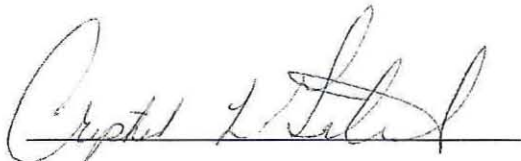
Commissioner Garner made a motion to adjourn and his motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and all voted in favor. The next Regular Cherokee County Commission will be held February 1, 2010 in the Cherokee County Courthouse at 9:00 AM.

Resolved and ordered this day:

February 1, 2010



Commissioner



Cherokee County Clerk



Commissioner



Commissioner