

MINUTES FOR AUGUST 18, 2014
BOARD OF CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

CONVENE

Commissioner Hilderbrand called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (The Board), to order and led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance at 9:00 AM on Monday, August 18, 2014 in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioners Richard Hilderbrand, Charles Napier, Pat Collins, and County Clerk Rodney Edmondson were present.

Members of the press present: Larry Hiatt, Machel Smith, Thom Hanrahan

Juanita Hodgson - Cherokee County Treasurer

She appeared before the Board to review the audit report from BT&Co. She has spoken with Gene Mense about getting some accounts closed and reducing the number of accounts to three or four. They are researching the need for separate accounts for the 911, Siren Grant, and Road Projects Funds. It's possible some of them might be able to be combined into the main account.

Chairman Hilderbrand read through the findings and recommendations of the report and each item was discussed with the Treasurer for possible solutions to improving the areas of concern raised by auditors.

Treasurer Hodgson will have a list of bank accounts to be closed and those to be kept open for the Board to review at its meeting on September 8, 2014. At that meeting she will also present a reconciliation report.

She will work on developing written policies and procedures for accounting functions to be presented to the Board on October 27, 2014. She will also review the list of bank balance differences as listed in the report and offer suggestions for the discrepancies.

It was decided to publish the list of unclaimed monies in all three newspapers.

Treasurer Hodgson stated that the bank reconciliations are current, with some questions to be asked, but July is being worked on now and everything is accounted for. She stated the need for each department to notify her of any pending ACH's in order to properly close the month.

The topic of daily bank deposits was discussed, but no immediate resolution was reached. The Board will discuss with the Sheriff the possibility of having a Deputy Sheriff make the deposit at the bank if the Treasurer's Department is too busy.

There were some unexplained items that Chairman Hilderbrand will contact BT&Co. for clarification.

Bill Moore - Citizen

He appeared with County Road Supervisor Leonard Vanatta regarding a problem with property in Empire, on the north side of Galena. The property is currently land locked. It is within the city limits of Galena and they have vacated the streets in that area. The Board suggested that he consult with an attorney.

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Leonard Vanatta - County Road Supervisor
Gene Langerot - County Lot Supervisor

They appeared before the Board for routine county business. The Board asked them to look into complaints of the intersection at NW 10th St. and Bethlehem Rd.

Brent Hilliar and Brian Hilliar - Benefit Health Advisors

They appeared before the Board to provide a January through July report for claims as well as an update on the wellness program and health care reform.

They reported that health benefits savings are 17-18% higher than last year. They are meeting today with several employees about specific issues and will provide a general report to the Board later.

Mary Burke reported that a Cherokee County resident will be joining the physician staff at the Mercy Clinic in Columbus. They would like to get back in the network so employees can utilize their services as they have in the past. They have been out of network since January.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to approve the Payroll for August, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Napier to approve the Accounts Payables for August, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0.

Departmental Budget Requests for 2015

The following Department Heads appeared before the Board in the morning session to present their 2015 Budget Requests.

Deana Randall - Human Resources; Kristin Seal - Noxious Weeds; Rodney Edmondson - County Clerk and Elections; Barbara Bilke - Register of Deeds; and Kim Lauffer - Appraiser.

The Board took their proposals under advisement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to approve the Minutes of the August 11, 2014 BOCC Meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hilderbrand. The motion carried 3-0.

Nathan Coleman - County Attorney/Counselor

Mr. Coleman appeared before the Board on legal matters concerning Cherokee County.

He stated that the Judge is currently working on the Grand Jury Petition.

The Board agreed to his request to present his 2015 Budget Proposal next week.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hilderbrand to enter an Executive Session with the Board and County Appraiser Kim Lauffer for the purpose of Non/Elected Personnel for a period of five minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0 with all voting yes 11:56 AM.

The meeting reconvened at 12:01 PM.

No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session

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A motion was made by Commissioner Hilderbrand to recess for lunch until 1:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0 at 12:04 PM.

Departmental Budget Requests for 2015

The following Department Heads appeared before the Board in the afternoon session to present their 2015 Budget Requests.

David Groves - Sheriff and Jail; Juanita Hodgson - Treasurer; Betha Elliott - Health Department; Ralph Houser - Maintenance; Jason Allison - Emergency Management; and Wayne Elliott - 911 Mapping and Addressing.

The Board took their proposals under advisement.

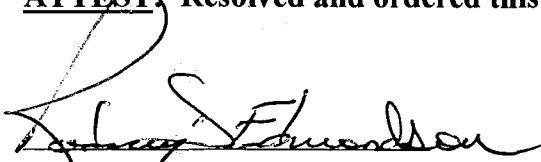
The Board discussed with Sheriff Groves the idea of having a Deputy Sheriff make the bank deposits for the Treasurer's Department. Sheriff Groves stated that he did not want to commit to having his officer make daily deposits for the Treasurer.

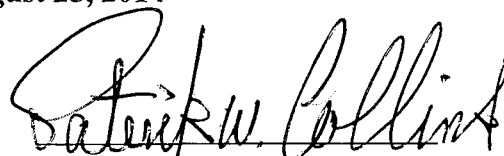
Chairman Hilderbrand informed Treasurer Juanita Hodgson that he has County Counselor Nathan Coleman researching the possibility of reducing her budget and salary due to the added expense of having to hire outside personnel for her department.

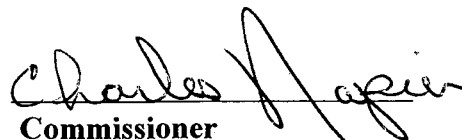
Commissioner Napier went on the record opposing the cutting of the salary of the Treasurer. Commissioner Hilderbrand asked Commissioner Napier if he wasn't for cutting the budget or salary, what would his solution be? Commissioner Napier stated that he didn't have one, but that he was opposed to cutting the salary or budget.

Commissioner Hilderbrand made a motion to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting set for August 25, 2014 at 9:00 AM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0 with all voting yes at 2:33 PM.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this day, August 25, 2014


Cherokee County Clerk


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner

