

MINUTES FOR JUNE 10, 2019
BOARD OF CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

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, June 10, 2019 in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 West Maple, Columbus, Kansas. County Clerk Rodney Edmondson opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Neal Anderson, Myra Carlisle Frazier, County Counselor Barbara Wright, and County Clerk Rodney Edmondson were present.

Members of the press present: Larry Hiatt

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to approve the Minutes of the June 3, 2019 BOCC meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

Chuck Sweeten appeared before the Board to submit his resignation from the judicial selection committee. He thanked the Board for the confidence in him and for allowing him to serve for the past 28 years. The Board thanked him for his service.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frazier to accept the resignation of Chuck Sweeten from the judicial selection committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

Counselor Wright reported that she had been in contact with the Assistant Kansas Attorney General regarding the status of the Baxter Springs Neighborhood Revitalization Program. He stated that they would look into it, but she hasn't received a call back yet. She stated that it appears that the inter-local agreements between the City of Baxter Springs and Cherokee County and the City of Baxter Springs and School District #508 were never signed by the Attorney General. It is her opinion that rebates going forward are not appropriate. The businesses would still get the City of Baxter Springs taxes rebated, but not the county or school district taxes. She stated that the businesses should be notified. The Board took it under advisement.

Louis Schreiner, County Lot Supervisor appeared before the Board on county road business. The Board signed the agreements for asphalt, fuel, and supplies that were voted on last week. The Board discussed the repair and condition of the county roads from the heavy rains and flooding from recent storms.

Becky Casey, Finance Director and Stacy Manbeck, Executive Director for Spring River Mental Health & Wellness appeared before the Board to present their 2020 request for funding. They provided a written overview of the programs and services that are available. They are seeking \$126,457 in Cherokee County funding for 2020. That reflects a \$5,000 increase over 2019 funding. The Board took the request under advisement.

Dewey Smith, Fair Board Treasurer along with Anne Sharp, David Holmes, and Brad Wells appeared before the Board to request county funding for the Fair Board in 2020. They are requesting \$12,000 in county funding to provide a county fair in 2020. The Board took their request under advisement.

Royce Cantrell appeared before the Board regarding a faulty sewer system within the city limits of Galena. He stated that in 2006 Carl Hayes, County Environmentalist and representatives from KDH&E made recommendations on remediating the sewage running down onto his property. Those recommendations were never followed and the problem has not been fixed. He is asking the county to look into whether the county has any authority or liability in getting something done. The Board agreed to get him contact information for KDH&E and Jason Allison to assist as best they can.

Will Blanco, Ambulance District No. 3 Director appeared before the Board regarding 2020 county subsidized funding. District 3 is not requesting any additional funding in 2020. He provided an update on the current equipment and financial standing of the service. He stated that the budget is in much better shape than it was three years ago. The Board questioned the long distance out of county transfers provided by the service while not showing much income by doing so and not having a backup crew available while the transfers are occurring. The Board took the request under advisement.

Jim Hambright appeared before the Board regarding the damage to his home caused by the sewer backup. He stated that KCAMP had called him and said that the damage was caused by an act of God, so they were denying the claim. He is open to suggestions by the Board on a remedy so it doesn't happen again. He stated that it will take \$6,476.88 to get his house back to where it was before the incident. He feels that he is paying for sewer service but not getting anything in return. Commissioner Moates stated that there are backflow valves and pop-off valves installed that are supposed to keep this from happening. Commissioner Moates stated that he would contact the insurance adjuster again and get back to Hambright.

Wayne Gudmonson and George Dockery from KDOT appeared before the Board. They informed them that the highway project east of Baxter Springs has been resurrected. It is slated to let the bids in July, 2021. He stated that they will begin to purchase right of way and move utilities for the project ½ mile north of the Missouri state line to approximately five miles back to the 400 highway near Baxter Springs. The new highway will be a controlled access similar to an interstate that only allows access in two locations. There will be overpass and underpass traffic along that route. Dockery stated that the Riverton Bridge Project has been delayed at the request of the contractor. He stated that if the project isn't started by July 8th, 2019 the contractor will be charged for every day it is delayed. He stated that there is a milling and overlay project on Highway 26 from Highway 66 in Galena to Highway 166 beginning in August.

Jean Pritchett appeared before the Board to present two tourism grant applications for the Board to consider. The Columbus Girls Softball League is requesting \$500 for the Babe Ruth Softball State & Regional Tournaments being hosted in June and July. The Babe Ruth Baseball League is requesting \$500 to host the Senior Babe Ruth State Baseball Tournament in July.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frazier to approve the grants for the Babe Ruth Softball State and Regional Tournaments and the Senior Babe Ruth State Tournament in the amount of \$500 each to come out of the Tourism Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

The Board discussed the Shawnee Township Board resignations and vacancies.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frazier to appoint Elijah Ferguson to the position of Shawnee Township Trustee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frazier to accept the resignation of Tommie Bottorff as the Shawnee Township Treasurer effective June 4, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

The Board signed the lease agreement with William and Shelli VanCleave for a flood buyout property located at Lot Seventeen Scott's 2nd subdivision in Cherokee County.

The Board discussed further the situation with the Baxter Springs Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates based on the lack of proper formalities and the NRP Inter-Local Agreements between the City of Baxter Springs and Cherokee County, and the City of Baxter Springs and the Baxter Springs School District those portions of the tax rebates cannot be disbursed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0. The City of Baxter Springs taxes will continue to be rebated to those on the plan. The Board discussed the need to notify the property owners. Commissioner Moates volunteered to attend the Baxter Springs council meeting tomorrow night to make them aware of the decision.

The Board discussed further the situation concerning the sewer district and the damage caused to the Hambright's home in Riverton and ways to remedy the situation. The Board reviewed the budget and fund balance for the sewer district.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to reimburse the Hambright's \$6,476.88 for the expenses incurred in the sewer failure. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moates. The motion carried 3-0.

The Board discussed the idea of granting Friday, July 5th as a county holiday. The Board also gave consideration to making Christmas Eve on December 24th, 2019 a full holiday instead of only a half day as it is scheduled now.


A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to close county offices on Tuesday, December 24th all day in recognition of Christmas Eve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Frazier voting no.


The Board decided to close offices on July 4th only and to be open on July 5th.

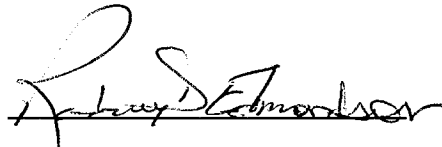
Commissioner Anderson made a motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting set for Monday, June 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moates. The motion carried 3-0 at 12:29 p.m.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 17th day of June, 2019


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner


County Clerk