

**MINUTES FOR AUGUST 21, 2017**  
**BOARD OF CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS**

**CONVENE**

Chairman Collins 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 a.m. on Monday, August 21, 2017 in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioners Pat Collins, Neal Anderson, Cory Moates, County Counselor Barbara Wright, and County Clerk Rodney Edmondson were present.

Members of the press present: Larry Hiatt, Jordan Zabel, and Machel Smith

Commissioner Collins read a notice from KDOT that the agreement for dust control on the unofficial detour has been executed and a copy of the agreement has been provided to the County.

Leonard Vanatta, County Road Supervisor, and Louis Schreiner, County Lot Supervisor, appeared before the Board on routine county road business. Commissioner Moates provided an update on the 5<sup>th</sup> St. project in Baxter Springs. He stated that a right of way for 5<sup>th</sup> St. was established in the 1800's by a mining company for an 80' right of way. However, the boundaries of the road and right of way were never recorded so no one knows where the boundaries are at this time. He stated that they are continuing to work on the situation. He reported that ATEC Steel is paving their parking lot today. Commissioner Anderson stated that 5<sup>th</sup> St. in Columbus has developed a hole, possibly from the traffic to Tamko. Leonard stated that it is in the city limits and the City of Columbus has been trying to patch it, but it isn't holding. They reported that the NW 100<sup>th</sup> St. & Bethlehem Rd. culvert extension has been completed and it looks good. Leonard stated that FEMA would be back next week to continue the process of reviewing all of the sites. The northwest part of the county is all that's left to review.

Janet Miller, Economic Development Director, appeared before the Board regarding an appointment to the Cherokee County Economic Development Advisory Committee. She stated that David Nelson has asked her to find a replacement due to his work schedule. She stated that Brad Wells has agreed to serve on the committee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to appoint Brad Wells to replace David Nelson in Position #6 of the Cherokee County Economic Development Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2017 BOCC meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0.

Gene Mense and Matt Mense of the Mense CPA Firm, LLC appeared before the Board for the Public Hearing for the 2018 Sewer District No. 1 Budget and the 2018 Cherokee County Budget.

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman Collins opened the Public Hearing for the Sewer District No. 1 budget. Gene Mense stated that once the bond transcript is received for the funding of the Sewer Project from 2016, the budget can be amended to include the bond payment. He stated that there are no tax dollars involved in the funding.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to pass the 2018 Sewer District No. 1 budget as published. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moates. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to close the Sewer Budget Hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0 at 10:05 a.m.

Chairman Collins opened the 2018 Cherokee County Budget Hearing at 10:06 a.m.

Commissioner Collins stated that the proposed budget has a mill levy of 53.919 mills.

There were questions from citizens' in attendance concerning the increase in valuations and the increase in the budget. There were also questions concerning the \$40,000 increase in the Commissioners' Budget. Commissioner Collins explained that it was to aid in the collection of unpaid taxes.

Commissioner Collins asked the Board to agree with him and to remove the \$40,000 increase in the Commissioners' Budget. The Board agreed.

Citizens in attendance asked questions of various Department Heads concerning their requests for an increase in their departmental budgets. Each Department Head explained their need for increased funding and how it would be used.

Janet Miller and Bert Kellum appeared regarding the funding for the Economic Development Corporation. Miller stated that they are still working on becoming self-funded, but it's taking longer than they thought. Kellum provided details on the history of development in the county. He stated that years ago in Baxter Springs, the State told them that they needed an organized group to facilitate economic development. He stated that we now have it in place. Commissioner Moates stated that the public wants to know what business or activity has been brought to the county. Miller stated that 90% of what they do isn't seen by the public and would hate to see it thrown away now. Commissioner Anderson stated that he sees the \$15,000 increase as an investment, not an expense.

Dale Helwig, County Extension Agent, addressed the increased budget request for the County Extension Office. He stated that the increase will be used to hire a program assistant. They are currently maxed out on staff. He provided an overview of the activities and education programs that they provide.

Commissioner Collins asked that one mill be pulled out of the requested increases. The Board worked through the budget line by line to make the needed cuts.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to take a 15 minute recess to allow them to print a new draft budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. The motion carried 3-0 at 12:48 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:14 p.m.

Mense provided an updated draft budget with the cuts as recommended by the Board.

The new mill levy is now 52.919 with the value of a mill at \$164,639.

The Board discussed having a special question on the November ballot concerning the continued funding of Economic Development. Clerk Edmondson stated that if the Board could pass a resolution next Monday, there would be time to get the question on the November ballot. The Board asked the Counselor Wright to prepare a draft resolution to place a question on November ballot.

The printed budget did not include cuts to Noxious Weeds and Mental Health of \$5,000 each. Those cuts reduced the mill levy to 52.852 mills.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins to pass the budget with a 52.852 mill levy and total expenditures of \$15,542,093.

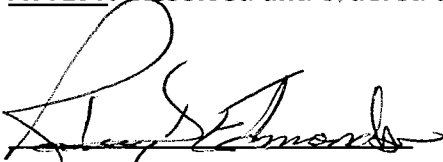
The motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moates to move the money from Economic Development back to the Extension Council. That would take the \$10,000 increase from Economic Development and put it in the Extension Council.

The motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn the Budget Hearing until August 28, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moates. The motion carried 3-0 at 2:06 p.m.

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017**

  
Cherokee County Clerk

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

## Cherokee County Economic Development Advisory Committee\*

Position #1 (Weir) - Amy Zortz

Position #2 (Scammon) – Bob Norris

Position #3 (Columbus) - Thomas Niegisch

Position #4 (Baxter Springs) - Brian Smith

Position #5 (Galena) - Lance Nichols

**Position #6 (Commissioner District #1) - ~~David Nelson~~ Brad Wells**

Position #7 (Commissioner District #2) - Trish Carroll

Position #8 (Commissioner District #3) – Bert Kellum

Position #9 (County Commissioner) – Neal Anderson

\* Positions #1-#4 and #6-#9 were appointed by the Commission at their 3/6/17 meeting.  
Position #5 was appointed by the Commission at their 5/8/17 meeting. As per resolution 07-2013, these appointments will expire January 31, 2019.

# Board of County Commissioners, Cherokee County, Kansas

Public Attendance Log: August 21, 2017

Printed Name	Phone Number	Address	Company or Organization
Dale Helwig	620-429-3849	124 W. Country Rd Columbus	CR Co Ext
Laura Atkinson	620-429-0250	11754 SE 20 <sup>th</sup> St Baxter Spgs	individual
Wilfredo Blanco	417-529-2904		CICMS #3
Rhonda Zook	620-674-5548	298 SE Boston Mill Rd	Individual
Mike Housie			
Cynthia Lane	620-431-2980	PO Box J, Chanute	SEKAAA
Jan King	620-762-0666	4180 SE 15 <sup>th</sup> Columbus KS	
Orazie Ruppel	1020-702-0008	10094 NE Bellevue Rd.	CK Taxpayers!
Charla King	620-429-0393	1999 SE Union Chapel Rd Columbus, KS 66725	
Hannah Zehm	620-429-0239	516 S Vermont Ave Columbus, KS 66725	
Karah Smith	620-429-1860	201 W. Walnut Columbus, KS 66725	SRMHW
Miselle Alderton	620-597-2639	9759 S.W. Flamingo Ln Ks	
Bert Kellum	417 291 1289	1100 Mil. Ave Bsm. KS	Char Co Eco. Dev. Co.
Veronica Utecht	617-747-5517		KOAM