

MINUTES for December 18, 2023
BOARD of CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

CONVENE

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, December 18, 2023, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Clerk Rebecca Brassart opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook and News Report Owner Larry Hiatt were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the December 11, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ROAD and BRIDGE

Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook came before the Board to discuss the ditch projects the county lot has been doing.

Cody stated he is expected to take delivery of the dump truck directly after Christmas.

Zook discussed what monies from his budget could roll into capital outlay. The Board stated Gene Mense County accountant would be here at 10:00am to discuss the budget and it could be discussed at that time.

Commissioner Frazier requested that Cody go look at 104TH to see what could be done as the road is in very bad shape.

ROUTE 66 TOURISM GRANT

Economic Director Amy Kaufmann came before the Board to inform them that she has not received an answer from the City of Baxter Springs regarding what they will give towards the Route 66 centennial ad. The Board stated that Amy should speak with Jean at the Columbus Chamber of Commerce regarding the Tourism Grant for the Route 66 ad.

ECONOMIC DIRECTOR

Economic Development Director Amy Kaufmann announced to the Board that the Economic Board has selected her replacement. The Board selected Dale Helwig as their new Economic Development Director, Helwig will begin his job on January 2, 2024.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Department Director Peyton Kessler came before the Board to present the Unite USA, Inc contract. Peyton stated that the county is paid up through 2025. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to allow Peyton Kessler, Health Department Director to sign on behalf of Cherokee County the Unite USA, Inc contract. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to allow the memorandum of understanding between Cherokee and Crawford County. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 15-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, Health Department Director Peyton Kessler, and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 10:00am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

AMENDED BUDGET HEARING

Commissioner Moates opened the Amended Budget Hearing. There was no one present to object to the budget amendment. Commissioner Moates closed the hearing. Commissioner Moates made a motion to amend the Services for the Elderly budget from 36,387 to 39,687. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2024 BUDGET LEVY

County accountant Gene and Matt Mense were present to discuss the 2024 budget levy. The Board requested that Gene explain to them how they ended up with the levy going up even though assessments were up, and spending remained slightly lower than 2023. Gene stated that he had to levy the decrease in carry-over. Commissioner Johnson also asked Gene if he could explain the best way to deal with Grant funds in a budget to not make the budget look as if it's over budget. She used the example of the Sheriff's department, as currently its showing very low funds but Sheriff Groves has received numerous Grants that would offset some of those expenditures. He stated the County Clerk could add a Funds line in the expenditures and when we receive the Grant Funds, we would place it under the budget column.

Gene had presented a draft of the audit for 2022 to County Clerk Rebecca Brassart and requested that the Board sign the audit summary. Commissioner Moates made a motion to sign the audit summary with Mense CPA Firm, LLC. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

EOP RESOLUTION 14-2023

Commissioner Moates made a motion to adopt resolution 14-2023, a resolution of the Emergency Operation Plan. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FEMA LEASE APPROVALS

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the 3yr FEMA Lease for
 Bill Sowersby 7708 SE Watermelon Ln, Galena
 Bill Sowersby 7711 SE Watermelon Ln, Galena
 Jerry Rose 7445 SE 68th Ter, Riverton
 Brent Sutherland 7794 SE River Rd, Galena
 John and Johnny Jr. Barnes 8274 SE Cherry Ln, Galena
 Jerry, Lori and Kegan Gabrielson 7436 SE PawPaw Ln, Galena
 Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart presented the Board with a cereal malt beverage license renewal for the Shack Again and Angelos Deli. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the cereal malt beverage license for the Shack Again for on and off premise sales. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the cereal malt beverage license for Angelos Deli for on and off premise sales. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE TAX ROLL EXEMPTIONS

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart presented the Board with tax roll exemptions for USD 493 and City of Columbus Land Bank. After reviewing the documents, County Counselor Jake Conard stated that the documents did not need the signature of the Board. He also stated that in the note section on the form that his name was spelled incorrectly and that the KSA number had a typo and should be 12-5909 instead of 15-5909. Conard requested that errors be corrected on the form.

COUNTY COUNSELOR

County Counselor Jake Conard discussed the culvert policy with the Board and stated that he would need to get Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook to finalize the policy.

Conard also discussed the county contract policy with the Board, the Board stated they would like to review it again on December 11th during the regular meeting.

Jake requested the County Clerk Brassart place the culvert policy, county contract policy and the cash drawer resolution on the agenda for December 11th.

COUNTY APPRAISER NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 15-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, County Appraiser David Thornton, and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 11:30am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COUNTY APPRAISER ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 15-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, County Appraiser David Thornton, and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 11:47am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to extend the current attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, County Appraiser David Thornton, and County Counselor Jake Conard for an additional 5 minutes to return at 11:52am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to extend the current attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, County Appraiser David Thornton, and County Counselor Jake Conard for an additional 10 minutes to return at 12:07pm. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

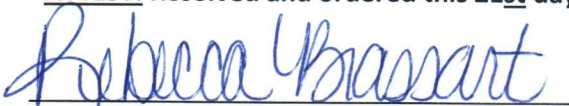
NEWS REPORT AD

News Report Owner, Larry Hiatt presented the Board with the Christmas ad for the County. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Christmas ad for a ½ page at \$300. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-1 with Commissioner Frazier voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

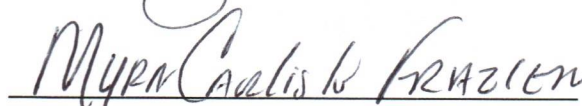
Commissioner Moates made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 21st day of December 2023.


County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart


Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates


Commissioner – Lorie Johnson


Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier