

MINUTES for June 10, 2024
BOARD of CHEROKEE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS'
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS

CONVENE

Chair Cory Moates called the regular session of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners (the Board), to order at 9:00 AM on Monday, June 10, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Commissioner Lorie Johnson opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, Deputy County Clerk Jess Frasher, and Columbus News Report Owner Larry Hiatt were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the minutes as presented from June 3, 2024. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the payroll as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PAYABLES

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the payables as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Frazier motioned for a 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 9:08 am. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

ROAD and BRIDGE

Cody Zook, Road and Bridge Supervisor presented two notices for new employees to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the hire of Austin Glover as a seasonal laborer effective June 3rd at a rate of \$12 an hour. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Johnson voting against.

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the hire of Nathan Napier as Utility 1 Operator effective June 10th at a rate of \$16 an hour. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Zook discussed damages received during recent storms and distributed maps with location of damages to the Commission. Zook stated that there is an estimated 1.7 million in damages, and that he believes 80 percent of the costs can be reimbursed to the County by FEMA after repairs have been completed. Zook states that after repairs have been completed, he plans to focus on taking preventative measures.

Commissioner Moates stated that he has spent time driving across the NE part of the County visiting with citizens. Moates stated that there is disagreement among some citizens regarding desired action to be made to remedy drainage issues. Moates stated that this issue is ultimately one the Commission needs to decide the best course of action.

ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Johnson motioned for a 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, County Counselor Jake Conard, and Road and Bridge supervisor Cody Zook, to return at 9:30 am. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

EMPLOYEE TERMINATION

Commissioner Johnson motioned to terminate the employment of Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook effective immediately. The motion died due to lack of a second.

ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 9:40 am. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 9:45 am. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

NON-ELECT PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 10-minute non-elected personnel executive session with the board, County counselor Jake Conard, and Labette County Appraiser, Delinda White, to return at 10 am. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion.

The Board took no action.

ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session, with the Board, and Count Counselor Jake Conard to return at 10:10 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

NON-ELECT PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 30-minute non-elected Personnel executive session with the Board, and Maintenance Coordinator, Mike Thomas, to return at 10:40 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dale Helwig, Economic Development Director and Brian Smith, Economic Development Board Chairman, updated the Board on activities taken by the Economic Development Office. Helwig stated that the Office of Economic Development assisted the City of Baxter Springs in the application for a \$7,500 grant for the commissioning of a mural. Helwig discussed other projects being provided by the Economic Development Department.

FEMA LEASES

Matt Haviland, Emergency Manager, came before the Board and asked how they would prefer to handle the leasing of the available FEMA properties, and asked if they need to be put out for bidding. Commissioner Johnson asked if they need to pass a resolution that allows County employees and officials, excluding the Commissioners, to bid on the FEMA properties. County Counselor Jake Conard stated that there is no resolution prohibiting County employees to bid on the properties, but expressed concern over allowing employees or officers who handle or are involved in the bidding process, to be allowed to submit bids. Commissioner Frazier stated that she does not want to exclude taxpayers from the opportunity to bid on properties due to their employment with the County. Commissioner Moates suggested the possibility of having bidders address the bids directly to the Board and suggested the possibility of using a locked drop box located in the Courthouse lobby as a receptacle. County Counselor Jake Conard stated that he will draft a resolution changing the FEMA Property bidding instructions and procedures to include the discussed changes. Commissioner Frazier asked if docks were able to be placed on the FEMA properties. Matt Haviland stated that docks could be placed as long they could be moved in case of flooding.

RESOLUTION 16-2024 SOLAR ENERGY MORATORIUM

Commissioner Moates motioned to approve resolution 16-2024, a resolution enacting a moratorium on commercial solar energy projects. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 11:10 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 11:15 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took no action.

APPRAISERS OFFICE

Daisy Mooney, Interim County Appraiser, came before the Board and briefed them on activities of the Appraisers Office. Mooney reminded the Board of her upcoming retirement, and asked the Board if a candidate for appraiser position has been selected. Commissioner Moates responded, stating that the Board has not yet made a decision, and is awaiting further information. Mooney stated that she believes Taylor Brown should be the Deputy when she leaves her position and stated that she believes Brown should receive a raise. Commissioner Johnson stated that she does not believe there has been adequate compensation in that office since the current staff have taken over the office. Mooney stated that the Appraisers office is working on their budget.

RECESS

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 10-minute recess, with the meeting to resume at 11:35 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The Board discussed possible dates to hold a public meeting to discuss the Solar Energy Moratorium, as well as impacts of the 30x30 initiative. The Board decided to hold the meeting on August 8th at 6:00 pm.


BUDGET WORKSHOP

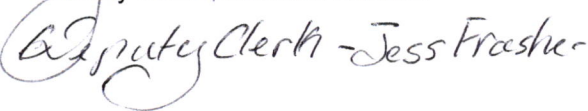
The Board discussed holding a workshop at the end of the next meeting to discuss the County budget.

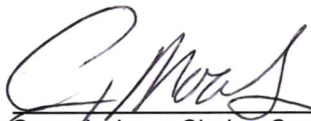
ADJOURNMENT

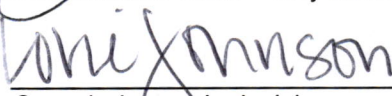
Commissioner Frazier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

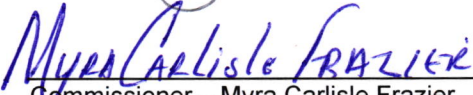
ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 17th day of June 2024.



County Clerk - Rebecca Brassart

Deputy Clerk - Jess Frasher



Commissioner Chair - Cory Moates


Commissioner - Lorie Johnson


Commissioner - Myra Carlisle Frazier