

MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 3, 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, February 3, 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, Chris Zimmerman, Mabelle Smith

A motion was made by Commissioner Napier to approve the Minutes of the January 27, 2014 BOCC Meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0 with all voting yes.

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

They appeared before the Board on routine county road business.

Jerad Tanner, a local farmer, appeared before the Board with concerns over the intersections of SW 10th St & Clem Road, and NE 30th St & Wyandotte Rd. The four-way stop on SW 10th St causes problems with loaded farm trucks starting up the hill after coming to a complete stop. He also voiced his concerns with the speed that some vehicles travel on Clem Rd and those not yielding to farm implements. The Board will visit with the Sheriff regarding his concerns. Gene and Leonard will look into the options for additional signage on Clem Rd as well as making changes with the stop signs at the intersections.

Leonard stated that he hasn't heard from KDOT yet about the funding reimbursement for the bridge project on Highway 166.

Department Heads - Monthly Reports

They met with the Board for their routine monthly meeting with the following department heads present: Barbara Bilke, Register of Deeds; Betha Elliott, Health Department; Kristin Seal, Noxious Weeds; David Groves, Sheriff; Deana Randall, Human Resources; Jason Allison, Emergency Preparedness; Juanita Hodgson, Treasurer; Kim Lauffer, Appraiser; Nathan Coleman, Attorney; Ralph Houser, Maintenance; Rodney Edmondson, Clerk; Wayne Elliott, 911 Mapping & Addressing.

Barbara Bilke: Provided a written report. She reported that Legislative meetings are taking place regarding the Mortgage Registration Fee.

Betha Elliott: She reported that the WIC Caseload was 2,035 in 2013. The January 2014 caseload is down 103 from 2013. She stated that the WIC Program is for women that are pregnant, or have children up to age 5.

David Groves: He reported that the security assessment for Baxter Spring's schools was completed last week. The two school resource officers are now nationally certified. He reminded everyone that

he would like some feedback regarding the draft security plan for the courthouse. He advised that the next Drug Take-back program will be April 26, 2014.

Deana Randall: She reported that Bill with ING will be here Friday to talk with employees. Cutoff is February 19, 2014.

Jason Allison: He reported that he is working on grants for storm shelters and storm sirens.

Juanita Hodgson: She reported that all mail has been receipted and posted from Real Estate Tax payments. Reminders will go out soon for those that haven't paid. She reported that the City of Columbus found an error in the Recreation Fund Distribution that was sent out recently. They received too much money. The problem was in the computer program and she has been working with the vendor to correct the problem.

Kim Lauffer: She reported that she has been in the field with her staff.

Kristin Seal: She reported that she went to Topeka for her first conference/training. She will go to Wichita at the end of February to take her general test. She has several more trainings and testing between now and April. She is hosting the District Meeting on April 3, 2014. The meeting and lunch will be at Big Brutus with a tour to follow.

Nathan Coleman: He had nothing new to report.

Ralph Houser: He had nothing new to report.

Rodney Edmondson: He reported that the Department Heads will meet again on Thursday at 1:00 PM to continue planning for the SEK Official Meeting we are hosting on April 24th. The next election is April 1, 2014 for three cities.

Wayne Elliott: He reported that he issued five new addresses last month. He's also encouraging residents to register their storm shelters so they can be mapped. He has over 100 already registered.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hilderbrand to amend the agenda from 11:30 AM to 10:35 AM for Kevin Cure. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Napier. The motion carried 3-0 with all voting yes at 10:35 AM.

Kevin Cure - County Counselor

He appeared before the Board with legal matters concerning Cherokee County.

He has finished research regarding the transfer of the Treece money that Lyon Township wants to give to Greenlawn Cemetery. He can have a resolution by the end of the month.

The Deed work for the last remaining Treece properties is finished, he just needs to file the deeds.

Regarding the naming of an Official County Newspaper, he believes the statutes to read that one newspaper is to be designated as an official county newspaper. He will call the Attorney General's Office for their opinion and report back next week.

Service is going well on the current tax sale. July or August would be the target date for the next sale.

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The County Clerk, HR Director, and Treasurer met with Kevin and the Board to discuss the issue of being able to pay utility bills to avoid late notices and cutoffs. Chairman Hilderbrand phoned Gene Mense, and he agreed to meet with the Board on February 10, 2014 at 11:15 AM to discuss the issue.

Judge Bill Lylera - Truancy Program

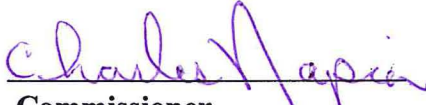
He met with the Board after receiving a phone call from Spring River Mental Health and Wellness regarding the Boards decision about funding the Truancy Program. In 2012, the Board had agreed to fund \$4,400 which was 1/5 of the needed funding for the Program for 2013. The four school districts in the county were to make up the balance of the funding. Future funding was to be addressed during 2013. Chairman Hilderbrand stated that no meeting was held to discuss future funding. Judge Lylera will contact Scott Jackson and ask him to meet with the Board about future funding.

Commissioner Napier made a motion to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting set for February 10, 2014 at 9:00 AM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion carried 3-0 with all voting yes at 11:44 AM.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this day, February 10, 2014


Cherokee County Clerk


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner

Cherokee County Commissioners

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Secretary Pat George
Kansas Department of Commerce
1000 S.W. Jackson St. – Suite 100
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Secretary George:

On Monday, January 13th, the Cherokee County Commission unanimously endorsed House Bill # 2417 which would designate Cherokee County as a Rural Opportunity Zone County. We respectfully ask that you also add your endorsement to this bill.

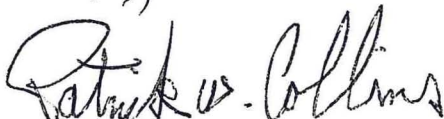
Since 1980 Cherokee County has experienced a population decline of 6.1%. Family household income in Cherokee County is 17.9% lower than the state average, and 12.3% of our families live below the poverty level compared to a statewide average of 8.9%.

In addition to these challenges Cherokee County is facing a growing number of those working in our industries residing out of state. In 2002, 22% of our workforce lived out of state, mostly in Oklahoma and Missouri. By 2011 this percentage had risen to 29.2%, this compares to a statewide average of 8.4%. This trend is even more concerning when we factor in that over the last 15 years a number of those choosing to reside in Oklahoma, because of presumed lower real estate and vehicle taxes, are coming into the state to fill higher paying jobs in many of the larger industrial companies that we, along with your department, have worked so aggressively to recruit to Cherokee County. Our county and cities have invested much time; effort and money to attract many of these jobs but Kansas and our County are losing the tax revenue and retail activity these jobs would bring if these individuals and their families resided in Cherokee County.

Although ROZ cannot address these individuals already working here but living out of state, the designation of Cherokee County as a Rural Opportunity Zone would allow our county and cities to positively compete for those making relocation decisions to fill Cherokee County jobs in the future. We believe the ROZ designation will provide the hook we will need to help capture these workers and end up with a win for both Kansas and Cherokee County.

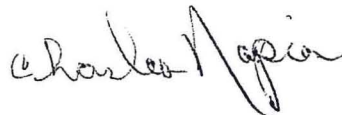
Again, we enthusiastically endorse HB 2417 and ask that the Department of Commerce please support this very important legislative effort for Cherokee County.

Yours truly,



PAT COLLINS

First District



CHARLES NAPIER

Second District

RICHARD HILDERBRAND

Third District