

**MINUTES for April 15, 2024**  
**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 AM on Monday, April 15, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Commissioner Cory Moates opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, County Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, County Road and Bridge Office Manager Joni Hicks, County Counselor Jake Conard, and News Report owner Larry Hiatt were present.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES**

Commissioner Frazier motioned to approve the minutes as presented from April 8, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL of PAYROLL**

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

**APPROVAL of PAYABLES**

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

**ROAD and BRIDGE**

R&B Supervisor Cody Zook came before the Board to present the hiring of JR England as a utility 1 operator at a rate of \$16/hr. Commissioner Moates motioned to approve the hiring of JR England as a utility 1 operator at a rate of \$16/hr. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she had been contacted by a taxpayer requesting that a 4-way stop be placed at SW 60th Street and SW Quaker Road. Cody stated he would contact the taxpayer and would get back to the Board.

Commissioner Moates asked Zook if the Bellview project had been completed? Zook stated that it had been completed.

Commissioner Moates notified Cody that there is a dip in the road near Marilyn Kinsley place in Lowell just east of 72<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Moates asked Zook go look at it.

Commissioner Johnson asked what the update was on NW Scammon RD. Cody stated that when it started raining, he had nowhere to put the fill, so they were forced to quit. Zook stated that once it dries out, they will go back to working on it.

Commissioner Frazier commended Cody for going out on the weekend and removing a tree on Hillcrest Dr in Galena that she had reported to him.

**SEWER PAYMENT DELINQUENCIES**

Commissioner Frazier asked County Counselor Conard about placing a publication in the paper for the delinquencies. Conard stated that he cannot find anything for or against it, but that they are not to be considered a special assessment but should be considered a lien against the property of which the county has not been doing. The question was asked as to how much was currently delinquent for 2024 and the answer was \$31,000. County Counselor Jake Conard will look further into sending the delinquencies to a collection agency. It was also decided by the Board to file the lien on the properties through the Register of Deeds Office and that County Counselor Jake Conard will draw up a generic form for County Lot Office Manager Joni Hicks so that she may file the liens as needed.

**HEARTLAND REC**

County Treasurer Heather Sapp notified the Board that she had received an email stating that Heartland REC will be appealing their 2019 and 2020 valuation with the Kansas Supreme Court after BOTA denied their appeal. The counties portion would be \$24,000 per year should the Kansas Supreme Court rule in Heartlands favor.



**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 15-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, County Health Director Peyton Kessler, and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**

County Sheriff David Groves came before the Board to speak with the Board regarding the safety plan he had presented to them at a previous meeting to make sure there was nothing else that they would like to see added before his office conducts the safety plan meeting with office heads. The Board stated they were fine with the plan.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 10-minute non-elect personnel executive session regarding the open Appraiser position with the Board, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates motioned for a 10-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, Labette County Appraiser Delinda White, and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 10:10 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Moates motioned to extend the current non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, Labette County Appraiser Delinda White, and County Counselor Jake Conard for an additional 5 minutes to return at 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

**ATTORNEY CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Johnson motioned for a 15-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Johnson motioned to extend the current attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

**SEWER LIFT STATION**

Commissioner Moates presented the Board with a quote to fix the Lowell Dam lift station that is in desperate need of repair. Commissioner Frazier had concerns with only one bid submitted and Commissioner Moates stated that the sewer employee had tried to get other bids and was unsuccessful. After a phone call it was determined that Commissioner Moates was correct in his statement. Commissioner Moates motioned to pay up to \$80,000 out of ARPA funding to allow for the rebuild of the Lowell Dam lift station which includes one pump. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Moates motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 22nd day of April 2024.**

  
County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart

  
Commissioner – Lorie Johnson

  
Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates

  
Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier