

MINUTES for June 26, 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 AM on Monday, June 26, 2023, 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 Counselor Nathan Coleman, News Report owner Larry Hiatt was present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the June 19, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL of PAYROLL

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

APPROVAL of PAYABLES

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the payables in the amount of \$290,851.81 with the note that there will be reimbursement to the County in the amount of \$18.50 from Maintenance Coordinator Chris Johnson. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

GARDEN TOWNSHIP TREASURER

Commissioner Moates made a motion to appoint Kyle Wade as the Garden Township Treasurer due to the passing of the former treasurer. Commissioner Frazier Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CASH DRAWER RESOLUTION

Commissioner Moates made a motion to pass resolution 04-2023, an administrative resolution allowing the County Clerk to create a cash drawer. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR HIRING

Commissioner Moates made a motion to hire Peyton Kessler as the Health Department Director at a rate of \$60,000 a year, with a start date to be announced later. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPRAISER NEW HIRE/NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE

County Appraiser David Thornton presented the Board with a new hire sheet for Carla Wood as front desk/personal property appraiser at a rate of \$22.47/hr.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 10-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, and County Appraiser David Thornton to return at 11:58 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the hiring of Carla Wood as a Front Desk/Personal Property Appraiser at a rate of \$22.47/hr. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2024 BUDGET PROPOSALS

COUNTY COUNSELOR

County Counselor Nathan Coleman discussed the budget he had presented to the Board. Coleman notified the Board that he would not be seeking the position of County Counselor for 2024. He stated that being the County Attorney which is an elected position, and the added workload of the County Counselor position has become too much. He stated with the Board being proactive and wanting to implement policy that he feels the County Counselor position has become a full-time position.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to post the County Counselor position on indeed and KCCA until the position is filled. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY

County Attorney Nathan Coleman stated that he has requested an increase in salaries for the County Attorney budget. Coleman informed the Board that his contract attorney Sara Mills will be leaving in August and that he would prefer to add another attorney on staff rather than contracting out.

SPRING RIVER MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Executive Director Stacy Manbeck came before the Board to discuss the budget proposal which was presented to the Board. Manbeck informed the Board of the programs that are currently provided Spring River Mental Health & Wellness.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Manager Jared Glover discussed his budget with the Board.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Manager Deana Randall discussed her budget for 2024 with the Board.

SHERIFF & JAIL

County Sheriff David Groves and Under Sheriff Terry Clugston came before the Board to discuss the 2024 budget.

COUNTY CLERK/DIRECT ELECTION/EQUIPMENT LEASE

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart and Deputy County Clerk Michaela Heistand came before the Board to discuss the 2024 budgets that were presented to the Board. The Board reviewed the budget and decided to add an additional \$25,000 to the equipment lease budget to begin building the account for the purchase of new election tabulators in the future.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Director Amy Kauffman came before the Board to discuss the budget for 2024 and to introduce herself to the Board as the new Economic Development Director. Kauffman notified the Board of some of the 2022-2023 highlights, she discussed the E-Community Revolving Loan Fund and what she plans to focus on for 2023-2024.

NOXIOUS WEED

Noxious Weed Director JC Parsons discussed his 2024 budget with the Board.

ROAD & BRIDGE

Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, and Office Manager Joni Hicks came before the Board to discuss the 2024 budget. Cody stated he felt the budget could stay the same as 2023, however he did state it was hard for him to determine how much his budget line should be for culverts.

ROAD & BRIDGE

R&B Supervisor Cody Zook requested that the Board sign the HRRR for project #011 C-5135-0.

Cody discussed the rock contract progress. He stated they are pulling rock out of the river and are stock piling it

Zook stated that he is seeing multiple culvert collapses throughout the county, due to the dry road conditions and harvest.

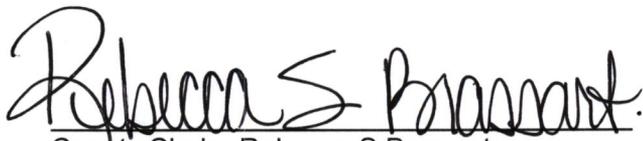
FENCE DISPUTE

Brittany Burt came before the Board to discuss the fence between her property and the neighbors. She stated the neighbor is refusing to help pay a portion of the fence rebuild. Miss Burt stated she would try one more time to reach out to Mr. Wells, the property owner to her east and if she wasn't successful, she would let commissioner Moates know so that they can proceed through the process with the commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 3rd day of July 2023.


County Clerk - Rebecca S Brassart


Commissioner Chair - Cory Moates


Commissioner - Lorie Johnson


Commissioner - Myra Carlisle Frazier