

**MINUTES for July 17, 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, July 17, 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 & 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 July 10, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ROAD & BRIDGE**

County Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook came before the Board to inform them that his employees have been learning how to run the asphalt reclaim machine.

Cody updated the Board on the Wyandotte bridge project. He stated his employees will begin clearing brush this week.

Zook informed the Board that with the rain we received over the past week that the graders have been out working on the roads. He stated he gave his grader employees the option to work this past weekend as well and two employees chose to work.

**NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE ROAD & BRIDGE**

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for a 20-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, County Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook to return at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion was rescinded due to Renee Charles and Mary Billington requesting to address the Board.

**RAINBOW BRIDGE**

Renee Charles and Mary Billington with the Route 66 Bi-Way came before the Board to discuss the structural integrity of the historic Rainbow bridge. They are requesting to have the bridge inspected for possible structural issues before they attempt to paint it.

**NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE ROAD & BRIDGE**

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for a 20-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, County Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook to return at 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for an additional 4-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, County Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook to return at 9:45 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

**GENE MENSE CPA BUDGET**

Gene and Matt Mense with Mense CPA Firm LLC came before the Board to discuss the County budget for 2024. Gene stated that he would be sending the budget proposal over to the County Clerk.

**SHERIFF**

Sheriff David Groves came before the Board to present them with the Kansas Counties with comparable county-wide populations. The report showed the county population, number of Sheriffs Office primary responsibility, jail capacity, staff, square miles per county and whether the county had a dispatch center.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

County Health Director Peyton Kessler and assistant Director Brenda Clugston came before the Board to ask the Board if they have any specific directions or changes that they would like to see. Commissioner Frazier stated she would like to see the Health Department cater to the public. Commissioner Johnson stated she would like to see the Health Department work with the schools regarding a possible career day. Peyton stated she is looking into various Grants and how they could help the county. Commissioner Johnson stated that there is a definite need for a home health store due to ours closing.

**COUNTY FAIR AD**

Larry Hiatt owner of the Columbus News Report asked the Board to place an ad in the paper for county fair. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the ad in the amount of \$150 to be paid out of recreation. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-1 with Commissioner Frazier opposing.

**NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE ROAD & BRIDGE**

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 25-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, County Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook to return at 11:55 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

**NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE**

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 5-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, to return at 1:40 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

**NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE REGISTER of DEED**

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 10-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, County Register of Deed Barb Bilke to return at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

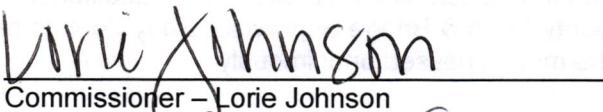
**ADJOURNMENT**

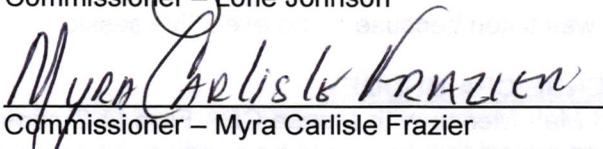
Commissioner Moates made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ATTEST:** Resolved and ordered this 24th day of July 2023.

  
County Clerk - Rebecca S Brassart

  
Commissioner Chair - Cory Moates

  
Commissioner - Lorie Johnson

  
Commissioner - Myra Carlisle Frazier