

**MINUTES for October 23, 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 a.m. on Monday, October 23, 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, Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, County Counselor Jake Conard, county resident Gary Webster and News Report owner Larry Hiatt were present.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES**

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the October 16, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SPRING RIVER WELLNESS**

County resident Gary Webster came before the Board to discuss the continued issue he has been having with the Spring River Wellness Center. Webster states he feels that he is being bullied by two of the younger employees as the Wellness Center. Commissioner Frazier explained that the county does give a subsidy to Spring River, but they have no say in their handling of their business and suggested that he speak to the Spring River Wellness Board. Commissioner Johnson asked if he hadn't spoken to Stacy Manbeck, and he stated he had not spoken to her again. Johnson suggested trying to speak to her and Commissioner Moates stated he would speak with Stacy Manbeck and then get back to Mr. Webster.

**ROAD & BRIDGE**

County Road & Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook came before the Board to inform the Board that they laid 300-400 ton of asphalt last week. He went on to state that they will be working in the Great Plains area this week if the weather allows. Cody notified the Board that he will be receiving around \$139,000 in federal money that is being turned back over to the county from funds KDOT didn't use.

**ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE EXECUTIVE**

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 15-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, Emergency Manager Matt Haviland and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 9:42 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, Emergency Manager Matt Haviland and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 9:47 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

**PARCOM**

Telephone Technician Paul Schibi came before the Board to discuss the current phone system that the courthouse currently uses. Schibi explained that the current phone system has been outdated for around 3-4 years and is causing issues with the voicemail system. Commissioner Johnson asked if there is any other option other than the VOIP system that Paul could present to the Board. He stated that he can get a different quote for a system that is not internet based.

**SHERIFF**

County Sheriff David Groves came before the Board to discuss the proposal for a Cherokee County Opioid Overdose Prevention project. The Sheriff explained the cost involved to provide emergency overdose cabinets and supplies to area schools who have expressed interest, along with the courthouse. The Board felt this was a great idea for the area.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to allow the Sheriff to spend up to \$3500 on the overdose cabinets. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE**

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 20-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, County Appraiser David Thornton, and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 11:05 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to allow the Health Department to enter a contract with DMBS (DeLisa's Medical Billing Service) and to allow Health Department Director Peyton Kessler to be the authorized signed for the county. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Discussion surrounded the FEMA leases that currently are expired and what needs to be done regarding those.

Susan Bringle and David Holmes both came before the Board to discuss the septic inspections. After much discussion it was decided that the county will not be for hire regarding septic inspections for realtors and home buyers and that they will need to find a contractor to the inspections.

**ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE EXECUTIVE**

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for a 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, Emergency Manager Matt Haviland and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for a 10-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the Board, Emergency Manager Matt Haviland and County Counselor Jake Conard to return at 11:40 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

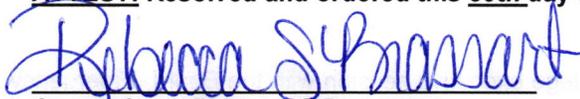
**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the phone stipend for Emergency Manager Matt Haviland. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

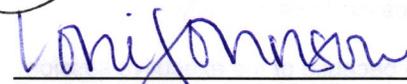
**ADJOURNMENT**

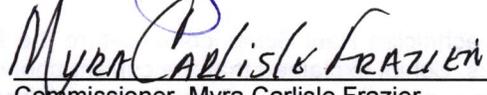
Commissioner Moates made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 30th day of October 2023.**

  
County Clerk, Rebecca S Brassart

  
Commissioner Chair, Cory Moates

  
Commissioner, Lorie Johnson

  
Commissioner, Myra Carlisle Frazier