

MINUTES for March 6, 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, March 6, 2023, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County clerk employee Tonia Altis opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, county clerk employee Tonia Altis, road and bridge supervisor Cody Zook, assistant county counselor Kurt Benecke and News Report owner Larry Hiatt were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the February 27, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL of PAYROLL

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

APPROVAL of PAYABLES

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

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 5-minute extension to the attorney client privilege executive session with the Board and county counselor Nathan Coleman to return at 12:13 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

ROAD and BRIDGE

Cody Zook presented the Board of a new employee, Kody Vanderpool as the utility operator. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the hiring of the new employee, Kody Vanderpool. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody informed the Board of all the upcoming projects the county will be doing.

Cody notified the Board and provided a copy of a new, updated policy and rules packet that Zook has prepared for employees so that employees will know the expectations of their job with Co. Road and Bridge.

Cody informed the Board that the diesel mechanic is no longer there. Cody has a current employee that he is trying to get in that position. Cody also spoke about getting a county tool box, that will be locked, but can be used by county employees.

Commissioner Johnson mentioned a builder being held up in Skidmore. Johnson asked about road abatement so that the builder on stand still could move forward.

Commissioner Frazier asked the Board about Cornerstone. Commissioner Johnson stated that they are no longer answering the phone, nor will return a call.

Cody also brought forth an idea to the Board about coming up with a policy for those who want to work on the road, such as picking up trash, and if the person were to ruin the road, then there would be policies in place.

Commissioner Moates also asked Cody about Commons Rd and if the county will be able to get to it before it

rains, and Moates offered to do it for the county.

NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 10-minute non-elected personnel session with the Board, assistant county counselor, and road and bridge supervisor Cody Zook, to return at 9:38 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken of the session.

COUNTY EXTENSION

Dale Helwig introduced The Board to Kate Lukkiger, who is with the nutrition program. Kate informed the Board about her work with elders and schools. Commissioner Moates asked about funding for this program. The nutrition program has no funding but gets grants through the SNAP ED program.

Dale explained that funding is solely for payroll and expenses. Programs such as the nutrition program for schools and Hunters Ed, grants have to be found for educating.

Dale also spoke about an upcoming farmers show and there will be three 1-hour work shops to find solutions to ideas of moisture and chemicals and for hay bales, with the help of polymer scientists.

Dale also extended an invite to the Board to join the new KSU President at a breakfast on Tuesday, March 28, 8 am at the Girard Civic Center.

NRP

Bert Kellum and David Stricklin were present to discuss the NRP plan and changes and questions that were brought up last commissioners meeting. Bert had spoken with county counselor Coleman, prior to meeting, and Coleman informed Kellum that there can be a hearing but tax entities forms need signed and to see when the meetings are scheduled.

Commissioner Frazier asked about the informal approval being sent to the AG before signatures. Bert stated that Coleman to review it.

Assistant county counselor Benecke explained to the Board that Coleman suggests a deeper counselor state and to be ahead of some problems and to have communications in each. Therefore, publish now, schedule hearing and it can be continued out.

Bert discussed changes to be made to the NRP plan, removing the 10% from the increase of valuation. The new increase of valuation must be at least \$20,000.

Bert explained to the Board the final process of how to move forth, has to be published for 2 weeks, hold hearing (which can be continued), send update to Coleman for review then to AG for approval, when signatures are back then a resolution can be approved and file to secretary of state. Bert also stated that he will need the schedule of meetings for the taxing entities.

Commissioner Moates motioned to publish the week of March 13th and the week of March 20th, and to set the hearing in 3 weeks, Monday March 27th at 10 am. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

EMPIRE DISTRICT

Assistant county counselor Kurt Benneke presented the Board with a notice from Empire stating that they are wanting to construct, install and maintain 2 more combustion turbine generators at the Riverton power plant.

The Board stated that they had no questions or concerns with this notice.

APPOINT CHRIS JOHNSON AS DEPARTMENT HEAD

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve Chris Johnson as the Department Head of maintenance. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPRAISER

Appraiser David Thornton informed the Board that the change of value notices will be going out this Friday. There is an increase, therefore there may be increasing of calls and questions.

MAINTENANCE

The Board informed department head Chris Johnson that his budget in janitorial is already over budget. After further looking and discussion, there was equipment put on the wrong line. The Board instructed Johnson to have the equipment amount moved to the proper fund line.

NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE SESSION

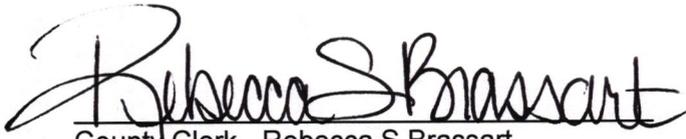
Commissioner Johnson made a motion for a 10-minute non-elected meeting with only the three commissioners, to return at 11:20 a.m. Commissioner Frakes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken of the session.

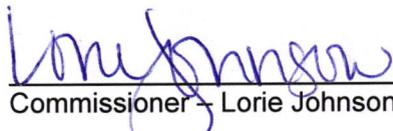
ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 13th day of March 2023.


County Clerk - Rebecca S Brassart


Commissioner Chair – Cory Moates


Commissioner – Lorie Johnson


Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier