

MINUTES for FEBRUARY 27, 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, February 27, 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 Rebecca Brassart, road and bridge Supervisor Cody Zook, assistant county counselor Kurt Benecke and News Report owner Larry Hiatt were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the February 17, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

Cody Zook came before the Board to request the hiring of BJ (Brandon) Perry as a utility 1 at a rate of \$16.00. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the new hire of BJ Perry. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody discussed with the Board the 911 address signs on major collectors.

Zook stated he has found a traffic paint supplier. Cody stated it will be through the Kansas Correctional Industries.

Cody presented a list of roads in the county that he feels will need to be asphalted. He requested that each commissioner review the list and let him know the roads that they would like to see asphalted in their district.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 12-minute non-elected executive session with the 3 commissioners, assistant county counselor Kurt Benecke and road and bridge supervisor Cody Zook to return at 9:35 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken due to the executive session.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Betha Elliott and Cody Zook came before the Board to discuss the asphalt at the Health Department. Cody Zook presented the bid from teeters for the asphalt at the Health Department parking areas. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the bid and to allow up to \$36,845 to be paid out of sales tax revenue for the asphalt job. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NON-ELECTED EXECUTIVE SESSION MAINTANENCE

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 12-minute non-elected executive session with the 3 commissioners, road and bridge supervisor Cody Zook, maintenance coordinator Chris Johnson and assistant county counselor Kurt Benecke to return at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken due to the executive session.

ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE EXECUTIVE SESSION TAX SALE

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for a 20-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the 3 commissioners, county treasurer Raven Elmore and assistant county counselor Kurt Benecke to return at 10:25 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for an additional 5-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the 3 commissioners, county treasurer Raven Elmore and assistant county counselor Kurt Benecke to return at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken due to the executive session.

PERSONAL PROPERTY ISSUE HUTTO GRAIN

Tiffany, James, and John Hutto came before the Board to discuss the issues they continue to face regarding the fines on personal property. John Hutto stated that their truck was not put on the tax roll by the appraisers office even though a shared file from the treasurers office had been updated on 1/26/2021 with the correct information. Hutto stated that Tiffany Hutto caught the mistake and added it to the county appraisers rendition and then the appraisers office penalized the Hutto's for not having it turned in during the 2021 year.

OLD BUSINESS - NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Bert Kellum and David Stricklin came before the Board to update them on the progress which has been made on updating the NRP plan due to the expiration of the original plan. Kellum presented the Board with updates for the Board to review and discuss. Adjustments were made to the plan, and it was requested that Kellum and Stricklin return to present the changes on Monday March 6th at 10:00 a.m.

NON-ELECTED EXECUTIVE SESSION APPRAISER

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for a 5-minute non-elected executive session with the 3 commissioners, county appraiser David Thornton and assistant county counselor Kurt Benecke to return at 12:15 p.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken due to the executive session.

NEWS REPORT RENEWAL

Rebecca Brassart county clerk presented the Board with a renewal for the News Report paper edition. The Board stated due to the county clerk office receiving a News Report edition that they did not feel that they needed to renew.

FLOOD REVIEW MEETING

Rebecca Brassart county clerk advised the Board that there would be a flood review meeting on March 6, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. at the county extension office.

MARQUEE HEALTH

Rebecca Brassart county clerk presented to the Board the auto renewal contract for Marquee. Discussion surrounded the contract and all the wording within in the contract. The Board requested that the county counselor review the contract to determine if termination of the contract would be allowable.

BREAK FOR LUNCH UNTIL 1:00 p.m.

ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE EXECUTIVE SESSION GENE MENSE

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for a 15-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the 3 commissioners, auditors Gene and Matt Mense and county counselor Nathan Coleman to return at 1:15 p.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken due to the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and to move into the scheduled work session with Mense CPA Firm LLC. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION WITH MENSE CPA FIRM

Present for the work session were, the Board, county clerk Rebecca Brassart, county road and supervisor Cody Zook, road and bridge employee Joni Hicks, noxious weed director JC Parsons, county sheriff David Groves, county attorney Nathan Coleman and emergency manager Jared Glover.

Gene and Matt Mense went over the audit report for 2022 with the Board and all who were present.

Discussion surrounded the correct way to budget grant funds and how to handle revenue.

Gene Mense reminded the Board that the county treasurer will need to transfer \$650,000 to the equipment reserve from the county general fund. The county treasurer will also need to transfer \$91,500 to the tech reserve from the county general fund.

ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 6th day of March 2023.

Michelle Hestand
County Clerk - Rebecca S Brassart

Cory Moates
Commissioner Chair - Cory Moates

Lorie Johnson
Commissioner - Lorie Johnson

Myra Carlisle Frazier
Commissioner - Myra Carlisle Frazier