

**MINUTES for February 12, 2024**  
**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, February 12, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Commissioner Lorie Johnson opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier (by phone), County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, Road and Bridge Superintendent Bryan Williams, Emergency Manager Matt Haviland, County Counselor Jake Conard, 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 5, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ROAD and BRIDGE**

Road and Bridge Superintendent Bryan Williams notified the Board that he sent 4 snowplows south this morning due to the heavy snow.

Williams informed the Board that the NE Wyandotte Rd bridge work will begin on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February and that he plans to finish up some ditching in that area this week and will them laydown rock in the ditching area.

**FEMA LEASE APPROVALS**

Emergency Manager Matt Haviland came before the Board to present a FEMA Lease for approval. The lease was that of Jim Adams, who had recently passed away and Mr. Adams son would like to retain the lease under his name due to the extenuating circumstances. Commissioner Frazier stated that during the meeting last week that the Board felt the property should go up for a lease bid and that the resolution that was written does not allow for Mr. Adams son to take over the lease. She went on to state that if a vote is to be taken, she already knows how she will vote. Commissioner Moates stated that he saw no issue allowing Mr. Adams' son Jimi Adams to retain the lease in his name. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the lease agreement on 7658 SE Watermelon Ln, Galena, at the rate stated in the resolution and to allow Jimi Adams to take over the lease in his name. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-1 with Commissioner Frazier voting no.

Matt informed the Board that Charlie McGonigle with KDEM has requested that he receive a formal request from the Commissioners to transfer the Hazard mitigation properties to USD 404. The properties to be transferred are QRef 9544 and QRef 9543.

**2023 TOWNSHIP BUDGETS and COUNTY INVENTORY**

Commissioner Moates reviewed the township budgets from 2023 which had been turned into the County Clerk's Office. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the 2023 township budgets as presented. Commissioner Fraizer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates reviewed the personal property owned by Cherokee County from 2023 which had been turned into the County Clerk's Office. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the 2023 personal property as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VACATE 428 SW 90<sup>th</sup> ST, COLUMBUS**

Taxpayer Bruce Parker per letter has requested to vacate two alley ways and a portion of Heron Ln that adjoins his property. County Counselor Jake Conard stated that he had drawn up a petition to vacate which needs to be signed by Mr. Parker before the Board can continue with any action regarding the vacate.

**CLEARWATER GAS CONTRACT**

Rhonda Hamlin of Hamlin Energy emailed County Clerk Rebecca Brassart a notice of amendment to the gas sales agreement dated May 1, 2024. Brassart presented the email to Commissioner Moates. The amendment shows that the estimated usage for the County was less than had originally been agreed upon therefore Clearwater is adjusting the estimated usage for the County

**SOIL CONSERVATION MEETING**

Paul Bone District Manager of the Cherokee County Conservation District sent County Clerk Rebecca Brassart invitations for the Board, herself and staff to attend the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting and dinner of the Conservation District on Monday, February 26, 2024.

**MOTOR COACH RAINBOW BRIDGE**

Commissioner Frazier asked Commissioner Johnson if she had found anything out regarding the weight limit of the bridge that sets directly south of Rainbow Bridge. Commissioner Johnson stated that she has received the number of a KDOT employee, and she plans to call him today.

**RECESS**

Commissioner Moates made a motion to recess the meeting until 10:00 a.m. at which time County Clerk Rebecca Brassart will call Commissioner

Frazier back so that she can attend the meeting per phone.

**RECONVENE**

Commissioner Moates reconvened the meeting at 10:00 a.m., County Clerk Rebecca Brassart contacted Commissioner Frazier by phone.

**APPRAISER NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 30-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, Interim Appraiser Daisy Mooney, and Appraiser applicant Brooke Mantey to return at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to extend the current non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, Interim Appraiser Daisy Mooney, and Appraiser applicant Brooke Mantey for an additional 10 minutes to return at 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to extend the current non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, Interim Appraiser Daisy Mooney, and Appraiser applicant Brooke Mantey for an additional 10 minutes to return at 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Moates asked Interim Appraiser Daisy Mooney to take Brooke Mantey to the Appraisers Office to meet the rest of the staff.

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE SECRETARY**

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the rate change of Magistrate Judge Secretary Lori Gabrielson from a rate of \$19.00/hr to \$20.00/hr, effective January 2024. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 10-minute non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, to return at 11:05 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to extend the current non-elect personnel executive session with the Board, for an additional 5 minutes to return at 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

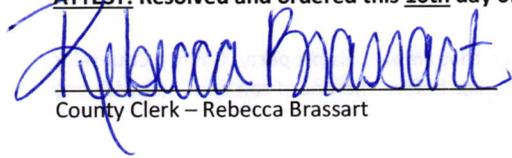
**FRIDAY MEETING of the BOARD**

Commissioner Moates stated that the Board would meet on Friday, February 16, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. to approve payroll and accounts payable since the County Offices will be closed on February 19, 2024, for Presidents Day. The Board requested to add Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook to the agenda on Friday at 8:45 a.m.

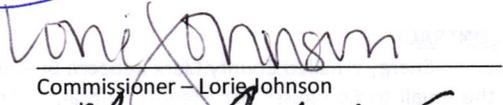
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 16th day of February 2024.**

  
County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart

  
Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates

  
Commissioner – Lorie Johnson

  
Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier