

**MINUTES for January 8, 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 AM on Monday, January 8, 2024, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. County Sheriff David Groves opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, County Sheriff David Groves, and News Report owner Larry Hiatt were present.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES**

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from December 21, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL of PAYROLL**

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

**APPROVAL of PAYABLES**

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

**RE-ORGANIZATION of BOARD**

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to appointment Commissioner Moates as the Chairman of the Board for 2024. Commissioner Frazier Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to appointment Commissioner Johnson as the Vice-Chair of the Board for 2024. Commissioner Moates Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SHERIFF GROVES**

County Sheriff David Groves came before the Board at the request of commissioner Johnson to discuss the issue of the BSNF train which has been blocking Highway 7 for long periods of time. Groves stated that unfortunately law enforcement no longer has the authority to ticket trains for blocking roadways excessively. There was discussion surrounding the topic. Commissioner Moates stated that the County could try to get into contact with the local BSNF to discuss the issue. Another option was a website where you could report the blockage.

Sheriff Groves notified the Board that he had spoken with assistant County Matt Bonner regarding filing charges against those who are causing road destruction in the County. This issue was brought to the attention of Sheriff Groves by County Road and Bridge Supervisor Cody Zook. Groves asked the Board if he would like his office to report to them on a case-by-case basis or to just file the charges. Commissioner Frazier stated that she felt that he would not need to report to the Board and to handle the issue as he would any other filing of charges.

Sheriff Groves presented the Board with his end of year report for the Sheriff's Office.

**KAMO POWER**

The Board received notification that the annual check from KAMO Power in lieu of taxes had been sent in to the County Treasurer amount of \$73,393.77.

**NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE**

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 5-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and County Counselor Jake Conard, to return at 9:43 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve resolution 01-2024. A resolution concerning waiver of generally accepted accounting principles. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve resolution 02-2024. A resolution designating The Columbus News Report

as the official county newspaper. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve resolution 03-2024. A resolution designating a depository for public funds. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2024 COUNTY APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Moates made a motion to appoint Mense CPA Firm LLC as the County Auditor for 2024. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to appoint County Counselor for 2024. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to appoint Matt Haviland as the County Emergency Manager for 2024. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to appoint Peyton Kessler as the County Health Department Administrator for 2024. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to appoint JC Parsons as the County Noxious Weed Director for 2024. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to appoint Cody Zook as the County Road and Bridge Supervisor for 2024. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **SKIDMORE**

Rod Zinn with Cornerstone Surveying and David Jenkins with KDWP came before the Board to discuss the progress of the plat for Skidmore. Zinn explained the plat and notified the commissioners that there could be no back taxes on a property when it came time to sign and register the plat. He stated that the Board would need to make sure everyone affected was ready to sign and if someone decided not to sign that they would be left out of the plat and would not gain any ground. Zinn also requested that the Board find death certificates that were still needed. The Board will need to get in contact with all owners in Skidmore and have a discussion with them so that Zinn can move along with the plat. There was also discussion of the bill currently owed to American Title of Girard. David Jenkins stated he thought the bill was around \$6,000. He stated that he would like to split that bill with the County.

### **APPRAISER OFFICE NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 5-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and Appraisers office employee Taylor Brown to return at 10:47a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to extend the non-elect executive session with the Board, and Appraisers office employee Taylor Brown for another 5-minute and to return at 10:52a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 5-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and Appraisers office employee Dee Norris to return at 11:01 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 non-elect executive session with the Board, and Appraisers office employee Sara Goff to return at 11:08 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 5-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and Appraisers office employee Robbi Shilts to return at 11:13 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for an 8-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and Appraisers office employee Carla Wood to return at 11:25 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 10-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and Appraisers office employee Daisy Mooney to return at 11:25 a.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to extend the non-elect executive session with the Board, and Appraisers office employee Daisy Mooney for another 10-minutes and to return at 11:45 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

#### **OFFICE HEAD NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for a 5-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and Human Resource office head Deana Randall to return at 11:51 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 15-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and Health Department Director Peyton Kessler to return at 12:15 p.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to extend the non-elect executive session with the Board, and Health Department Director Peyton Kessler for another 5-minute and to return at 12:20 p.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 non-elect executive session with the Board, and Emergency Manager Matt Haviland to return at 1:05 p.m. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 10-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and Maintenance Coordinator Mike Thomas to return at 1:35 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

#### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Health Department employee Brenda Clugston came before the Board to request a transfer of 135 sick hours from herself to Health Department employee Kathy Dugger. Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the transfer of 135 sick hours from Brenda Clugston to Kathy Dugger. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **NON-ELECT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for an 18-minute non-elect executive session with the Board to return at 2:15 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM APPRAISER and RESOLUTION 04-2024**

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 17-minute non-elect executive session with the Board, and Appraisers office employee Daisy Mooney to return at 2:35 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken because of the executive session.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to appoint Daisy Mooney as the interim County Appraiser at a rate of \$23.00/hr. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve resolution 04-2024. A resolution appointing Daisy Mooney as the interim County Appraiser for a period to not exceed six months. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the notification of County Appraiser change letter. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPRAISER OFFICE NEW HIRE**

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the hiring of Sara Goff at a rate of \$15.00/hr as an office staff employee. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

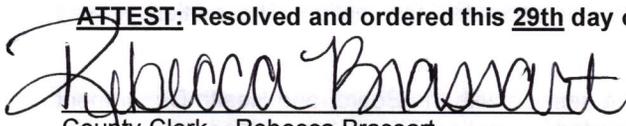
**KCAMP RENEWAL**

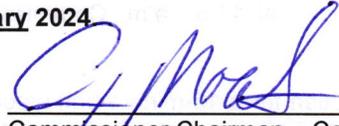
Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the invoice for the 2024 KCAMP policy in the amount of \$352,411. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

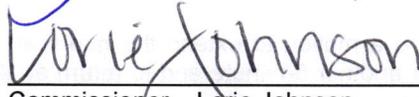
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 29th day of January 2024**

  
County Clerk – Rebecca Brassart

  
Commissioner Chairman – Cory Moates

  
Commissioner – Lorie Johnson

  
Commissioner – Myra Carlisle Frazier