

**MINUTES FOR JULY 2, 2012**  
**COLUMBUS, KANSAS, CHEROKEE COUNTY**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**  
**CRYSTAL L. GATEWOOD**

The Cherokee County Commissioners met July 2, 2012. Those in attendance were Commissioners Collins, Garner, and Hilderbrand. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Commissioner Garner made a motion to accept the minutes as presented by County Clerk Crystal Gatewood for June 26, 2012; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins with Commissioners Garner, Collins and Hilderbrand voting in favor. Commissioners Collins, Hilderbrand and Garner, and Clerk Gatewood signed off on the documentation. Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the minutes as presented by Clerk Gatewood for the Special Meeting held June 27, 2012; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner with Commissioners Garner, Collins, and Hilderbrand voting in favor. Commissioners Garner, Collins and Hilderbrand, and Clerk Gatewood signed off on the documentation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

**County Counselor Cure asked for an Executive Session for Attorney/Client Privilege, Pending Litigation and Counseling.** Commissioner Collins made a motion to go into Executive Session for twenty minutes for Attorney/Client Privilege, Pending Litigation and Counseling with himself, Commissioners Garner and Hilderbrand, and the County Counselor; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner with Commissioners Garner, Collins, and Hilderbrand voting in favor. They went in at 11:50 AM and returned at 12:10 PM.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Cathy Bolek and several others from Baxter Springs, who are circulating a recall petition for several Baxter Springs Council Members, came before the commission concerning Charter Ordinance #19 in Baxter Springs. Mrs. Bolek was concerned about the wording being correct and legal on the petitions they were circulating. The group wanted the Cherokee County Attorney to cover the wording issue because Kevin Cure is representing the Baxter Springs Council Members on the petitions. Mrs. Bolek felt that with Mr. Cure representing the Council Members it was a conflict of interest. The commission contacted several area attorneys and Sam Marsh was available to be outside council. Sam Marsh came to the meeting and the commission and the County Counselor updated him on what was going on. The commission and the County Counselor agreed that due to the circumstances that they would appoint a Special County Counselor. Mr. Marsh agreed to look at everything if Mrs. Bolek can get all the information to him by Monday, July 9, 2012. Commissioner Hilderbrand made the motion to appoint a "Special County Counselor" with the purpose of reviewing a protest petition on Charter Ordinance #19 passed in Baxter Springs; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner with Commissioners Garner, Collins, and Hilderbrand voting in favor.

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Scott Jackson of Spring Valley Mental Health updated the commission on the services provided to the citizens of Cherokee County for the past six years. He also presented his 2013 budget proposal to be considered, they are asking for \$111,457.00 from the county. They are currently receiving \$108,030.00 for 2012 budget. The commission thanked him for coming in.

Jan Bolin of Class LTD updated the commission on the services provided to the citizens of Cherokee County for many years. She also reported that as of July 1, 2012 the new name for the SRS is The Kansas Department of Aging and Disabilities Servicing (KDADS). Mrs. Bolin requested a 1 mill allocation for Class LTD from the county, the same amount requested as last year. Currently they are receiving \$108,030.00 for 2012 budget. The commission thanked her for coming in.

### **COUNTY APPOINTED DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Jason Allison requested a burn ban for Cherokee County due to the dry conditions. Commissioner Hilderbrand made a motion to issue a County-Wide Burn Ban until further notice, with the exemption of 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, with emphasis on using common sense and precautions such as having a bucket of water and/or water hose nearby; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner with Commissioners Garner, Collins, and Hilderbrand voting in favor.

Rebecca Brassart of 911 Mapping and Addressing submitted the monthly totals for their office to the commission. The office was working on updated road entries and ownership maps.

Supervisor Leonard Vanatta of Road and Bridge reported that dirt work was being done on the Weaver Bridge and the project should be finished by the time school starts. He also met with KDOT last Thursday and they are going to look at right-of-ways on Highway 7. The state will have to move utility lines and will have to purchase some of the homes and property because they would end up too close to the highway, which is why it would take up to two years because of the bargaining with property owners and moving utility lines.

County Appraiser Nancy Herrenbruck reported that her office has completed 98% of the 17% re-inspections for 2013 properties. She also reported valuation conversion issues with the new state system, but the state is working on the issues. There are half a dozen new construction homes applying for new 911 addresses in the county, and property and home sales are leveling off since they are usually busiest in the spring. Current property maps are available in the 911 Mapping Department for citizens to purchase. The county will no longer carry the Brown Book because property ownership is kept current by the county in the 911 Mapping and Addressing Department.

Deana Randall of Human Resource reported Mid-Month cut off is July 9, 2012 at noon. End of the month cut off is July 18, 2012 at noon.

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## ELECTED OFFICIALS

Cherokee County Treasurer Juanita Hodgson reported that the Tax Sale for the county will be Wednesday, August 1, 2012 from 8:15 AM to 9:15 AM at the Cherokee County Courthouse. Her office will serve as the registration office again for all people wanting to participate in the tax sale. Court costs and back taxes must be paid by the buyers of the 66 to 67 properties listed at time of purchase. Last name "H" and "I" vehicle tag renewals have been extended to 8:15 AM July 13, 2012. Gene Mense is here conducting the 2011 County Audit this week.

Cherokee County Register of Deeds Barbara Bilke reported that the sale of passports so far this year are at 14 and she gave a sixth month comparison report to the commission. Her new staff member is working out well.

Cherokee County Sheriff David Groves reported they have a contract renewal with the City of Weir which is set up with an 18 month renewal time frame. The Security School Grant was allowed to expire because all the equipment has been purchased. The Sheriff's Department will provide security for the Farm Show and the County Fair (which are being held at the same time), and currently the escapee is back in custody. Currently they are housing eighty prisoners from other counties.

Cherokee County Clerk Crystal Gatewood asked that the department heads turn in their 2013 budget proposals by July 16, 2012 by 5:00 PM that day, so she can begin inputting the numbers in the counties 2013 budget for the commission to review. Gatewood also gave important dates to remember for the August 7, 2012 Election.


**Important** - July 17, 2012 is the last day to register to vote in the August 2012 election. July 18, 2012 is when advance voting begins and early voting begins in the County Clerk's Office. August 3, 2012 is the last day to request an advanced ballot. August 6, 2012 at noon is the deadline for in house early voting at the County Clerk's Office. August 7, 2012 is Election Day and polls will open at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

The commission thanked all the Department Heads for coming in and giving them an update from their offices.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Garner made a motion to adjourn at 12:30 PM; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins with Commissioners Collins, Garner, and Hilderbrand voting in favor. The next Cherokee County Commission meeting will be held July 9, 2012 at 9:00 AM in the Cherokee County Courthouse in Columbus, Kansas.

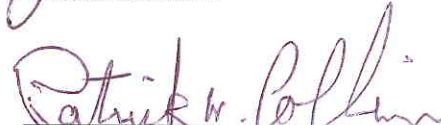
**Resolved and ordered this day, July 9, 2012**



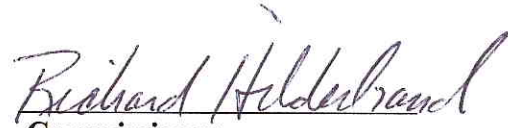
**Cherokee County Clerk**



**Commissioner**



**Commissioner**



**Commissioner**