

**MINUTES FOR APRIL 23, 2012****COLUMBUS, KANSAS, CHEROKEE COUNTY****OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK****CRYSTAL L. GATEWOOD**

The Cherokee County Commissioners met April 23, 2012. Commissioners Collins, Garner, and Hilderbrand were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the commission amended minutes for April 16, 2012; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner with Commissioners Garner, Collins, and Hilderbrand voting in favor. Commissioners Garner, Collins, Hilderbrand, and County Clerk Crystal Gatewood signed off on the approved meeting minutes. Commissioner Garner said the County Clerk indicated money was available to pay the April 2012 bills. Commissioner Garner made a motion to approve and pay April 2012 Accounts Payables, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins with Commissioners Garner, Collins, and Hilderbrand voting in favor. Commissioners Collins, Garner, Hilderbrand, and County Clerk Gatewood signed off on the documentation. Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve and pay April 2012 Payroll; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner with Commissioners Garner and Collins voting in favor and Commissioner Hilderbrand voting against because he objected to three of the raises given. Chairman Hilderbrand signed off on the approved documentation for April 2012 County Payroll.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS CALLED BY COMMISSION**

Commissioner Hilderbrand made a motion to go into **Executive Session for Non-Elected Personnel for ten minutes** with himself and Commissioners Garner and Hilderbrand; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner with Commissioners Garner, Hilderbrand, and Collins voting in favor. They went in at 10:30 AM and returned at 10:38 AM.

**MOTIONS MADE BY COMMISSION**

At the request of Commissioner Hilderbrand, he would like to have the County Counselor draw up a resolution to freeze all pay raises for the rest of the year for all Appointed and Elected Officials' employees. Commissioner Hilderbrand made the motion to have the County Counselor draw up a resolution to freeze all pay raises for the rest of 2012; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner with Commissioners Hilderbrand, Garner, and Collins voting in favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Road and Bridge Supervisor Leonard Vanatta updated the commission on general road, bridge, and county maintenance. He has still not had time to look at paved and gravel roads as requested by the commission but he would have a color coded map for his report next meeting. He also gave an update on the Weaver Bridge project and said it was going well. The Quapaw Tribe had not started on Prairie Road. Rainbow Curve guard rails are fixed and graphite is painted over on the bridge. Coal Valley and Hallowell bridges have big logs backed up bad, so he is getting pricing from Davis Construction to get it all removed before they damage the area under the bridges. He estimated about one week of work at each bridge will be needed. He will let the commission know when he gets the quote back from Davis Construction.

LH

Treasurer Hodgson submitted her budget reports on the county and monies were available to pay the April 2012 County bills. She gave an update on the new county server and it is still running half way on the old server. The final transfer will be tonight and tomorrow will be the first day running on the new server only. Tax statements have been sent out and many people have been in to pay. They have seen a high response on motor vehicle tag renewals.

Jason Allison gave an update on the storm sirens and they will be set off at 10:00 AM today to make sure they all work. They are scheduled to go off every other Monday as scheduled tests. He also asked for a check for the siren bill and said the county will be reimbursed in seven to ten days. The Commission agreed to cut a check for \$213,511.40 to be taken out of Cherokee County Courthouse Fund Line Item #30080/89 for the payment of the ten sirens and installation costs. He discussed the HAZ-MAT spill that occurred last week on Hwy 160 from the diesel fuel that got into a pond, but he indicated it was all cleaned up.

The commission discussed the Penn Gaming court case held last week in the Shawnee County Courthouse and from all indications it looks favorable for Cherokee County, and they expect a summary judgment no later than July first. The judge told the Penn lawyers that they should go back to the table with Cherokee County and their attorneys to discuss a settlement before he makes his ruling. Steve Vogel came before the commission and commended the attorneys for Cherokee County for a job well done.

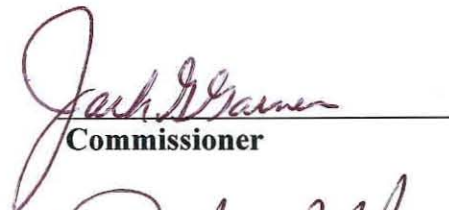
The commission gave an update on the Joplin Prosperity Initiative and reported that the county is in decent shape regarding the tax burden to the citizens, education within schools at all levels is relatively good, and the area businesses are using area citizens in their workforce. The county area infrastructure is also a factor looked at as the area of infrastructure is always an area in need of constant updating.

### ADJOURNMENT

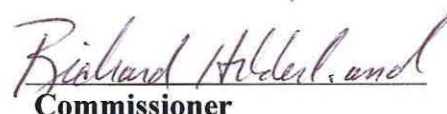
Commissioner Garner made a motion to adjourn at 11:55 AM; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins with Commissioners Garner, Collins, and Hilderbrand voting in favor. The next Cherokee County Commission meeting will be held April 30, 2012 at 9:00 AM in the Cherokee County Courthouse in Columbus, Kansas.

**Resolved and ordered this day, April 30, 2012**

  
Cherokee County Clerk

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner