

MINUTES for MARCH 21, 2022
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, March 21, 2022, in the Commission Room, #109 of the Cherokee County Courthouse located at 110 W Maple St., Columbus, Kansas. Commissioner Myra Frazier opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, Cody Zook Road and Bridge Supervisor, County Counselor Nathan Coleman and Columbus News Report Reporter Jacob Spencer were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Frazier to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2022, meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson. The motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL of PAYROLL

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the payroll as presented. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL of PAYABLES

Commissioner Moates made a motion to approve the accounts payable as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

ROAD & BRIDGE

Cody Zook, County Road Supervisor, appeared before The Board regarding county road business. Cody updated The Board regarding the recent noxious weed directors test which JC Parsons took last week. Cody stated that JC had passed the test and that he would like to submit for a \$1.00 raise for JC (James) which would take him from \$16 to \$17/hr. Commissioner Moates made a motion to give JC Parson a dollar raise due to him passing his noxious weed directors test. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Cody informed The Board that he has put together an employee management plan for the Road and Bridge employees. He stated he is working with less employees who are still doing the same amount of work.

Cody notified The Board that he had attended the 17 County Meeting last week, where he learned that Cherokee County was the lowest paid employees of all of those in attendance at the meeting.

Zook informed The Board that he had received two milling head quotes for the skid steer. He stated one is from Fabick Cat and the other is from John Deere. After reviewing the quotes Commissioner Frazier made a motion to accept the quote in the amount of \$17,699.30 for milling head from Fabick Cat. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moates. The motion carried 3-0.

Cody stated to The Board that he is trying to run less trucks currently due to the increase fuel prices. He also stated all road graders are still running daily.

Zook informed to the board that on Tuesday March 22nd he will be meeting with the surveyors regarding the Skidmore properties.

Cody discussed with The Board of the pilot program for dust control along the county country roads. He stated they would be using magnesium chloride. The program would begin sometime in April for taxpayers to fill out the form.

Cody once again informed The Board that the city of Galena and the city of Baxter Springs will each be purchasing a truck from the County Road and Bridge Department in the amount of \$15,000 with an additional \$500 to purchase the spreader and an additional \$500 for parts plus 2 new steer tires.

Cody consulted with The Board regarding a future-plan for equipment replacements. Commissioner Johnson stated she would like to see a work session so that they might sit down and make-a-plan going forward.

Commissioner Moates and Zook set a time to meet regarding the grader replacements. Wednesday March 23rd at 8 a.m. at the County Lot.

Commissioner Johnson informed The Board and Zook about the issue with the litter control around the area of the Dollar General. She stated there is trash scattered all along the roadway, in the fence lines and tree lines due to the trash from Dollar General. She asked Zook if he could possibly find a solution regarding the litter issue. The Dollar General sets within the City Limits but the trash is blowing onto the KDOT right-of-way and then across the highway onto private properties which is in the County.

FEMA LEASE

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart asked The Board to sign a three-year FEMA lease renewal which had been given to her by Emergency Manager Jason Allison. The lease is for Gary and Ramona Eldridge. Commissioner Moates made a motion to sign the three-year FEMA lease. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson. The motion carried 3-0.

INTERIM EMERGENCY MANAGER

County Clerk Brassart informed The Board that she had received a message from Emergency Manager Jason Allison that The Board would need to appoint an interim Emergency Manager as his replacement until a permanent replacement was chosen. Brassart stated she had left two messages for KDEM and had received a call back from Karey at KEMA stating the interim could be the County Sheriff. After some discussion between The Board, County Counselor Nathan Coleman and County Sheriff David Groves. Commissioner Moates made a motion to appoint David Groves County Sheriff as the interim Emergency Manager. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson. The motion carried 3-0. Later in the meeting The Board asked for Allison to join them. The Board asked Allison where he was on the Emergency Operations Plan and Allison stated that he was no longer working on it since he will no longer be employed with the County after the 28th of March. Allison voiced his concern with The Board appointing Sheriff Groves as the interim and stated the information he was given would not allow for Groves to be the interim. Counselor Coleman stated he would go make another phone call regarding this and would be back shortly to give The Board an update. After a short time, Coleman returned stating that the information he had received would allow Sheriff Groves to serve as the interim.

SEPTIC INSPECTIONS

The Board asked 911 Coordinator Dusty Groves if he would be willing to step in and help with the septic inspections until a new Emergency Manager is hired. Grove stated that he would be happy to help The Board until a new EM is hired.

HAMLIN ENERGY

County Clerk Brassart informed The Board that she had received a letter of exclusive representation from Hamlin Energy so that they might be able to represent the county in finding a new natural gas supplier. The Board had some questions surrounding whether Hamlin's fees had been included in the KGS quote. There was also concern regarding the letter of exclusive representation. Commissioner Moates asked Clerk Brassart to contact Mike Williams to find out if Hamlin's pricing was included in the KGS quote. Brassart made the call to Williams, and he stated their price was included. The Board stated they would like to speak with Mike Williams with Hamlin Energy regarding the letter of exclusive representation before signing. Clerk Brassart stated she

would make a phone call to Mike Williams to get him on the agenda for Monday March 28th.

OFFICE HEADS

Appraiser David Thornton

Appraiser Thornton appeared before The Board to notify them that notices of value had been sent out to taxpayers and that he has received a few phone calls. He informed The Board that taxpayers have until April 14th to appeal their values. Commissioner Frazier ask David when the new correct values would be on the website and David stated he was uncertain, and he would make the call to CIC to find out.

Register of Deed Barbara Bilke

Barb informed the board she had received 115 easements and that they were also receiving lots of passport renewals. Bilke also informed the board that she had been helping county treasurer Raven Elmore and stuffing envelopes for the amended tax statements.

Bilke also informed The Board that she too had attended the 17 County SEK meeting.

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart

Rebecca informed The Board that Chelsea pillar and herself had attended the SEK 17 County officials meeting which was held in Garnett KS. She gave an update to The Board regarding some upcoming legislation that could affect elections going forward.

Brassart also informed The Board that her office is still helping County Treasurer Raven Elmore in logging and printing the amended tax statements as well as stuffing envelopes.

Rebecca notified The Board that Deputy Clerk Michaela Heistand has been working very hard learning the HR payroll and payables so that when HR head Deana Randall takes vacation, that Heistand will be able to make sure that payroll and payables are still handled.

Brassart informed The Board that they have been doing many KDWP boat registration and license renewals in the past few weeks.

County Maintenance Coordinator Chris Johnson

Johnson informed The Board that he had contacted the company that had originally built the fountain in front, and they still had a file regarding what paint colors that had been used previously on the fountain. Johnson stated he had sealed and painted the fountain.

Chris stated he is currently working on getting the lights working on the front and rear of the courthouse.

Johnson also informed The Board that the new janitor Gale Holt is working out great at the County Courthouse.

Chris also mentioned that all the defibrillators had been placed on each floor and he would be contacting Deputy Sheriff Terry Clugston to set up a time so that he might have a class for all the employees of the Courthouse so that they can learn how to correctly use the defibrillators in case of an emergency.

OLD BUSINESS

Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Commissioner Johnson ask The Board, Counselor Coleman and Clerk Brassart if there was anything to be updated regarding the neighborhood revitalization program administration letter. Everyone stated they felt the letter was well written and ready to send. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the administration letter to go out to all participating members of the NRP and that it is to be attached to all new applications. The motion was seconded Commissioner Frazier. The motion carried 3-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION**Attorney Client**

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for a 10-minute attorney client privilege executive session with the 3 commissioners and Counselor Coleman to return at 11:10 am. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion for a 5-minute attorney client executive session with the 3 Commissioners and Counselor Coleman to return at 11:15 am. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Non-Elected Personnel

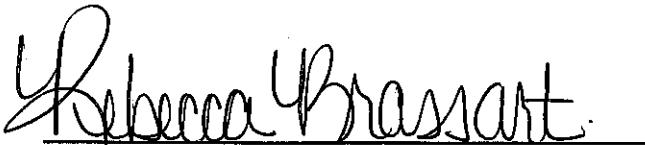
Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 5-minute non-elected personnel executive session with the 3 Commissioners and Counselor Coleman to return at 11:10 am. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

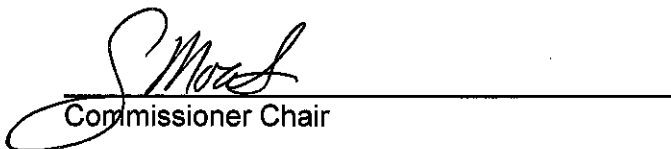
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Frazier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Moates seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

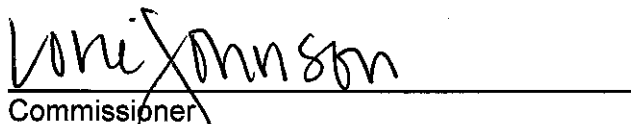
ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 28th day of March 2022



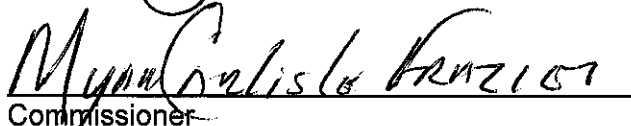
 Cherokee County Clerk



 Commissioner Chair



 Commissioner



 Commissioner