

MINUTES for April 11, 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, April 11, 2022, 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 Allegiance. Commissioners Cory Moates, Lorie Johnson, Myra Frazier, County Clerk Rebecca Brassart, County Counselor Nathan Coleman and Columbus News Report Reporter Jacob Spencer were present.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2022, meeting as written. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

SPECIAL ELECTION CITY OF COLUMBUS

County Clerk Rebecca Brassart informed The Board that the City of Columbus has requested a special sales tax election for (.5%) due to the City not getting it on the ballot in November of 2021. Clerk Brassart stated she would have more information by the end of the week regarding the special election.

ROAD & BRIDGE

Commissioner Moates informed The Board that road and bridge supervisor Cody Zook would like for a commissioner to be present during a meeting which will be held on Wednesday April 13th at 2:30 at NW 30th and Bethlehem work yard. Zook stated that Liberty utilities would be flying someone in for this meeting specifically.

MERCY REPAYMENT

Counselor Coleman stated he has been in contact with Mercy regarding the repayment from the county. Coleman stated he feels that there has been good progress made.

2023 BUDGET

Commissioner Moates discussed with Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Frazier a possible timeline for County Offices and other entities to begin turning budgets in. The board ask County Clerk Rebecca Brassart to send out an email and to ask that budgets be turned in by the end of April or the 1st of May.

HUMAN RESOURCE BACKUP

Commissioner Moates ask Clerk Brassart if she felt The Board should consider adding another back up for Deputy County Clerk Michaela Heistand as the Human Resource (HR) back up for Deana Randall. Brassart stated that it might not be a bad idea, she stated this would eliminate both Michaela and Deana from having to plan around each other's vacations, Brassart went on to state it would also help to avoid the issue that will come when Michaela becomes extremely busy during the budget season or when her office is in election mode. The Board discussed using road and bridge HR Deanna Fitz as the additional back-up.

DEPARTMENT HEAD TIMELINE CHANGE

Commissioner Moates stated that he had seen an email from County department head Betha Elliott regarding the possibility of the department head meeting going back to their original meeting where everyone met in one large group. The board was in agreeance to try going back to the one large group. The Board set the new date to be the last Monday of the month.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

County Counselor Nathan Coleman requested a 30-minute executive session with The Board and Patrick Hughes by zoom. Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 30-minute executive session with the three Commissioners, Counselor Coleman, and Patrick Hughes by zoom for attorney-client privilege to return at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

There was no action taken because of the Executive Session.

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 30-minute executive session with the three Commissioners, Counselor Coleman, and Patrick Hughes by zoom for attorney-client privilege to return at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

There was no action taken because of the Executive Session.

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 5-minute executive session with the three Commissioners, Counselor Coleman, and Patrick Hughes by zoom for attorney-client privilege to return at 10:35 a.m. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

There was no action taken because of the Executive Session.

PATRICK HUGHES – OUTSIDE COUNCIL

Commissioner Moates made a motion to have County Counselor Nathan Coleman go into an outside counsel agreement on behalf of The Board with Patrick Hughes regarding the County Road use agreement. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to have County Counselor Nathan Coleman to retain an outside counsel agreement with Patrick Hughes on behalf of The Board regarding wind turbine issues. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD

Deana Randall – Human Resources

Human resources employee Deana Randall advised The Board that she has been taking Wellness signups and that they will be held May 3rd through the 6th.

Dusty Groves

911 mapping coordinator Dusty Groves presented to The Board that he has done 18 new addresses and he has distributed 31 county maps.

Groves informed The Board that he has been in contact with numerous licensed septic contractors who are preparing to for new upcoming installations.

NRP

There was discussion held between The Board, the County Clerk's office and the Appraisers office regarding how part two of the NRP should be handled. It was determined that all applications that have construction 100% completed should have a completed Part 2 in order to qualify for the NRP rebate.

OLD BUSINESS

Jason Allison Employee Benefit Pay

Commissioner Moates made a motion to set aside the motion from March 28th regarding the vacation and sick pay of Jason Allison to be paid out of employee benefits. Commissioner Frazier seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 to 0.

Commissioner Moates made a motion to pay the vacation and sick pay for Jason Allison out of the salary

line of the Emergency Management. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

Hamlin Energy

Mike Williams with Hamlin energy reported to The Board that he has found a company out of Oklahoma City called Clearwater to provide natural gas services for the Cherokee County courthouse and the Cherokee County jail. The commissioners had some questions for Mr. Williams and stated they would like to review the contract and decide next week. Williams stated he would need the contract signed by April 20, 2022.

KAC

Bruce Chlandy and Jay Hall with KAC came before The Board to discuss the benefits of the KAC and the KCCA due to the recent decision by The Board to forgo their dues to both associations. After much discussion back and forth The Board stated once again that they were not interested in becoming a member of the KAC or the KCCA going forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION NON-ELECTED

Commissioner Moates made a motion for an executive session for non-elected personnel with the three Commissioners to return at 12:43 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

There was no action was taken because of the executive session.

EMERGENCY MANAGER INTERVIEWS

Executive Session – James Johnson

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 20-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the three Commissioners and James Johnson to return at 1:20 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

There was no action was taken because of the executive session.

Executive Session – Jared Glover

Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 20-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the three Commissioners and Jared Glover to return at 1:40 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

There was no action was taken because of the executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ROAD AND BRIDGE

Commissioner Frazier made a motion for a 17-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the three commissioners and Cody Zook of road and bridge to return at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

There was no action was taken because of the executive session.

EMERGENCY MANAGER INTERVIEW

Executive Session – Jon Heistand


Commissioner Moates made a motion for a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel with the three Commissioners and Jon Heistand to return at 2:45 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 to 0.

There was no action was taken because of the executive session.


ADJOURN

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

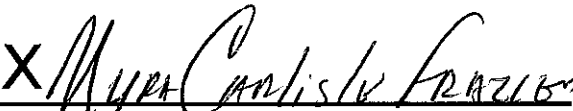
ATTEST: Resolved and ordered this 18th day of April 2022

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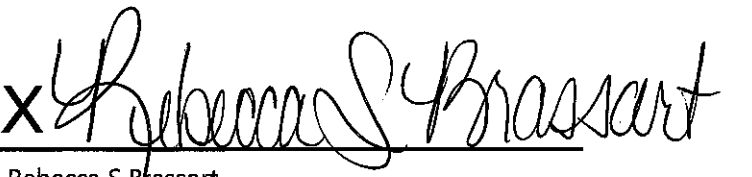
Cory Moates
Commissioner Chairman

X 

Lorie Johnson
Commissioner

X 

Myra Carlisle Frazier
Commissioner

X 

Rebecca S Brassart
County Clerk