

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2024

Board members present: Randy Phillips, Chairman; Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Vice-Chairman; Cal Stiles, member; Jan Griggs, member; Ben Adams, member.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Maria Hass, Asst. County Manager/Clerk to Board; and, Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order by Chairman Phillips

Invocation

Pledge

Ethics Statement “Members of the County Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the Local Government Ethics Act and should avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of such conflict; and, further, are instructed to refrain from participating in any matter coming before this Board of County Commissioners with respect to which there is a conflict of interest or appearance of such conflict as may be allowed by law”.

Work Session Discussion

The Board identified and established priorities of capital projects. Ranked projects were:

1. EMS Station 2 - the Board adopted an expanded “Station 4 model” with 4 bedrooms and dormitory-style bathrooms. The Board established that the building would be constructed on the property currently housing the old Andrews Health Department and the Current Station 2. The Board chose to reject demolition of the old health department building. A \$500,000.00 grant remains for partial funding of the project. The Board instructed to go forward with the project immediately.
2. VA/Senior Center & Health Department Expansion – architect is engaged. \$3.35M grant is available for partial funding.
3. Armory- renovations are in planning stages with architect engaged. Relocation of EM, 911 addressing, back-up 911 center and EOC construction are the goals. Some EM funds are available for the project.
4. Public Defender’s Office- Modifications of Grand Jury/Law Library to create offices have been planned. County Maintenance gathering cost estimates. Approval will be sought from the Board when costs are determined.

5. AWOS relocation at Airport. Weather equipment to be brought into FAA guidelines and relocated onto airport property. Airport funding available to reduce or eliminate need to dedicate county dollars for this project.

Commissioners also identified (in no particular order) the following capital for consideration:

Building new Airport terminal

New Headstart Building

Hiwassee Dam Rec. Area/Walking trail. An up to \$500,000 grant is available, but requires a dollar for dollar county match. Engineering plans estimate \$1.1M for construction of Phase 1 of this project.

Schools Facilities – Board has asked for a joint public meeting with School Board to discuss School Facilities. School Board has not responded to this request as of this date.

Youth Center

New Airport Hangars

Other priorities identified:

Need for Assisted Living Facilities

Need for Affordable Housing

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON APRIL 15, 2024.