

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 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; Candy Anderson, Chief Financial Officer; 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”.

Public Comment Period

Budget and Finance

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision for use of Fund Balance in the amount of \$245,000 to purchase property to construct a new Senior and Veterans Services building. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$1,000 for donations received for individuals in Adult Protective Services. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve a budget revision for use of restricted 911 Funds in the amount of \$20,250 to replace a radio console position at the primary 911 Dispatch Center. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a budget revision for use of grant funds in the amount of \$33,323.56 to purchase 4 VIPER-capable portable radios. There is no county match. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

After presentation by Jennifer West, Cherokee County Transit Director, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the updated Title VI Program Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

After presentation by Jennifer West, Cherokee County Transit Director, a Motion was made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the following: 1) waive Cherokee County Transit “Downtown and Around” route fees for all members of the public during the NC Cycle event weekend; 2) extend the Downtown and Around” hours during the event weekend; and 3) approve advertising of the “No fee” service open to the public during the event weekend. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to appoint the DSS Director, Amanda McGee, to the Southwestern Child Development Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve the tax releases and tax refund report, as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a resolution opposing the N.C. Rate Bureau’s proposed insurance rate increase. Motion passed unanimously.

After presentation by Chief Deputy Justin Jacobs, a Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve a resolution authorizing the Sheriff to abate a nuisance property off of Stony Hill Drive. Motion passed unanimously. Chief Jacobs said there has been 50+ calls to the property since 2017, with issues ranging from assault, fights, attempted suicides, trespassing and animal welfare issues. Nuisance abatement could include seizure and disposition of the property, with proceeds going to the schools.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to add a ten-minute Q & A period at the end of the Board’s regular meeting agenda. Motion failed. 2-3.

Commissioner Eichenbaum shared his concerns with the recently proposed Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance, due to provisions restricting land-use.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to reschedule the March 4th board meeting to March 7th. Motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve an ordinance repealing all outdated and invalid ordinances on the books. Motion passed unanimously.

County Manager Items - None

Chairman/Commissioner Items

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to amend the

Facilities Use Policy to reduce the fee for facility meeting rooms from \$50 to \$30. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners Griggs, Phillips and Adams announced and reported on various community events.

Adjournment

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

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