

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2026

Board members present: Alan Bryant, Chairman; Cal Stiles, Vice-Chairman; Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, member; Ben Adams, member; and Mark Stiles, member.

Others present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Anderson, Chief Financial Officer; Maria Hass, Assistant 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

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to modify the agenda to add “Notice Special Called Meeting for Friday, February 20th at 5:30 p.m.” as item “L” under New Business. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to adopt the agenda, as modified. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2026, and February 7, 2026

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the minutes, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Finance

Bid Award for Landfill Mechanic Building

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to award the bid to the lowest bidder, John Burgin Construction, Inc. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Revision for use of Contingency to Cover Additional Cost of Landfill Mechanics Building Project (\$58,944)

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Amended Capital Project Budget Ordinance for Landfill Mechanic Building

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Revision to Accept Grant Revenues for Veteran Services Office

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Revision for use of Contingency to Cover Additional Cost Related to VA/Sr Center Facility (\$21,959)

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Amended Capital Project Budget Ordinance for VA/Sr Center Facility

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Commissioner Adams discussed his desire to adopt a land-use ordinance and reinstate and restructure a Cherokee County Planning Board. Commissioner Adams will speak with the Clerk to the Board about scheduling a planning board meeting soon. He also asked the Board to schedule a work session to discuss animal control issues. All board members agreed to schedule an animal control work session, immediately following the Board's April 20th regular meeting.

New Business

Jackie Mueller, of the Cherokee County Pregnancy and Parenting Center, came before the Board to request the County donate the old Andrews Health Department to the Center. No action was taken on the request. The county attorney will research the public purpose doctrine and share his findings with the board at the next meeting.

Wolf Creek Fire Department's Request for Rescue Funds to Purchase Equipment Necessary to Certify as Medium Rescue Standard (\$22,113.16)

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Jordan Messer - Peachtree Volunteer Fire Department Request to Apply for a Tax-Free Loan for New Substation

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Adams and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Tourism Development Authority Appointment

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to reappoint Sherry McGregor to the Tourism Development Board for another four-year term. Motion passed unanimously.

Probation and Parole Office Lease Renewal

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to approve the lease renewal. Motion passed unanimously.

Teresa Ricks, Tax Assessor – Proposal for Valuation of Cherokee County Data Facilities and Bitcoin Mining Centers by Vincent Valuations

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Releases, Tax Refunds, and NCVTS Refund Report

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve all reports, as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Requesting Land for a State Park

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to table this until the next meeting to allow the Board time to determine an exact location and to talk to state representatives about the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Murphy Power Board Easement for New Transformer to Support New VA/Sr Facility

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

Cherokee County Technology Use Policy Revision – Mobile Device Management – Section 4.13

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Notice Special Called Meeting for Friday, February 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to schedule a Special Called Meeting for Friday, February 20th at 5:30 p.m. to accept the recommendation of the Cherokee County Republican Party for Cherokee County Sheriff. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session – Pursuant to § 143 318.11 (1) To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes; (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body; and (6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee.

During closed session the board discussed the following:

Contract Extension for County Attorney. The contract will be extended through July 1, 2029. Additionally, the county will add \$15,000 annually to the county attorney's base salary for additional services provided to Cherokee County DSS. All other terms and conditions of the June 26, 2023, contract will remain in force and effect. Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve the contract extension and additional salary, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Qualifications and hiring of Mr. Elliott Dugger, as the new DSS attorney.

Economic Development Project – Project Zeus

An invoice in the amount of \$10,000 received by a vendor who served as former Sheriff Dustin's Smith's legal counsel. The vendor, nor the contract was previously approved by the county, only the former Sheriff.

Open Session

After returning to open session, a Motion was made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the hiring of Mr. Elliott Dugger, as the new DSS attorney. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve a modification to Project Zeus. Motion passed unanimously. The project modification reduces the expansion project's number of jobs from 40 to 10 and will now include renovating an existing facility instead of constructing new. The modification reduces the county's contribution from \$37,000 to no more than \$10,000.

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Adams to pay an invoice in the amount of \$10,000 to a vendor who served as former Sheriff Dustin's Smith's legal counsel. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion made by Commissioner Cal 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 MARCH 9, 2026.**