

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026
6:30 P.M.

Call to Order by Chairman

Invocation

Pledge

Ethics Statement

The ethics statement was read by Clerk to the Board - "Members of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners are reminded and advised of their duties under state law and the Cherokee County Code of Ethics Resolution, as such may pertain of their personal actions and actions of the board".

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to modify the agenda as follows:

- 1) Add "Sale of Angel Mtn Estates Lot" as item "b", under Budget and Finance.
- 2) Add a budget revision for Cherokee County Schools request for use of Article 40/42 Sales Tax
- 3) Creation of a 1st Sergeant position at the Detention Center and adding to pay plan as a Grade 69

Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to adopt the agenda, as modified. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

There were several comments during the public comment period.

Mr. Joe Street presented a proposal for an ordinance prohibiting shooting a firearm within 500 feet of a residence, while on public waters.

Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the meeting minutes of February 16, 2026, and February 20, 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Finance

Budget Revision for a CDC Grant for the Health Department to Support Local Workforce Development

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$16,023 for a CDC grant with no county match. Motion passed unanimously.

Sale of Angel Mtn Estates Lot 36

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to accept a bid of \$7,600 for Lot 36 of Angel Mtn Estates. Motion passed unanimously.

Cherokee County Board of Education Request for Use of Article 40/42 Sales Tax for Multiple Projects
Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$329,166. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

State Park Resolution Discussion

Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to withdraw request to legislators for federal land for a State Park. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Tourism Development Authority Appointments

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to re-appoint Steve Dickey and Joan Posey to the Tourism Development Authority for a three-year term. The appointments will expire April 30, 2029. Motion passed unanimously.

Golden Leaf Grant Agreement and Grant Resolution for Marble Industrial Site Project

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the grant agreement and grant resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

Grant Capital Project Ordinance for Marble Industrial Site Project (Golden Leaf Grant Award \$1,353,260)

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the Capital Project Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

ICGH Proposal for Former Andrews Health Department Building at 224 Main Street in Andrews (ICGH would use the facility for Recovery Support Services and Evidence-Based Addiction Treatment and Treatment Expansion, meeting the requirements of Exhibit A in the Opioid Settlement Funds MOU)
Chris Houck, of ICGH, explained the purpose and mission of the project. There was much discussion and debate, due to the Pregnancy and Parenting Center's request for donation of the building at the February 16th meeting. A Motion was made by Commissioner Cal Stiles to table discussion until the April 20th board meeting. Motion failed. Commissioner Ben Adams made a Motion to declare the Old Health Department Building surplus and donate the property to the Pregnancy and Parenting Center, with the stipulation that the building be renovated and used for that purpose within two years, or it would revert to the county. Commissioner Cal Stiles said he did not agree with giving away public property. After seeking legal counsel from the county attorney, a Motion was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to give the Pregnancy and Parenting Center a nine-year, no-cost lease. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Bryant, Commissioner Mark Stiles, Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Cal Stiles. Motion passed 4-1.

Andy Russell – NCDOT Request for a Resolution of Support of a Center Left Turning Lane from US64 onto Martin's Creek Connector Road

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Russell also gave an update on the Highway 60/64 intersection project and addressed a citizen's concerns about the current Highway 19/129 widening project, saying that he would speak to the

contractor and see if they can accelerate completion.

Marble Springs Lodge 439 Request to Use County Property in Marble for Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve, contingent upon meeting the insurance requirements. Motion passed unanimously.

Harry Hearne – Request to Leave Pickleball Sponsorship Signs Up for 90 Days
Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

2026 National Day of Prayer Proclamation
Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to adopt the proclamation. Motion passed unanimously.

Ellen Stephens – Cherokee County Saddle Club Request for Funding in the Amount of \$54,778.16 for Phase One of CCSC Plan for Drainage Repair
After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the request for \$54,778.16. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Bryant, Commissioner Mark Stiles, Commissioner Cal Stiles and Commissioner Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner Adams. Motion passed 4-1.

Franklin Shook – Nantahala Regional Library Request for Amendment to Interlocal Funding Agreement
Motion made by Commissioner Mark Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Releases, Tax Refund Report and NCVTS Report
Motion made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Mark Stiles to approve all tax reports, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Charge Tax Collector to Advertise Delinquent Tax Liens
Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to charge the Tax Collector with advertising 2025 delinquent tax liens. Motion passed unanimously.

Revised Personnel Policy
The County Manager presented the board with revisions to the Cherokee County Personnel Policy and asked board members to review and provide any feedback to his office, prior to the next meeting.

Adopt Budget Calendar
Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the following budget meeting dates: May 4th (County Manager to present recommended budget); May 11th (budget hearings); May 12th (budget hearings); May 14th (budget hearings); May 18th (Public Hearing on the budget); and June 29th (budget adoption). Motion passed unanimously.

Creation of a 1st Sergeant position at the Detention Center and adding to pay plan as a Grade 69(This will replace a Detention Sgt. Position)
Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to go into closed

session pursuant to §143-318.11 (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. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the Board discussed the following:

- A personnel matter for the purpose of considering qualifications and of an employee in the Office of the Sheriff.
- A personnel matter related to the employment of the county attorney. Detailed minutes of this discussion are withheld, until such time they no longer frustrate the purpose of the closed session.”

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to return to open session. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

After returning to open session, a Motion was made by Commissioner Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Cal Stiles to terminate County Attorney Darryl Brown. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

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

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON APRIL 20, 2026.