

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2023

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

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

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Cherokee County Courthouse, Room 342.

Call to Order

Invocation by Commissioner Adams

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Ethics Statement

Modification of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Adams to add discussion of Ferebee Park Renovation Project funding request to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Adams to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing on the following proposed road names:

Falcon Center Drive; Heidis Run; Justin Hamby Drive; Little Cottontail Road; OCD Ranch Lane; Racing Deer Drive; Rock Ledge Drive; Shady Path Drive; Skyline View Road; Timbercrest Lane; Walnut Grove Road.

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to open the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

After all comments were heard, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to close the public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

Adopt Road Names

Motion made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to remove Justin Hamby Drive, and to approve all other road names. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the meeting minutes of February 20, March 6, March 20, and April 3. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum

The following persons spoke in public forum: Penny Harrison (Land Ordinance); John Leder (Airport); and Ron Wright (3-minute rule for public comments, transparency and closed sessions).

Budget and Finance***a) Budget Revision for 10% match of Non-Primary Entitlement Funds for taxiway repair project***

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$5,800 for the county's 10% grant match. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business***Request for waiver of building permit fees for remodel project for Cherokee County Pregnancy and Parenting Center (\$480)***

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Capt. David Williams – Cherokee County Sheriff's Office request for FY 23 COPS Hiring Program Grant

Capt. Williams requested permission to apply for a COPS grant. After presentation and discussion, the Board asked Capt. Williams to pull together some additional information and to develop a complete budget and then return to the Board's budget worksession on April 24th to provide an update.

Tax Releases and Tax Refunds

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the tax release and tax refunds, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Tax Collection Procedures Policy

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the Tax Collection Procedures Policy, effective April 17, 2023, as presented by the Tax Collector. Motion passed unanimously.

Board of Equalization and Review Appointments

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to reappointment Jerry Decker to a two-year term and Alex Starks to a one-year term, and to appoint Teresa O'Blenes to a new three-year term. Motion passed unanimously.

Aviation Fuels Contract

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve the Titan Fuel Contract. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution to Participate in the NC Public Employee Deferred Compensation Plan (457b)

Motion made by Commissioner Griggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve.

Motion passed unanimously.

Employee Benefits Policy Addendum

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to approve.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ferebee Park Discussion

Kathy Dillon, of Valleytown Visionary Guild, came before the board to request funding for upgrades to Ferebee Park. Commissioner Phillips said he would like to give the Guild \$40,000 over the next three budget years. It was decided that the request would be added to the commissioners vote sheet under Commissioner Phillips budget requests.

Chairman/Commissioner Items

Commissioner Griggs said if the board goes into closed session it is because it is following the law, and if items are to be voted on that they would be voted on in open session.

Commissioner Adams gave a “shout-out” to Reach of Cherokee County and encouraged everyone to support the organization.

Closed Session - Pursuant to §143-318.11 (3) to consult with county attorney to protect attorney-client privilege matters, and (6) to discuss a personnel matter.

During closed session, the Board discussed the following matters:

- Discuss potential property acquisition for solid waste site
- Attorney-client privilege matters
- Discuss personnel matter related to tax assessor’s office
- Consult with county attorney about Andrejek tax foreclosure
- Legal concerns regarding previous decision to rename Marks Drive

Open Session

After returning to open session, a Motion was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve a budget revision in the amount of \$38,157 for the purchase of the Dawn Gabriella property for the purpose of constructing a solid waste convenience site in the Unaka community. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Eichenbaum and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to name the Cherokee County maintenance facility on Marks Drive in memory of Justin Hamby, instead of changing the name of Mark’s Drive. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Phillips 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 JUNE 5, 2023.