

A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 23, 2018

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners held a regular scheduled meeting in the Commissioners Boardroom, also known as Multi-Purpose Room 342, of the Cherokee County Courthouse in Murphy, North Carolina on the 23rd day of April, 2018 at 6:30 o'clock p.m.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: Dr. Dan Eichenbaum, Chairman; Gary Westmoreland, Vice-Chair; C.B. McKinnon, member; Cal Stiles, member; and Roy Dickey, member. Also present were the following: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; Candy Anderson, Finance Director; Maria Hass, Assistant County Manager and Clerk to the Board; and Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Media present: Cherokee Scout, Local TV4, Fetch Your News, and WKRK. DVD copies of commission meetings may be purchased at Local TV4, or watched via the Facebook page of WKRK.

The invocation was given by Sheriff Palmer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Eichenbaum.

Agenda Modification:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to add "Discussion of Soccer Field Development at Andrews Heritage Park" to the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to add a budget revision for use of schools sales tax. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to add "Consult with County Attorney" to closed session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Adoption:

A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Items:

- Introduction of new county attorney, Darryl Brown.
- Lobby for legislation to change the funding formula for, and restore, small school funding.

Public Forum: None

Finance and Budget:

- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve a budget revision for use of Emergency Management grant funds to purchase an accountability system for the volunteer fire departments. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision for use of fund balance and use of insurance proceeds to repair a Jeep Cherokee for DSS. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve a budget revision for receipt of additional 4-H revenues. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the schools use of 1/2 cent sales tax for multiple schools projects. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to table a budget revision for use of schools Article 46 sales tax for the Murphy River Walk expansion project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget revisions are available for public inspection, in the office of the Finance Director.

Old Business: Airport ground leases and rental fee structure moved to the end of the agenda.

New Business:

- Mr. Michael Beckett, Assistant Secretary of NCDHHS, came before the board to discuss the need for three additional positions at the Cherokee County Department of Social Services. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the following positions: Social Work Program Manager II, Quality Assurance Specialist II, and Social Worker II. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Dickey, Stiles, Westmoreland, and Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed.
- Korean War veteran, Oscar Valdes, came before the board to request a change to signage at Konehete Park. Mr. Valdes requested that the board of commissioners place a new entrance sign at Konehete Park to read, "Town of Murphy Veterans Park"; and asked that it be installed before Memorial Day of this year. A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to table until the next meeting. Motion seconded Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- Gary Chamberlain came before the board to present a proclamation for litter pickup on May 19, 2018. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to

approve the proclamation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Voting in favor of the Motion was Commissioner Dickey, Stiles, Westmoreland, and Eichenbaum. Voting against the Motion was Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed.

- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to set the recording cut-off time for the Register of Deeds office at 4:30 PM. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to approve the tax releases. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the tax refund report. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve \$261.00 to assist Martin's Creek Community Club with carpeting for their stage. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to allow Southwestern Commission to continue as lead agency for the Home and Community Care Block Grant program. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to appoint the following persons to the Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee: County Manager, or their designee; Senior Center Director, or their designee; DSS Director, or their designee; Transit Director, or their designee; and, Finance Director, or their designee. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to appoint Linda May to the Joint Community Care Advisory Committee. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- A Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to appoint Jerry Townson to the Board of Health for a three-year term. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon to schedule a budget worksession for May 30th at 5:00 PM. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.
- After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner McKinnon that the Town of Andrews take the lead on the construction and planning, and work with the project partners, on the proposed soccer field projects at Heritage Park in Andrews. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Stiles told Mayor Reid that Southwestern Commission may be able to assist the town in completing the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant.

Closed Session:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Dickey to go into closed session pursuant to §143-318.11. (a) (3) and (4), to consult with legal counsel on DSS matters, contract matters, and to discuss an economic development project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

During closed session, the board heard from Mr. Michael Becketts of NCDHHS and the county attorney, concerning the issues at DSS. The board also discussed the proposed MedTrans ground

lease and legal issues with existing airport hangar leases, and discussed terms of a new economic development project.

After returning to open session, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the MedTrans airport ground lease, as amended. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously. No action was taken on existing leases.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Westmoreland to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Cherokee County is seeking INCENTIVE FUNDING from the North Carolina Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee County is seeking this funding for The Mining Store of Murphy, Cherokee County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS The Mining Store operates data centers in Cary and Raleigh, NC;

WHEREAS, The Mining Store has leased 70,000 sq. ft. of the former Emerson building to create a data center in Cherokee County; and

WHEREAS, The Mining Store will create 25 jobs and invest \$20 Million in capital investments; and

WHEREAS, positions at The Mining Store are highly skilled positions, with an average pay of \$40,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, demand for data storage has steadily increased, with strong growth projected; and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners is in support of this project for The Mining Store; and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners is providing \$30,000 in Incentive Funding, with the funding to be paid out over a 3 year period at \$10,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee County will provide the required 5% match for the BUILDING REUSE GRANT, in the amount of \$15,000, that will be reimbursed to Cherokee County; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee County will use this Incentive Funding as any match required by the NC STATE INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners is in support of this data center project for The Mining Store; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Cherokee County will administer this grant in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of Commerce, monitoring the project quarterly to assure compliance with the rules and regulations; as well as, monitoring and assuring the creation of 25 new jobs.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Westmoreland said that he would like to publicly thank Paul Worley for all of his hard work on bringing jobs to Cherokee County. The other board members also shared their appreciation.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the board, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JUNE 4, 2018.**