

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

April 27, 2020

6:30 PM

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners held an emergency meeting on April 27, 2020 for the purpose of discussing the current State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following Commissioners were present for the meeting: Roy Dickey, Chairman; C.B. McKinnon, Vice-Chairman; Cal Stiles, member; Gary Westmoreland, member; and Commissioner Dr. Dan Eichenbaum.

Staff present: Randy Wiggins, County Manager; and Darryl Brown, County Attorney.

Local media present: Local TV 4, WKRC and the Cherokee Scout.

**Call to Order**

**Ethics Statement**-Read by Chairman

**Invocation**-Given by Randy Wiggins

**Pledge of Allegiance**-Led by Commissioner Eichenbaum

**Public Comment**

Dr. Brian Mitchell, M.D., came before the board to ask that lodging facilities not be re-opened to out-of-county residents and that local restrictions not be lifted.

**With all board members being present, the following Motions were made for agenda modification:**

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to modify the agenda to consider a request from Grape Creek Baptist Church to amend their property deed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner McKinnon to add a resolution asking Governor Cooper to allow local governments to make their respective decisions to reopen local businesses. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stiles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Westmoreland to add an agenda item to discuss options for additional Covid-19 testing. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dickey. Motion passed unanimously.

**State of Emergency Declaration Discussion**

Commissioner Dickey said that he had received many calls and e-mails asking when Cherokee County would open back up for lodging and short-term rentals and solicited the thoughts and

opinions of fellow board members. Commissioner Westmoreland does not support re-opening at this time, due to the potential for a second wave of the pandemic. All other board members were in support of Chairman Dickey rescinding Supplemental Emergency Orders 1 and 2, which would vacate orders requiring persons to quarantine and lifting the restrictions on lodging facilities and short-term rentals; effective, midnight April 30th. Cherokee County remains under a State of Emergency until further notice, with no locally enacted restrictions.

### **Grape Creek Baptist Church Deed Amendment Request**

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles to approve the following amendments to the Grape Creek Baptist Church property deed:

1. The County of Cherokee does hereby relinquish its Right of First Refusal which was reserved to the County of Cherokee in Deed Book 1363, Page 449.
2. The Restriction stating that the Grape Creek Baptist Church, Inc. shall continue to utilize the facility for a community purpose, is hereby stricken in its entirety.
3. The Condition stating that the County of Cherokee shall have the continuing right to use the facility as a voting precinct for any and all future federal, state and local elections including referendum(s), primary elections, run-off elections, special elections and/or general elections at no cost to the County shall remain in full force and effect.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Westmoreland. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Resolution Requesting Governor Cooper to Allow Reopening of Businesses by Local Government Decision**

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eichenbaum to approve a resolution requesting Governor Cooper to allow local governments to make their respective decisions to reopen local businesses. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion of Additional Covid-19 Testing**

After discussion with the health director, it was determined that sufficient testing for Covid-19 is available and no action is necessary by the board at this time.

### **Adjournment**

Motion made by Commissioner Stiles to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JUNE 29, 2020.