

**Cherokee County Board of Commissioners**  
**Special Called Meeting Minutes**  
**May 14, 2025**

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

**Invocation**

**Pledge**

**Ethics Statement**

The Clerk to the Board read the Ethics statement.

**Valley River Humane Society (VRHS) Funding Requests and statements:**

(Presented by Don and Patty Reynolds.)

- \$38,540 for a fencing project
- Waive \$535 building permit fee
- Annual funding in the amount of \$252,000
- VRHS will remain a no-kill shelter
- VRHS will accept dogs and cats when space is available
- VRHS cannot guarantee acceptance of Cherokee County surrenders
- VRHS shelter capacity is 125 for dogs and 125 cats. Daily population is about 150 dogs and 80-100 cats
- Current waiting list for surrenders is three pages

The board asked questions about, and made suggestions for, the organization's current business model, saying it is apparently not working. The board shared concerns about the organization's strict/selective adoption policy. The board had many questions and concerns about providing funding to an organization that cannot guarantee services (acceptance of surrendered Cherokee County dogs and cats), and asked for a copy of the organization's financial statements. The board does not feel like the county should be funding the organization's mission, and that the county should only be spending tax dollars on what is required by law. After discussion, Commissioner Cal Stiles suggested the board budget the \$252,000, and commit to paying \$126,000 over six months, but meet in five months to look at numbers and revisit the matter. The finance office will add this as an item to the commissioners upcoming budget vote sheet.

**Cherokee County Schools (CCS) Requests and statements:**

(Presented by Stephanie Hass, CFO; and Dr. Keevin Woody, Superintendent.)

- State Health Plan is in trouble. CCS is looking at an increase in employer contributions, and possible increase in employee premium
- There have been significant cuts in low-wealth funding
- 3% increase in salaries
- Increase in retirement contributions
- Charter School enrollment has increased and the state is allowing charter schools to claim a portion of local funds
- CCS local budget request - \$8,578,630
- Requesting Article 46 sales tax funds in the amount of \$918,000 to meet the current budget demands

**Adjourn**

Motion made by Commissioner Cal Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Bryant to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JUNE 16, 2025.**